

Galax City Council
Minutes
June 11, 2018

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on June 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following Council persons present and they are as listed: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick. Councilman Davis was absent.

Mayor Mitchell recognized and thank Councilwoman Crouse and Councilman Garner for their time and service on Galax City Council.

- Councilwoman Margo Crouse – Served July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2018
- Councilman John L. Garner – Served July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2018

Mayor Mitchell congratulated Keith Barker for Galax being the first recipient of an award from VDOT which recognized Galax as Salem District Locality of the Year. Keith Barker explained that he, Brenda Marrah, and Charles Joyce attended the recent VDOT Locally Administered Project Training (LAP Day) in Blacksburg where the different facets of managing VDOT projects were presented and discussed. He said the Salem VDOT staff had started recognizing a locality each year for their overall efforts in the community regarding project completion, on time status, grant awards, construction compliance, etc. Mr. Barker said the Salem district was comprised of 12 counties plus cities located within those districts. Included localities were: Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Galax, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, and Roanoke County.

Mayor Mitchell prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 29, 2018. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell announced Council has been asked to consider the adoption of the FY2019 Budget. He said that no changes have been made since the May 29 meeting where no comments were received. Mayor Mitchell closed by saying no tax rate or fee increases were proposed as part of this budget. Council will appropriate the funds at the July 2019 meeting. The proposed budget included:

- General Fund Budget (including DSS) - \$24,821,056
- Utility Fund Budget - \$ 9,542,790
- Stormwater Fund - \$ 129,500

Proposed tax rates represent no change to the current rates:

- Real Estate - \$0.80 per \$100
- Personal Property - \$2.25 per \$100
- Machinery & Tools - \$1.50 per \$100

Councilman Garner made the motion to adopt and approve the FY2019 Budget. Councilman Helmick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick. Mayor Mitchell thanked Keith Barker – City Manager, Judy Taylor-Gallimore – Director of Finance, and Council for their hard work on the budget.

Mayor Mitchell announced there were a number of board appointments that are up for reconsideration. He explained that advertisements were run in the Gazette and we contacted existing appointees to see if they are interested in being reappointed. The open appointments included:

- Recreation Board (2 term limit, 2 year term)
 - Eugene McCurdy, 1st term, eligible for reappointment
 - Two open positions
- Library Board (2 term limit, 4 year term)
 - Dr. Sam Luague, eligible for reappointment
- Board of Zoning Appeals (no term limit, 5 year term)
 - Doug Williams
 - Roger Neal

Mayor Mitchell explained that Recreation Director, Tony Quesenberry stated that Eugene McCurdy wishes to be reappointed to the Recreation Advisory Board. There were other citizens who were interested in the Board who included:

- Josepha B. Thompson
- Sylvia Richardson
- Keri Austin
- Susie Willis

Councilman Helmick made the motion to re-appoint Eugene McCurdy and appoint Josepha Thompson and Susie Willis. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that a memorandum was received from Melanie Hemingway, Library Director, concerning the appointment of Dr. Sam Luague for the Library Board. He had asked to be reappointed and no other letters of interest were received. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to re-appoint Dr. Samuel Luague. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that a memorandum from Daniel Riegel, Zoning Administrator, had been received which concerned the appointments of Doug Williams and Roger Neal for the Board of Zoning Appeals. He said both had expressed interest in being reappointed to the BZA and no other letters of interest were received. He explained Council would make a recommendation for appointment to the Circuit Court and the judge would make the final appointment. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to make the recommendation for Doug Williams and Roger Neal to be appointed the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilman Helmick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Ms. Cathy Parks had submitted her resignation to the Planning Commission due to an upcoming move to Carroll County. He said Councilwoman Crouse would be coming off of the Planning Commission as a City Council representative and she had expressed an interest in remaining on the Planning Commission as a citizen appointment. Councilman Garner made the motion to appoint Councilwoman Crouse to the Planning Commission. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick. Councilwoman Crouse abstained.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Councilman that with Garner and Councilwoman Crouse leaving at the end of June, there would be a number of Council appointments that would need to be made to various regional boards. Mayor Mitchell asked Council members (existing and upcoming) to consider where they felt they could offer additional services. Mayor Mitchell said the appointments do not have to be made until July.

The positions that would be open included:

- District III (3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM, Marion – meet Jan, Mar, July, Sept, Nov)
- Workforce Investment Board (3rd Wednesday, 10:00 AM, Wytheville – meet Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Dec)
- Rooftop (4th Monday, 12:00 PM, Rooftop)
- E-911 (Quarterly, 9:00 AM, Galax Police Department)
- Wired Road (4th Wednesday, 3:30 PM, Galax Municipal Building)
- Galax Grayson EMS (4th Friday, 10:00 AM, GGEMS Building)
- Planning Commission (as called, typically Wednesday evenings)
- Bottom Area Board (1st Wednesday, 2:00 PM, Galax Municipal Building)
- Traffic Safety Committee (as called)

Mayor Mitchell was pleased to announce that BRCEDA had finalized negotiations with S&S Transporters and would be the first company to locate in Wildwood Commerce Park. He explained that Scott Frye, the owner of S&S Transporters, would invest \$5.2M and hire 20 new drivers over the next 36 months.

Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. Citizens may be allowed to address Council, with no action taken until the issue can be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

- Cody Spencer addressed Council concerning public safety along E. Stuart Drive and Glendale Road. Mr. Spencer asked Council to consider safety options on E. Stuart Drive and Glendale Road due to recent pedestrian accidents.
- Cheryl Littman addressed Council concerning a house on E. Virginia Street. Keith Barker had spoken with Ms. Littman regarding a house on E. Virginia Street with complaints about the house condition, bees, etc. Staff had contacted the owner, the yard was mowed, a building permit had been issued for repairs, and Animal Control had inspected the house. Ms. Littman was unsatisfied with those actions and addressed Council regarding these issues.

Council thanked the visitors for attending the meeting.

With no further public comments, Mayor Mitchell accepted a motion made by Councilwoman Crouse at 8:45 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia:

Real Property - § 2.2-3711 A.3 of the *Code of Virginia* - Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Councilman Helmick seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick.

At 9:13 p.m. Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia code section were discussed and no action was taken, with the following affirmation: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Helmick.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:15 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk