

Galax City Council
Minutes
February 25, 2019

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 25, 2019 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 Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Councilwoman Ritchie prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell presented Jesse Russell with a plaque of appreciation and watch for his 36 years of employment with the City at the Galax Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Vice Mayor Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 11, 2019. Councilwoman White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date Council set and advertised for a public hearing which concerned the rezoning of the parcel at 110 Calloway Street which was located on the corner of Calloway & Eastview Streets. The Mayor opened the floor for public comments and invited the applicant to speak on the project. Jimmy Manuel spoke about his desires to construct a new building to operate a muffler and car mechanic shop out of. He is currently located in Grayson County but felt most of his clients would be better served if he was in the City. Daniel Riegel, Galax Zoning Administrator explained the property was currently zoned R-2 Medium Density Residential and the request was to rezone it B-2 General Business to construct a muffler shop. The planning commission met on Feb. 21, 2019 and voted unanimously to recommend that Council consider rezoning the property from R-2 to B-2 General Business. With no additional comments, the hearing was declared closed. Vice Mayor Plichta made the motion to approve the zoning request. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Keith Barker informed Council of a request to amend the FY2019 Budget. Mr. Barker explained that the City had recently sold a used fire truck through GovDeals and was asking that Council amend the budget to recognize the revenue and expenditures. He said the truck sold for \$30,000 and after fees we received \$28,500. The request was for Council to amend the revenue line item 10.3.3180.1015 Sale of Surplus Property by \$28,500. Council was also requested to amend the expenditure budget line item 10.4.3202.5302 Fire Department Insurance with an increase of \$12,000 due to a cost increase in their workers compensation insurance this fiscal year. The remaining \$16,500 in funds were asked to be shown in expenditure line item 10.4.9900.1140 Contingency. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the budget amendment as requested. Councilwoman White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Beth Dixon, Chamber of Commerce Director, gave an update on the chamber and their activities with included the possibility of the Dolly Parton Library Program and other youth programs being introduced to our area. She also spoke on the upcoming Smoke on the Mountain festival and small business workshops. Ms. Dixon thanked Council for their support.

Keith Barker informed Council that the City had received notice from Mr. Bill Sturgill that the school board seats currently held by Dr. Jim Adams & Ms. Melissa Peddy were up for appointment on July 1. He explained that Council typically approved vacancy advertisements which would solicit letters of interest from citizens for the seats and then would conduct interviews. There was a consensus among Council to advertise the vacancies through the end of March. Candidates would be interviewed at the first April meeting and the appointments made at the second April meeting.

Mayor Mitchell reminded Council that the City's residential large item pickup was scheduled from March 11 – 15. The event would be advertised in the paper and a flyer would be included in the March water bill.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. The Carroll-Galax-Grayson Regional Landfill Authority set Saturday April 6 as the household hazardous waste collection date for Galax and Grayson County. Residents, at no cost, would be able to bring paint, pesticides, batteries, etc. for collection and disposal by the contracted company. Shredding services would also offered for home documents. The Galax site will be at our Public Works location on Fair Street and will be open from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM in Galax and from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in Grayson County at a location they designate. A series of advertisements were planned, made by the City, Grayson County, and the regional landfill authority.

Mayor Mitchell called for any public comments from visitors attending.

Kathy Cooley & Frank Ceary from Willing Partners, a local non-profit regional food bank and charitable community organization, addressed Council regarding the issue of trying to locate to a permanent location since their lease was not renewed at their previous location.

With no further comments the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk