

Galax City Council

Minutes

March 11, 2019

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on March 11, 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.

Vice Councilwoman White prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 25, 2019. 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, City Manager, informed Council of his recent discussion with the City's attorney concerning the former Hampton property located on the west side of Galax and owned jointly with Grayson County. Mr. Barker explained the property was originally deeded to Galax Futures, a former property holding entity of City Council; however, the operation of Galax Futures ceased to exist in 2014 and all assets were transferred to the Galax IDA. He said the properties in the Jack Gynn Industrial Park were transferred by deed, however the former Hampton Property parcels were not transferred by deed at that time. The recommendation by the City's attorney was that City Council ratify the transfer again, and also seek out signatures of the former Council members (or a majority of them) to ratify the transfer of this property. Mr. Barker said the property management and marketing was to be handled by the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority (BRCEDA) by agreement with Galax, Grayson and BRCEDA. It was noted that BRCEDA also authorized a preliminary engineering review of the property at their February 25, 2019 meeting based on funding received from MRPDC. Mr. Barker closed by saying the desire of BRCEDA was to perform the PER and then work with the localities to seek grant funding to develop the project. Vice Mayor Plichta made the motion to approve the request to ratify the transfer of the parcels known as the Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park – former Hampton Property, and owned by Galax Futures, to the Galax Industrial Development Authority. Councilwoman Ritchie 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 Mitchel welcomed Dr. Dean Sprinkle from Wytheville Community College. Dr. Sprinkle gave an overview of WCC and their programs, and presented the budget request for FY2020.

Dr. Karen Shelton, Director Mount Rogers Health District – Virginia Department of Health, was present to give an overview of the services the health department provides to citizens of Galax and to our region.

Gerald Goad, Carroll County Clerk of Court, gave a presentation on the Carroll County Clerk of Court office, the services they provided, and accomplishments to date. The Clerk's office serves a portion of citizens in the City and the City provides funding to the office through shared services costs with Carroll County.

Staff Updates:

- Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator – Ms. Marrah spoke on what was typically required to seek grants for the City that serve various projects or departments, and the total impact we had seen since January 2011. Ms. Marrah document provided a document to council showing various grants received and the total dollar value of those grants.
- Jolena Young, Twin County E-911 – Ms. Young will spoke on the Twin County E-911, the function of the department on the regional scale, and future mandated updates to technology.
- Tony Quesenberry, Director of Recreation – Mr. Quesenberry was present to show the new brochure for the recreation department and speak on overall attendance, programs, etc.

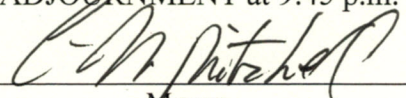
Keith Barker informed Council of a request from Mount Rogers Planning District Commission to consider adoption of a regional hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Barker explained MRPDC was designated by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to develop the regional plan and to seek adoption by each member jurisdiction. He closed by saying with an approved plan, we were eligible for assistance from the state and FEMA in the event of a declaration of a disaster. Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the adoption of the resolution regarding a regional hazard mitigation plan. 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.

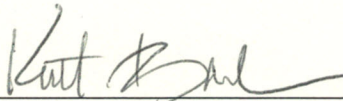
Keith Barker informed Council of a request that he received from Donny Dixon regarding a request for a year-round golf cart permit. Mr. Barker explained that Mr. Dixon was disabled and stated that the use of a golf cart would permit him to more safely travel during the winter. Mr. Barker told Mr. Dixon that per our current ordinance, he was not able to issue a special permit to him but would present his request to Council. The current city ordinance permits the use of golf carts from April 1 – Oct. 31 during daylight only hours with requirements for inspections, carrying of insurance, and an application presented at the Galax Police Department. Mr. Barker said nine permits were issued in 2018 and Mr. Dixon complied with the ordinance, but he said that there were citizens currently using golf carts without meeting the requirements of the ordinance. Council was asked to review the request of Mr. Dixon and there was a consensus among Council members to hold this over for a future discussion.

Mayor Mitchell explained The Red Cross had asked all Virginia localities to consider adoption of a proclamation which would recognize March as Red Cross Month. Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the adoption of the proclamation for The Red Cross. Councilwoman Plichta 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.

With no further comments the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:45 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk