

Galax City Council
Minutes
April 8, 2019

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on April 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 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.

At 6:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Plichta made the motion to go into executive session per **Personnel Matter – School Board Appointments § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.

Councilman Greene 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.

At 7:38 p.m., Council reconvened in open session.

Councilman Haynes prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 25, 2019. Councilman Greene 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 welcomed everyone and announced this was the date Council agreed to advertise for a public hearing regarding a deed of trust for Galax Grayson EMS. Keith Barker, City Manager, explained GGEMS had discussed refinancing of their facility in order to free up capital to go towards the lease of ambulances that Council approved at the March 25, 2019 meeting. He said while Galax was listed as the owner of the parcel, GGEMS had paid the City for the facility, and currently pays operating and maintenance costs. Mr. Barker said that GGEMS had included the repayment of the loan in their budget and would be responsible for payments to MRPDC. He said in order to secure the loan, the City was required to hold a public hearing to consider the granting of a Deed of Trust to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission or their designee. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. There were none. Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed.

Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the request from GGEMS to approve the deed of trust and to authorize the City Manager to sign any necessary loan documents required for the re-financing. Vice Mayor 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.

Mount Rogers Community Services Board Staff were present to make a request of Council to adopt a name change resolution. Logan Nester, MRCSB Director of Communications & Public Relations spoke on MRCSB's behalf. Mr. Nester explained the proposed resolution would change their name to Mount Rogers Community Services. Mr. Nester said since the organization was considered part of the jurisdictions it served, it must seek approval of the change from the local governments within its coverage area. Councilwoman White made the motion to approve the name change resolution. Councilman Greene 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.

City Staff Updates:

- Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Finance Director – Ms. Taylor-Gallimore was present to speak on the Finance Department, activities they perform, services they provide, etc.
- Edwin Ward, City Engineer – Mr. Ward spoke on the Engineering Department and their various roles that included code compliance, environmental services, construction, maintenance, etc.

Tammy Smith, Galax Department of Social Services, made a request of Council to approve appointments to the Community Policy Management Team (CPMT). Changes were made to the CPMT Board recently with staff changes with their regional partners. Appointments to the CPMT must be approved by Council per the City's adopted policy. The following memorandum was given to Council prior to the meeting from Ms. Smith:

- KJ Holbrook – Mount Rogers Community Service Board - Effective Immediately - Employed by Mount Rogers Community Service Board.
- Beth Roper – Private Provider - Effective Immediately - Ms. Roper - Employed by Family Preservation as the Regional Coordinator.

Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the appointments to the CPMT. Vice Mayor 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.

Keith Barker informed Council of a request by DSS Director, Tammy Smith. The request was to amend the Children's Services Act (CSA) due to the higher costs that they were experiencing with more children in foster care. Mr. Barker explained the current CSA funds were committed based on 6-month reviews of needed services, and the current need through June 2019 was an additional \$101,000 based on services that had been recommended and approved by the CPMT. He said if additional children come into care, the costs could rise, however there was also the possibility that funds could be unencumbered and decrease as children age out of care, services not required, etc.

Mr. Barker said he had met with Ms. Judy Taylor-Gallimore concerning the requested budget amendment, and he made the recommendation that Council consider transferring \$101,000 in funds from 10.4.9102.6018 Capital Reserve to 10.4.4530.5660 Comprehensive Services.

He closed by adding the Capital Reserve funds that would be transferred were a portion of the remaining funds received from the IDA after the sale of the parcel in the Jack Guynn Industrial Park. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the requested budget amendment for CSA costs. Councilman Greene 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 informed Council of a request regarding an IDA appointment. He explained that a letter of interest was received from Dr. Jim Adams to be considered for an appointment to the Galax IDA. He said this was one of two open seats on the board. The term would be through June 30, 2021 which was the remaining term of Councilman Larrowe, who stepped down when he was appointed to City Council. Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Adams to the IDA board. 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.

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


Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

At 9:15 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 at the 6:00 p.m. closed session meeting as well as the one at 8:45 p.m., with the following affirmation: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:15 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

