

Galax City Council
Minutes
April 22, 2019

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on April 22, 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.

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

Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2019, and the called meeting of April 15, 2019. 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.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date that City Council agreed upon to make appointments to the Galax City School Board. Letters of interest were received from Ms. Melissa Peddy, Dr. Jim Adams, and Mr. Silverio Gonzales. All three were interviewed by Council at the last meeting. The appointments were for two (2) seats for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. Mayor Mitchell called for nominations of the three candidates. Vice Mayor Plichta made the motion to approve the nominations. 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. Mayor Mitchell called for votes for Dr. Jim Adams who received 5 votes from Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilwoman White. Melissa Peddy received 7 votes from Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe. Silverio Gonzales received 2 votes from Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Larrowe. Mayor Mitchell congratulated Dr. Adams and Ms. Peddy for their reappointments to the Galax School Board.

Mayor Mitchell reminded Council of proposed changes to the Golf Cart Ordinance which was discussed at a previous meeting. He said, as discussed, the original ordinance was adopted in 2014 with requirements for insurance, inspections, etc. There were also limitations on when carts could be ridden, the requirement for a licensed driver, age restrictions for riders, etc. Some restrictions were based on the state code while others were deemed safety issues when the original ordinance was adopted.

There were several visitors present for this issue. Mayor Mitchell proposed the creation of a Golf Cart Committee which would consist of two Council members, the Police Chief, and two citizen representatives. He said the committee would meet and review the ordinance for future updates or amendments.

Keith Barker added that any changes to the ordinance may need to be reviewed by the City Attorney prior to holding any required public hearings. Mayor Mitchell asked for Council volunteers for the Golf Cart Committee. Councilwoman White and Councilman Haynes volunteered. The citizens were Dave Wilson, and Mark Burnett. Councilman Larowe made the motion to approve the Golf Cart Committee. 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 Larowe.

Keith Barker informed Council as part of the recent approved lease/purchase for the new ambulances for GGEMS, a resolution was required for the tax-exempt financing. He said he had spoken to our attorneys and they had provided the resolution for consideration. Councilwoman White made the motion to approve the GGEMS 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 Larowe.

Tim Prestridge, Chief Financial Officer - Twin County Regional Hospital, was present to give an update on Twin County Regional Hospital. Mr. Prestridge informed Council of a program called Medicaid Upper Payment Limit Program that the hospital may be participating in the near future. He proposed a possible partnership with Galax to aid the hospital in obtaining more federal funding. Mr. Prestridge said a resolution of support would need to be approved by Council at a later date before the next General Assembly meeting.

Galax School Superintendent, Bill Sturgill, was present to give a brief overview of the FY2020 Galax City School Budget. Mr. Sturgill explained the budget request from the City was for level funding. Mr. Barker noted that Council would need to set a public hearing for May 13 prior to consideration of adoption of the school budget. He said if there were no questions concerning the school budget after the public hearing, Council would typically consider approval of the school budget at the May meeting so that teacher contracts could be issued for the next fiscal year. Councilman Greene made the motion to set May 13 as the public hearing on the Galax City Public Schools FY2020 Budget. Councilman Larowe 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 Larowe.

Melanie Hemingway, Galax Carroll Public Library, gave an update on activities, programs, and resources available to the public at the library.


With no public comments, Mayor Mitchell accepted a motion made by Councilwoman White at 8:30 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

- **Personnel Matter - § 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.
- **Prospective Business or Expansion of an existing Business or Industry - § 2.2-3711 A.5 of the *Code of Virginia*** - Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.


Councilman Greene 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 10:00 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 Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

ADJOURNMENT at 10:00 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

