

Galax City Council
Minutes
June 10, 2019

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on June 10, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Vice Mayor Plichta prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2019. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Vice Mayor Plichta informed Council that staff had advertised for interested citizens to submit letters of interest for appointments on the Recreation Advisory Board and the Board of Zoning Appeals, 1 open seat on each board. Keith Barker said we had received letters from two individuals for the Recreation Advisory Board Appointment, which is a two-year appointment, limited to two terms. No letters were received for the BZA appointment. The letters from Mr. Kevin Edwards and Ms. Sylvia Richardson for the Recreation Advisory Board were reviewed by Council. Councilman Greene made the motion to appoint Ms. Sylvia Richardson to the Recreation Advisory Board. Councilwoman White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Vice Mayor Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe. Mr. Barker said that Daniel Riegel, Zoning Administrator, was reaching out the current BZA members to see if they knew of someone that may be interested in that position. The consensus was to hold the BZA appointment over to a future meeting.

Keith Barker informed Council of a notification from VDOT regarding our award for the primary paving projects we submitted applications for. He said we had been approved for two projects totaling \$388,972 with no local match. He said the approved projects would pave portions of South Main St. & all of North Main Street; and pave on the eastbound lane of E. Stuart Drive from Gillespie Lane to the recently paved portion of E. Stuart Drive. Mr. Barker stated that we must bid the work by December and pave before the end of FY2020. He closed by saying the intent was to also bid our regular paving at the same time in order to secure better pricing for both projects.

Linda Mock, Safe Routes to School Coordinator gave Council an overview of her efforts on behalf of the SRTS VDOT sponsored program.

Keith Barker informed Council as part of closing out the FY2019 Budget, a budget amendment for consideration would be brought to the July meeting. He explained that if the amendment exceeded 1%, we would prepare and run an advertisement for a public hearing as required under the Code of Virginia.

City Manager's Report

Keith Barker gave the City Manager's Report which included highlights of some of the following projects he has been working on during the month of May:

- The Bottom Area Project – Included residential and commercial projects.

- VDOT Projects including: Cranberry Road & Safe Routes to Schools.
- Elementary School Project – Construction behind by 50 to 60 days.
- Waste Water Plant Project – Running behind due to the Stockyard Road issues. It may take 60 to 90 days longer with an estimated time of next spring for completion.
- Main Street Stormwater Project – The Main Street project was completed with some minor repairs needed.
- City may purchase “hot box” repair boxes so repairs on the streets can be done in the winter.
- Painter Street alley, now repaired.

Council thanked Mr. Barker for taking the time to go over the projects with everyone.

Council Reports

Councilman Greene:

- Community Policy Management Team / DSS
- Galax Grayson Landfill
- Mount Rogers Planning District Commission – Received \$100K Grant for Bottom Project.
- State Executive Council for Human Services – Mandated study for private education programs for children’s services.
- Carroll-Grayson-Galax Solid Waste Authority
- Airport Commission
- VML
- Crossroads Board
- Fire Department – Houston Fest

Councilwoman Ritchie:

- Public Art Committee – Spoke on grant funding, painting the grand stand steps, banners, and future plans and ideas.
- Community information app

Councilwoman White:

- Ms. White’s church hosted a community bowling fund raiser for foster care children at DSS.
- Golf Cart Committee – A recommendation to submit to the City Manager and then will be sent to the attorney.

Councilman Larrowe:


- District Three – New bus route to Fernwood just outside the City and services for the elderly.

Councilman Haynes:

- EMS Committee – Everyone thankful for new ambulances. EMS would start saving money on repair bills.
- Houston Fest – Community supported well despite the rain.
- Thankful for guardrails around City being replaced at Stockyard, Locust, and Fair Street.

With no further public comments Vice Mayor Plichta declared the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:35 p.m.


Vice Mayor


Clerk