

Galax City Council
Minutes
July 8, 2019

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on July 8, 2019 at 7:35 p.m.

At 7:35 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, and Councilwoman White. Councilman Larrowe was absent.

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

Vice Mayor Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 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, and Councilwoman White.

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Finance Director, presented a FY2019 budget amendment for Council's consideration. She explained the revision was under 1% as an increase in expenditures so a public hearing was not required. The amendment would transfer expenditure contingency funding to expenditures for several specific projects. There was no overall increase or decrease in revenue or expenditures. Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the FY2019 budget amendment. 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, and Councilwoman White.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council of a request to appropriate the FY2020 Galax City budget that was approved at the May 28 meeting. The following were the approved budget totals:

- General Fund Budget (including DSS) - \$26,978,477
- Utility Fund Budget - \$ 9,569,790
- Stormwater Fund - \$ 329,500

Councilman Greene made the motion to approve the appropriation of the FY2020 Galax City budget. 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, and Councilwoman White.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council of a request to appropriate the FY2020 Galax City School Budget which was approved at the May 13 meeting. He said the total budget was \$16,018,666 with local funds of \$3,986,291. Councilwoman White made the motion to approve the appropriation of the FY2020 Galax City School Budget. 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, and Councilwoman White.

Keith Barker informed Council that we had received a letter of interest from Jason Bowers for an appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals which had previously been advertised with no response. Mr. Barker said that Council's recommendation would be sent to our attorney who would then send to the Circuit Court for approval. Councilman Haynes made the motion to recommend Mr. Bowers for the BZA appointment. 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, and Councilwoman White.

Keith Barker informed Council that the Golf Cart Committee had presented a draft revision of recommended changes for the Golf Cart Ordinance which included the following:

- Adding Meadow St. to the approved streets, from E. Grayson St. to Matthews Street.
- Provisions to allow golf cart usage at night if equipped with headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, rearview and side mirrors, and reflective tape on the sides.
- Decreasing the age limit for riders from 8 years of age to allow children between 3 and 7 years of age to ride provided the driver is 21 years old. If an additional child is riding then an additional rider 18 years of age must also be riding on the cart. This provision also requires that the golf cart is equipped with seat belts for each rider.
- To allow approval of alternate inspection sites rather than only DMV vehicle inspection sites.
 - That golf carts can be used year-round dependent except during snow, sleet, or ice events.
 - Sets the period a permit is approved to 12 months beginning April 1.
 - Sets that all info will be presented and reviewed at the Municipal Building and the permit issued there.
 - That golf cart approval decals must be located on the windshield in the same location as a DMV inspection sticker.
 - That a temporary permit may be issued to visitors for golf cart usage provided the golf cart owner signs an application agreeing to usage per the ordinance. The temporary permit would be good for 7 days. It relieves the owner from the inspection process and fee.
 - No red or blue flashing lights allowed on golf carts.
 - An annual report from the Police Department would be required to report any incidents with the golf carts.

Mr. Barker said if Council was in agreement with the proposed changes, the proposed revisions would be sent to our attorney for review and then there would be a final presentation at the August meeting. If the final presentation was approved by Council, a public hearing would be set for September with consideration for adoption. The consensus was to move forward with the proposed changes.

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance, was present with a request for Council to consider approving the delinquent tax payer list for publication in the Gazette for real estate as of June 30, 2019. Ms. Taylor-Gallimore said the list would be amended to reflect any additional payments received prior to the ad going to the paper. Councilman Haynes made a motion to approve the publication of the delinquent real estate tax list. 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, and Councilwoman White.

Councilwoman White informed Council that Hope Center Ministries members of our community have formed a planning team with the goal of adding an inpatient, faith-based drug and alcohol

rehabilitation center to our area. She explained that Hope Center Ministries (hopecm.com) was an established rehab program out of Tennessee. She said they had expanded to VA in the Martinsville area. Ms. White said she had worked in addiction counseling and ministry for 25 years. She said this was the most promising long-term rehab structure she had come across with one of the most impressive non-profit business plans she had seen. She said that she was very excited about what this could mean for our area and the project would require no action on behalf of our City Council.

Tammy Smith, Galax Dept. of Social Services Director, was present to discuss proposed appointments to the Community Policy Management Team (CPMT). Ms. Smith explained with the changes in staff at Family Preservation Services and Galax City Schools, City Council had been asked to consider appointments to the CPMT. She said a private provider representative and a school representative was needed. She said letters of interest from Tracy Kochel with Family Preservation Services and Courtenay Houston with Youth Advocacy Programs had sent letters of interest for that seat. City Council was also asked to consider appointing Susan Tilley, Galax Schools Assistant Superintendent, as the school representative to the CPMT. It was noted the terms would not expire. Ms. Smith had a brief discussion with Council concerning the consideration of appointing both private provider candidates to the CPMT after the by-laws were amended at their next CPMT meeting. Councilman Greene made the motion to appoint Tracey Kochel as the private provider representative and Susan Tilley, as the school representative. 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, and Councilwoman White.

Keith Barker said he was pleased to announce that the City had been awarded funding for a Galax Middle School Resource Officer. He explained the funding was for a part-time officer with the goal of hiring a retired certified officer. While there was a cost share, that would be split with the school system during the grant and after the 4-year grant cycle.

Keith Barker was introduced the new Tourism Director/Festival Coordinator position. He said she had already started updating our social media presence and undertaking interviews with businesses downtown. Mr. Barker said the City was happy to have Ms. Brown as Tourism Director/Festival Coordinator.

Keith Barker announced that we were selected to by UVA Wise to participate in a Rally Virginia facilitated study. The study at CCSA on July 23rd would allow us to get a \$3,000 grant for projects such as public art. An application was submitted the end of June.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Keith Barker went over his report for the month of June which included the following project updates:

- Bottom Area Project - Eastview Phase
- VDOT Projects
- Galax Elementary School Renovations
- Galax Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pump Station Upgrades
- Stormwater Projects
- T.G. Vaughan Furniture Plant Study
- Chestnut Creek & US Army Corps of Engineers Study

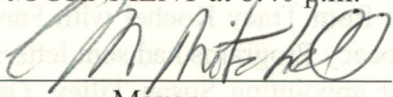
- Chestnut Creek Joint Permit Application for Creek Maintenance
- Misc. Department & Staff Updates

COUNCIL COMMENTS

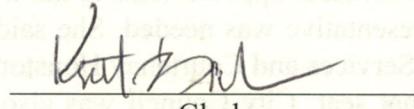
- Councilman Greene – Twin Co. Airport - positive comments from company
- Councilwoman White – Community Engagement Team for Galax Schools
School Supplies Drive & Stuff the Bus Drive
- Councilman Haynes – Moderator for work session

With no further public comments Mayor Mitchell declared the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.



 Mayor



 Clerk