

Galax City Council
Called Meeting
Minutes
February 22, 2021

Galax City Council convened for a called meeting in the City Council Chambers on February 22, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m. Mayor Greene called the meeting to order with the following Council persons present via phone: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr. Councilwoman White attended in person.

Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer.

Mayor Greene explained the reason for the meeting was to discuss the consideration of the purchase of 406 W. Oldtown Street for Project Light. Keith Barker gave an update on the project. He explained that Council approved the option agreement to purchase the 406 W. Oldtown property for Project Light. He said that Project Light was conceived as a partnership between the City of Galax, the Galax IDA, and Gods Storehouse and Soup Kitchen to purchase the former grocery store. Mr. Barker said that we would apply for a series of grants, and would seek public funds/donations, to renovate the facility to house a soup kitchen, teaching kitchen, community pantry, drug counseling program, job training programs, and business offices. He further explained that City staff and members from Gods Storehouse had spent hundreds of hours to date conceiving of the project and submitting the first round of grant applications to the state. Mr. Barker said that we were made aware by the realtor for the property that another offer had been made on the building. He said that per the option agreement, the City had 30 days to match the offer and close on the property.

The request of City Council was to see if they wished to continue with the project and proceed to exercise the purchase option in the agreement. He said that while we acknowledged that we had not been approved for grants at this point, we do know that:

- Discussions with state agencies that control grant funds had been impressed with the concept of the project that we had submitted to them.
- The grant application we had submitted (ARC, \$500,000) was specific to this property, as were the plans and elevations that were prepared and submitted with the grant. Withdrawing our grant would push the ARC grant submittal off for at least 1 year.
- We would need to identify another facility, seek an option, and begin the design process again if we chose to continue with this community project.
- Efforts had been made by staff to identify the next round of possible grants for this specific site and facility.

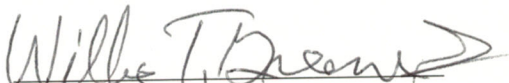
Mr. Barker told Council if they wished to proceed with exercising the option, funds to close on the property could be moved from the following categories:

10.4.3302.3840	Payments to Juvenile Detention Centers	\$ 10,000.00
10.4.9102.5680	Economic Incentives	\$ 40,000.00
10.4.9102.6018	Capital Reserve	\$ 150,000.00
	Remaining from IDA funds	\$ 50,000.00
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		\$ 250,000.00

Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve moving forward exercising the option for the property at 406 W. Oldtown Street, authorizing the City Manager to amend the budget as necessary as well as transfer funds to the IDA, and authorize the Galax IDA to take title under the deed. Councilwoman White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following spoken votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Richie, Councilwoman White, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

Councilwoman White made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Warr seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following spoken votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Richie, Councilwoman White, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

ADJOURNMENT at 2:20 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk