

TOWN OF GARLAND
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023
6:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Garland was held at the Garland Town Hall in Garland, N.C. on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Carolyn R. Melvin, Mayor Pro Tem
Jo A. Strickland
Barbara A Peterson
Ralph Smith, Jr.
Andy Johnson
Town Clerk Pamela Cashwell was absent.

Also, present: Mayor Austin Brown and Deputy Clerk Mary Harper. Mr. Justin Hembree, Executive Director, Mid Carolina Regional Council and Mr. Byron Scott, CPA. There were 3 citizens in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Austin Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. Deputy Clerk, Mary Harper, was present recording notes for the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Mayor Austin Brown led the attendees in the recitation of the pledge.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Jo Strickland provided the invocation.

QUORUM

Mayor Austin Brown and Deputy Clerk Mary Harper established there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Austin Brown requested board members review the agenda for approval. Added to agenda was girl scout request to sell tickets, volunteer dinner, reimbursement for Santa Claus appearance, and Deputy Clerk request. Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to approve agenda with said changes, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF 2021-2022 AUDIT

Mr. Byron Scott presented the audit and passionately thanked Town Clerk Pamela Cashwell for being an asset to the town. She is a pleasure to work with and is very professional, detailed, and thorough. His presentation consists of the general fund revenue, general fund expenditures and there were no questions from commissioners. Mr. Scott also stated that fund balance versus revenue was very strong. Carolyn Melvin, Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve audit results and seconded by Commissioner Peterson, motion carried for unanimously approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None currently.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

FINANCE

Credit Card Purchases – Clerk Pamela Cashwell provided a statement of all the credit card purchases for the month. (See attached).

PRESENTATION OF MID CAROLINA PLANNING AND ZONING BY JUSTIN HEMBREE

Mr. Hembree discussed more of the “technical” agreement with Council of Government (COG) signed from October 2022. The position of COG is to provide administrative assistance for zoning, planning and code enforcement. The simple day to day zoning known as “permitted by right” can be done locally without approval of town board or planning board. Commissioner Strickland and Johnson are available to assist with planning, zoning, and code enforcement.

Commissioner Strickland was concerned with the towns flat rate of \$75.00 for residential and \$100.00 for business Zone applications. She suggested to get together with COG Samantha to discuss and training for the deputy clerk to have basic knowledge of the process for zoning and planning.

Commissioner Smith posed concerns for code enforcement. The town is stuck in the “it’s been like that for 20 years” mode and for the town to be welcoming and presentable, it needs to be cleaned up and enforced by neutral parties that is backed by the town mayor and commissioners. Mayor Brown feels the board is ready to move forward with administration for zoning, planning and codes compliance. Talk specifics ASAP. Commissioner Johnson also added for a property owner check list be generated to let all owners know of the town’s expectations.

Mayor Brown also reminded the board of the Selection Committee for grants is Commissioners Johnson, Smith and himself. There were no objections to this committee. There is a sewer grant in play that needs to be addressed.

BVA & A.P. Check Listing- Clerk Cashwell provided the BVA reports with board members. The A.P. Check Listing Report was provided and reviewed for the month of December 2022. (See attached).

BUILDINGS/CEMETERY

Commissioner Peterson requested the Girl Scouts be allowed to sell tickets. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Strickland and carried unanimously. Commissioner Strickland reviewed letter of request from Public Works to repair or buy a water heater for shop that is much needed. Commissioner Strickland suggested an on demand electric hot water heater. Discussed talking with Terry Long about the cost to put one in. Commissioner Strickland will get the price for such water heater.

PARKS/RECREATION

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Melvin had no reports of any issues.

Mayor Brown stated that Daphne needs mulch for the rose gardens(approx. 15 bags). Motion to purchase mulch made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried. Suggested to get quotes.

STREETS

Addressed was a request from public works to purchase a total of ten stop signs. Five are needed immediately and five for future needs. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve purchase and seconded by Commissioner Johnson; motion carried unanimously. There was concern that a stop sign was needed for replacement at intersection of Hwy 411 and Hwy 701. Also, a directional sign

on Hwy 701 by Commissioner Strickland's home that is broken, however DOT would need to be contacted.

PUBLIC WORKS – WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE

Commissioner Johnson reports that laundry mat had a water main break, and he would like to purchase parts (couplings, wraps, collars) for future repairs and to replenish what has been used. Mayor Brown suggested to contact *Core and Main*.

Mayor Brown also reported that State Surplus has been approved for equipment and machinery however, there is a service fee from \$10.00-\$1000.00's, depends on what type of equipment and machinery. The website is not accurate, so it is best to visit in person.

SAFETY

Commissioner Strickland reports that tickets are now being issued more than warnings. She hopes the signs are being more observed and drivers will be adhering to them.

NEW BUSINESS

Cintas contract was reviewed. There were questions about length of contract (5 years) but decided it was best and could accommodate new employees. Motion to approve from Commissioner Johnson seconded by Commissioner Peterson, motion carried unanimously.

Santa Claus Reimbursement was addressed. The "usual" Santa (Michael Buchannon) became sick, and Ms. Eleisa Walker paid for someone at last minute to fill in. Requesting \$162.00. Motion to reimburse Ms. Walker was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Peterson. Motion carried unanimously. This reimbursement will come from unrestricted funds.

Volunteer Dinner was requested by Ms. Wanda Simmons as an appreciation. It is scheduled for January 7, 2023, for 15-20 people at Alfredo's in Clinton NC. To be paid for out of unrestricted funds.

Commissioner Smith inquired "who are the volunteers?". Commissioner Strickland stated that she has knowledge of a few, not 15 or 20. A list of volunteers will be requested. After further discussion, Commissioner Peterson motioned for the volunteer dinner was for 20 people max and \$25.00 per plate, seconded by Commissioner Smith, motion carried.

Deputy Clerk, Mary Harper requested to have her 40 hours sick time from Harnett County transferred to the Town of Garland. Commissioner Strickland suggested to hold off until her 6-month probationary period was up. Motion to wait for 6 months by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Melvin and carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk, Mary Harper requested a temporary schedule change for 3 months due to her attending classes. M, W, Th, and Fri 8-5 and Tues 11:30-5:00. Commissioner Andy reminded that she did speak of at time of interview. Motion to accept temporary schedule made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Melvin. Motion carried.

Discussed part-time temporary position schedule for Kayla. Questioned her hours available and how long. She has requested off on Wednesdays and is available until grant funding ends. She co-ordinates her schedule with Town Clerk Pamela Cashwell.

CLOSED SESSION

Nothing currently. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Melvin, seconded by Commissioner Smith, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL MOTION


Motion to accept for Regular and Closed Minutes from December 3, 2022 made by Mayor Pro Tem Melvin and seconded by Commissioner Smith, carried unanimously

Town Hall Offices are closed on January 16, 2023
Regular Town Board Meeting February 7, 2023 @ 6:30pm

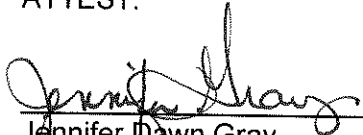
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Duly adopted this the 7th day of February, 2023 while in regular session.


Austin Brown
Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Dawn Gray
Town Clerk

