

TOWN OF GARLAND  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 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, March 7, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn R. Melvin  
Commissioner Jo A. Strickland  
Commissioner Barbara A. Peterson  
Commissioner Ralph Smith, Jr.

Also present: Mayor Austin Brown, Town Clerk Jennifer Gray, Cassandra Fisher, Antonio Garcia, Mr. Melvin and Samantha Wullenwaber.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Austin Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. Town Clerk, Jennifer Gray, was present and recorded notes for the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Austin Brown led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION

Ms. Cassandra Fisher offered the invocation.

QUORUM

Mayor Austin Brown and Clerk Jennifer Gray established there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Brown requested board members review the agenda for approval. It was requested that the following items be added to the agenda.

- ❖ Public Works: employee function by Commissioner Ralph Smith
- ❖ Public Works: Backhoe Repair by Commissioner Ralph Smith
- ❖ Public Comment: Commissioner Resignation Mayor Austin Brown

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Melvin made a motion to approve the agenda with said chain, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Antonio Garcia approached the board about his water bill. He asked that the penalty, interest and reconnect fee be credited back to his account. Commissioner Smith made a motion to credit his account as requested, Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it unanimously.

Ms. Cassandra Fisher made an inquiry to the commissioners about leasing the old ABC Store building to expand her childcare business.

Mayor Brown read an email from Commissioner Andy Johnson expressing his intent to resign from his seat, stating that his new schedule would not allow him the time he feels that he should be able to dedicate to the town. He stated that he would forward an official resignation letter in the email. A motion was made by Commissioner Ralph Smith to accept Commissioner Andy Johnson's resignation. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin. The motion passes with no further discussion at this time.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

### FINANCE

Credit Card Purchases: Nothing to report.

BVA & A.P. Check Listing: Clerk Gray provided the listing for both. Town Clerk Gray informed the board that the funds for repairs to the backhoe are available in the Streets fund. The board reviewed with nothing further.

### BUILDINGS/CEMETERY

Commissioner Peterson has nothing to report on buildings. Commissioner Peterson informed the board that she has a quote from Mr. Dudley about the gravel needed for driveway repairs at the Garland Cemetery. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of gravel for driveway repairs at Garland Cemetery, Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Lease on the former ABC Store Property was discussed. Parking will be an issue, there is no land with the building for parking, the only parking there is the two spots on the street. This matter has been tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Strickland addressed the board about purchasing heavy duty door closures for the concession stand. Commissioner Strickland made a motion to purchase heavy duty door closures for the concession stand. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Strickland addressed the need for the bay door in the maintenance shop at town hall to be repaired. Commissioner Smith stated that Randy Boone can repair the bay door.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

The fire ants have been treated at the ball field and Cain Park but will need to be re-treated before ball season and summer season.

### STREETS

Street Signs – Street signs are being put up and brackets are needed to finish the project. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to purchase 40 each of the brackets needed to complete the street sign project. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC WORKS – WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE

Commissioner Smith recommended that leaf and limb pickup be tabled until the next meeting to set a date and get the backhoe repaired.

Commissioner Smith brought to the board that there is a breakdown in communication between the public works staff. Commissioner Smith made a motion to give Randy Boone a one dollar per hour pay increase and promote him to Public Works Supervisor immediately. Stating that he would turn work orders into the Clerk and Deputy Clerk as he sees fit and Mr. Boone will answer to the board. Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin seconded the motion. The motion was carried with three votes aye by Commissioner Barbara Peterson, Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin and Commissioner Ralph Smith Jr. and one vote nay by Commissioner Jo Strickland.

SAFETY – Commissioner Strickland reported that the deputies who are patrolling town are doing a good job and that she is satisfied.

Commissioner Smith that there was no update on the town building that was broken into.

### OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Austin Brown addressed Resolution #2023-05 Night Deposit Bag Pickup by the Town Clerk. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-05. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peterson, and it was carried unanimously.

Town Clerk Gray addressed the board about shredding services to keep in compliance with Records Retention Laws. A quote for mobile shredding services was presented. Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to allow a shredding company to provide shredding services for the town. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jo Strickland addressed the board about single mobile homes not being allowed within the town limits. There was discussion about the requirements the town can implement about allowing single wide mobile homes. There is more discussion needed.

Commissioner Barbara Peterson addressed the board regarding a special event application for a birthday party. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to approve the special event application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ralph Smith. The motion was carried unanimously.

Clerk Gray presented the board with Resolution # 2023-06 Sampson County Tax Collection. The item was tabled until the next meeting. Clerk Gray will provide the information requested by the board.

Commissioner Strickland discussed adding Deputy Clerk Shauna Harper to be a check signer. There was discussion among the board members. Commissioner Jo Strickland made a motion to amend the bank signatories to include Deputy Clerk Shauna Harper. There was no second. The motion dies for lack of a second.

Samantha Wullenwaber updated the board about grant projects. Ms. Wullenwaber also updated the board about the ongoing code enforcement projects.

Mayor Austin Brown addressed Commissioner Andy Johnson's replacement. Commissioner Ralph Smith Jr. made a motion to replace Commissioner Andy Johnson with Haywood Johnson. Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin seconded the motion. The motion was carried with three votes aye by Commissioner Barbara Peterson, Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin and Commissioner Ralph Smith Jr. and one vote nay by Commissioner Jo Strickland.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Regular Meeting – February 7, 2023

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Mayor Tem Carolyn Melvin, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONDOLENCES

Condolences: The Town of Garland sends our sincerest condolences to all of those who have recently lost loved ones.

Regular Board Meeting – April 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm

CLOSED SESSION – Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin made a motion to enter closed session. Commissioner Ralph Smith seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Pursuant to NCGS 143-318-11.(a)(6) Personnel

Mayor Brown entered open session at 7:49.

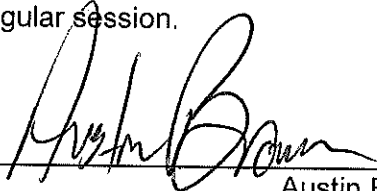
Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to terminate employee Kayla McLamb-Allen. Commissioner Barbara Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

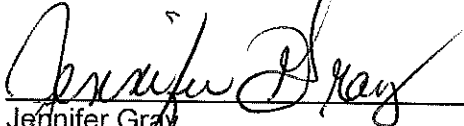
With there being nothing further to discuss, Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to adjourn, Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Duly adopted this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 while in regular session.



  
Austin Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jennifer Gray  
Town Clerk/Finance Officer