

TOWN OF GARLAND
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, May 2, 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, May 2, 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.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were absent:

Mayor Austin Brown

Also present: Town Clerk Jennifer Gray, citizens Brenda Fenny, Adela Blackburn, Wendy Taylor and Bob Graczyk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin 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 Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Haywood Johnson offered the invocation.

QUORUM

Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin and Clerk Jennifer Gray established there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Melvin requested board members review the agenda for approval. It was requested that the following items be added/changed on the agenda.

- ❖ Buildings: Citizen interested in renting the old ABC Store Building
- ❖ Public Works: Signing the Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with said changes, seconded by Commissioner Haywood Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Garland citizens Brenda Finney and Adela Blackburn addressed the board with concerns about vandalism to their property. Ms. Blackburn stated that she made repairs to the home and her property continues to be vandalized. Commissioner Smith stated that deputies would be contacted and more presence would be shown in the property area.

Town Clerk Gray indicated that she had received a call from Ms. Highsmith regarding the high school senior banners being put up through town on the utility poles. Commissioner Strickland

responded that the project was underway, and Shelia Smith was heading it up. Any questions should be directed to her.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

FINANCE

Credit Card Purchases: Two charges, one for the Adobe Pro and the one for the door closures for the concession stand.

BVA & A.P. Check Listing: Clerk Gray provided the listing for both.

Budget/Spending Water/Sewer Fund: Clerk Gray addressed the board regarding items the Envirolink needs for chemical transfer and tubes.

Budget Amendment: Clerk Gray presented the board with a budget amendment to cover chemicals and water and sewer supplies. Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment 22-23-05. Commissioner Haywood Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Bank Reconciliations: Clerk Gray informed the Board that the Bank Reconciliations were completed through March, the only reconciliation outstanding is April 2023.

BUILDINGS/CEMETERY

Commissioner Strickland spoke to a lady about renting the old ABC Store and turning it into a Thrift Store. This item was tabled for further review.

Commissioner Strickland addressed the board about the plumbing issue at the concession stand. Three estimates were presented. After the board reviewed the estimates, it was decided that Black River Plumbing would be selected for the job. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go with Black River Plumbing. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The board discussed the a/c unit that has gone out at the senior center. Commissioner Strickland asked that someone else troubleshoot the unit to see if it could be repaired instead of being replaced.

Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to have Terry Long Electrical replace the A/C unit at the Senior Center, have the Roof Doctor repair the roof at the Town Hall and Garland Tire and Auto repair the backhoe. Commissioner Haywood Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried 4 votes aye by Commissioners Johnson, Peterson, Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Melvin to 1 vote nay by Commissioner Strickland.

The town hall bay doors will be looked at by Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Barbara Peterson made a motion to move the concession stand back under the Parks and Recreation department. Commissioner Ralph Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The board went into 5-minute break at 7:30pm.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Commissioner Smith addressed the board about the need for repairs on the fence at the ball field. Commissioner Johnson said that he would inquire about repairs. The park fence matter has been tabled until the next meeting for further review.

Mayor Pro-tem Carolyn Melvin addressed the need for the soccer goals to be repaired.

STREETS

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS – WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE

Commissioner Smith gave an update on the water line repairs that have been made this month due to cable being installed by Spectrum.

Leaf and Limb pick-up was addressed. Funding for additional help in the Public Works Department will be needed. A date was discussed, and it was decided that leaf and limb pickup will be scheduled for May 22-26, 2023.

The board discussed the "Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements WR Project # 22-074 and determined that Attorney Maynard will review and consult with Mayor Brown about his review. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agreement upon a satisfactory report from Attorney Maynard to the Mayor. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

SAFETY – Commissioner Strickland addressed the board regarding citizen concerns about burning in town. Adopting an ordinance to stop burning in town was discussed but was decided against.

Commissioner Strickland gave an update on criminal activity in the town.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Clerk Gray addressed the board about rescheduling the cancelled budget meeting. The budget meeting was rescheduled until May 23, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Town Clerk Gray addressed the board about the Zoning Application. Deputy Clerk Harper prepared a new application that she would like to use going forward for additions in the Town of Garland.

Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to remove Commissioner Jo Strickland from all committees she has been assigned to. Commissioner Haywood Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried 4 votes aye by Commissioners Johnson, Peterson, Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Melvin to 1 vote nay by Commissioner Strickland.

Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to have the camera access changed to Mayor Brown and Mayor Pro-Tem Melvin. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried 4 votes aye by Commissioners Johnson, Peterson, Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Melvin to 1 vote nay by Commissioner Strickland.

Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to have the Commissioner Strickland turn in all of her town keys. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried 4 votes aye by Commissioners Johnson, Peterson, Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Melvin to 1 vote nay by Commissioner Strickland.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Regular Meeting – April 4, 2023

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Closed Session Meeting – March 7, 2023

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Smith, 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 – May 2, 2023 at 6:30 pm

CLOSED SESSION – Entered into closed session at 8:20 pm.

Entered Open session at 8:25

Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to pay former employee Randrell Boone accrued vacation. Commissioner Haywood Johnson seconded the motion and the motion was carried with four votes. Commissioner Jo Strickland left the meeting early due to a power outage over the entire town, she did not vote on this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being nothing further to discuss, Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with four votes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Duly adopted this the 6th day of June, 2023 while in regular session.



Carolyn Melvin, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:



Jennifer Gray
Town Clerk/Finance Officer