

TOWN OF GARLAND  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, June 6, 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, June 6, 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.  
Commissioner Haywood Johnson

Also present: Town Clerk Jennifer Gray, citizens Marlene Baxley and Lisa Autry.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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

Commissioner Haywood Johnson 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/changed to the agenda.

- ❖ New Business: Renting a bucket truck for banners.
- ❖ Move New Business Employment Application under Closed Session.

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, Marlene Baxley and Lisa Autry addressed the board about renting the former ABC Building. Ms. Baxley stated that she would still like to rent the former ABC building to open a thrift store. Ms. Baxley and Ms. Autry would like to rent the building for \$300.00 per month and does not expect the town to make any repairs to the building, they will rent it as is. The board has taken the proposition under consideration and will contact the town attorney to seek advice about the lease agreement. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to reach out to the attorney to prepare a lease agreement for six months. After a six-month review it will be decided if there will be a yearly lease put in place. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## 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.

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

### BUILDINGS/CEMETERY

Clerk Gray gave an update on the former Head Start Building break-in. Two of the four individuals involved are currently working on their community service hours here in Garland, while the other two are still awaiting their court dates.

Nothing to report on the cemetery.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Melvin addressed the board regarding her meeting with the inspector. She stated that the bathroom door closures still needed to be installed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Melvin gave an update on the softball fields.

### STREETS

Commissioner Johnson and Clerk Gray addressed the board regarding the annual Powell Bill Inspection. It was decided that Public Works Kenneth White will be joining Owen Surveying for the Powell Bill street inspection.

### PUBLIC WORKS – WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE

Leaf and Limb pick-up was addressed. It was decided that Leaf & Limb will take place June 19-23 2023. Mailings will need to go out as soon as possible. Commissioner Smith made a motion to hold Leaf & Limb pickup during the week of June 19-23 2023. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Clerk Gray addressed the board regarding the Lead Service Line Inventory Letter received from NCRW. She briefly discussed what was expected from the town staff and explained that a representative from NCRW would be at the next regularly scheduled board meeting to further explain the project and expectations to the board.

SAFETY – Clerk Gray updated the board regarding the Sampson Co Sheriff's Department schedule.

### OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

### NEW BUSINESS

Town Clerk Gray addressed the board about purchasing a name plate and recognition flag to be placed at the Veterans podium in the Town Hall Lobby. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to

purchase a recognition plate and flag for the Veterans podium. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Roberto Hernandez Fee Refund – The board discussed the jurisdiction of the Roberto Hernandez property. It was decided that the property is within the ETJ so therefore he is not due a refund for the zoning permit.

Clerk Gray discussed the need for IT support for the Town. This item was tabled until the July 12, 2023 board meeting.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to order locks for all the Town gates and door locks at all buildings that are keyed the same with the exception of the ballfield and the front part of town hall. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Brown addressed the board about the courtesy calls being made to non-pay water customers. It was decided that the Deputy Clerk would make a one-call a couple of days before the cutoff date and the last day to pay, those who haven't paid will get a reminder call.

Clerk Gray provided the board with a copy of the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Ordinance. Clerk Gray read the Town of Garland Budget Ordinance aloud for consideration. A Budget Public Hearing was scheduled for June 22, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Garland Town Hall.

Commissioner Smith made comments about the need for a generator at well #4. Another quote is needed before a decision can be made. This item has been tabled until the board meeting on July 12, 2023.

Commissioner Peterson addressed the board about hanging the senior banners. Clerk Gray was tasked to call and get pricing from Spell's Electric for installing the banners to bring to the board.

## MINUTES APPROVAL

### Regular Meeting – May 2, 2023

Commissioner Melvin recommended corrections be made to the May 2, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the minutes with suggested changes, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and the motion was carried unanimously.

### Closed Session Meeting – May 2, 2023

Commissioner Melvin recommended corrections be made to the May 2, 2023 Closed Meeting. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Closed Session at 7:42pm– Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Melvin made a motion to enter into Closed session. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Entered Open session at 8:05pm

Commissioner Smith made a motion to hire Jonathan Herring at \$25.00 with a 90-day probationary period. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to authorize Jonathan Herring to use a town truck for commute due to on-call work hours, upon insurance approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and the motion was carried unanimously.

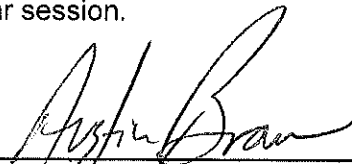
CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONDOLENCES

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

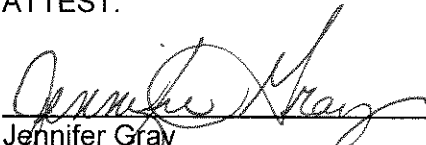
ADJOURNMENT

With there being nothing further to discuss, Commissioner Peterson made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Duly adopted this the 12th day of July, 2023 while in regular session.

  
Austin Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

  
Jennifer Gray  
Town Clerk/Finance Officer

