

TOWN OF GARLAND
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022
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, July 5, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Carolyn R. Melvin, Mayor Pro Tem
Jo A. Strickland
Andy Johnson
Ralph Smith, Jr.

Also, present: Mayor Austin Brown and Town Clerk Pamela Cashwell. Mrs. Sylvia Chestnutt of the *Sampson Weekly* attended briefly and there were two citizens in attendance. Commissioner Barbara Peterson was absent due to sickness.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

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

INVOCATION

Clerk Cashwell provided the invocation.

QUORUM

Mayor Austin Brown and Clerk Pamela Cashwell established there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Austin Brown requested board members review the agenda for any changes they may have. Commissioner Smith requested to add under Parks/Recreation #2. Discussion of the CDBG-NR Park Grant, Commissioner Strickland requested to add under Buildings/Cemetery #5. Breaker for the Concession Stand, Mayor Brown requested to add under Public Comments #6A- Letter from Representative Brisson's office. Commissioner Johnson requested to add under Streets #2. Brown Avenue. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with said changes, seconded by Commissioner Strickland, and carried unanimously. (See attached).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

Letter from Representative Brisson's Office- Mayor Brown stated the Town applied for a 1.8-million-dollar CDBG grant that will be awarded in September. He said in the meantime, he sent an email to Representative William Brisson and Senator Brent Jackson detailing our needs with our water/wastewater systems. He stated he sent pictures of the wastewater treatment plant showing the condition it is in. He requested a letter of recommendation from them to be sent up with the grant application. Mayor Brown stated he received a call last Thursday night from Representative Brisson who told him the Town shouldn't have to worry about a grant or a loan. Mayor Brown said he received a letter today announcing the Town of Garland has a line item in the 2022 State Budget for 2.7 million dollars for water and sewer needs. Mayor Brown read the

letter aloud. (See attached). Representative Brisson thanked Mayor Brown and the Board of Commissioners for identifying the needs of the town in the betterment of the citizens of Garland. Mayor Brown said the Town has never received this amount of money from a grant or anything else and he thinks "we have served the citizens well". Board members clapped in excitement and Commissioner Smith stated Representative Brisson and Senator Jackson should receive thank you letters. Mayor Brown reported Representative Brisson was also going to put us in contact with the State Engineer to help us with a total rehab of the sewer treatment plant. Mayor Brown stated the Town could also receive the 1.8 million dollar grant as well.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

FINANCE

Credit Card Purchases – Clerk Pamela Cashwell provided a statement of and reviewed one credit card purchase for the month. (See attached).

BVA & A.P. Check Listing- Clerk Cashwell reviewed the BVA reports with board members. She asked board members to please begin planning their committee projects now, so they could be finished by May 2023. The A.P. Check Listing Report was provided and reviewed for the month of June 2022. (See attached).

Budget Amendment 2022-2023-01- Clerk Cashwell requested to move the Budget Amendment to the end of the meeting if needed by Board action.

BUILDINGS/CEMETERY

Approval to Spray Cemeteries- Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to approval a second spraying at both cemeteries for fire ants recommended by Mr. Newkirk, motion seconded by Commissioner Smith, and carried unanimously. A brief discussion was held on headstones that have toppled over at both cemeteries. A consensus was family members should be notified to re-erect the headstones.

Quote to Remove Pecan Tree next to Former ABC Store- Commissioner Strickland presented a quote from *Bill's R & R* to remove the pecan tree that is leaning on the roof of the former ABC Store in the amount of \$250.00. (See attached). She stated she spoke with Colleen about the tree, and she is perfectly okay with the town having it removed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the quote to remove the tree, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and carried unanimously.

Urinal Leaking @ Town Hall- Commissioner Strickland reported the urinal in the bathroom at town hall is leaking again and she thinks the contractor who was paid to make the repairs should be contacted to come and fix the leak. Board members agreed. Clerk Cashwell will send the contractor's name and phone number to Commissioners Strickland and Peterson so they can contact him regarding repairing the leak.

Breaker Box for Concession Stand- Commissioner Strickland stated she was notified of a breaker that needs replacing at the concession stand. She estimated the cost of the breaker at approximately \$75.00. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve replacing the breaker. Commissioner Johnson stated he had spoke with Mr. Leo Skinner and advised him of the type of breaker, Mr. Skinner will provide a quote for replacing the breaker. Commissioner Smith stated he would like to amend his motion to include having Mr. Skinner replace and install the breaker, amended motion seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and carried unanimously.

PARKS/RECREATION

Updates- Mayor Pro Tem Melvin provided pictures of repair work that was completed on the concession stand noting some of the improvements were provided by her and not from the parks and rec budget. (See attached).

Discussion of the CDBG-NR Park Grant- Commissioner Smith spoke at length regarding recommendations he has for spending the park improvement grant funds. He suggested

amending the original plans for improvements at the C. D. Cain Memorial Park to include doing away with the walking track and bathrooms. He feels like the money would be better utilized by adding some playground equipment and building a pavilion with a covered top that would house picnic tables so people could be out of the rain and sun. He feels the other money could be used at the Ballpark Complex to install new lighting and some fencing repairs. He requested a special meeting so board members could meet with the grant administrators and discuss amending the park plans. Mayor Brown stated he would contact *McDavid Associates* and schedule a meeting for them to attend to hear recommended changes. He suggested recessing this meeting to reconvene when they are available to meet. Commissioner Strickland stated she would also request an update on the housing revitalization as some of the original homes listed in the grant have not panned out. She would like an update on the monies spent and how much is available. Commissioner Johnson spoke about a nice park in the Clayton area and suggested he could make some contacts to see who provided the work and the cost of the project.

STREETS

Updates- Commissioner Johnson reported the street assessment by *Owen Surveying* was completed and he discussed several recommendations he received for maintenance and repairs. He stated he hasn't received written recommendations from the assessment. Commissioner Johnson stated he would like to see some uniformity with street signs in town and suggested stop signs and street name signs be placed on one pole at the same location at each intersection. Board members agreed this would look better and cut down on the need for multiple poles at each location. Commissioner Johnson stated he was going to participate in erecting the new signs and plans to assist with maintenance needs as identified in the town wide street assessment. Commissioner Johnson noted the need for W. Sixth Street maintenance due to large potholes. Commissioner Smith stated he would speak with Kenneth and ask him to drag the street and repair the large potholes. This street will be considered for paving due to the condition of the street and the amount of traffic on this street.

Brown Avenue- Commissioner Johnson voiced concerns about Brown Avenue where the pavement has been cut and the need to repair the street because it keeps washing out. Mayor Brown stated he had spoken with personnel at the N.C. DOT, and they stated this road is not in their five-year plan for improvements. Mayor brown did state he thinks the pavement was cut due to repairs by the town. Board members suggested having public works staff repair the pavement with cold patch to prevent further washing out of the street.

PUBLIC WORKS – WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE

Fencing for Recycle Dumpster- Commissioner Johnson stated he received two quotes for installing fencing around the recycle dumpster at town hall. He recommended going with *Acme Fence Company, Inc.* as he is aware of their work and has used them in the past. Commissioner Smith stated he did not see the need to place fencing around the dumpster. He stated if we have problems with it, we need to call GFL to pick up the dumpster. He stated he had spoken with personnel from other municipalities, and they had trouble with recycling dumpsters and had to have them removed, then residents were responsible for taking their home recycling to recycle sites. The Board consensus was to not place fencing around the dumpster and to place a small cheap sign at the dumpster indicating what could be placed in the dumpster.

Invoice Approvals- Mayor Brown stated the first invoice is for the two water taps that were put in on Odham and Third Street for Randy Smith. (See attached). He stated he did come in and pay his part. He said when they went to do the service, they realized our maps were incorrect and labeled the water line on Third Street and it was actually on Odham Avenue, so they had to use more piping than you were quoted. He stated we need to get approval for the invoice that was included in your packet to be paid. Commissioner Strickland made a motion to pay the Dudley invoice for placing the water and sewer lines in the amount of \$5,751.18, seconded by

Commissioner Johnson, and carried unanimously. Next invoice was for *Custom Controls* for the soft start that was placed at the lagoon in the amount of \$1,479.32. (See attached). Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the invoice, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Melvin, and carried unanimously.

SAFETY

Updates- Commissioner Strickland reported our deputies started patrolling on July 1st and the deputy kept the sky lit up blue controlling speeders on Hwy 701 and 411. She stated it was a welcome site and cars were actually going 25mph. She noted traffic was backed up on 701 due to the reduction in speed. She said she is thrilled to have the coverage. Commissioner Smith echoed her sentiments and said he too had noticed a decrease in speeders. He said we owe them a debt of gratitude for providing coverage.

NEW BUSINESS

Star Communications Quote to Re-Wire Electronics @ Town Hall- Commissioner Strickland noted the overwhelming cluster of tangled wires in the offices of town hall made it difficult during the flooring installation to determine what lines were connected to what equipment. *Star Communications* personnel came and assessed the tangles of wire and made a recommendation to rewire all electronics and move it to a central control closet where a box would be installed to house all the electronics for the phones and internet for town hall. They provided a quote that was presented by Commissioner Strickland. (See attached). Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the quote from *Star Communications* in the amount of \$5,751.18 to rewire all electronics in town hall as proposed in the quote, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and 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 – August 2, 2022 at 6:30 pm

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to enter into closed session(*Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11-(3) Attorney-Client Privilege and (6) Personnel*), seconded by Commissioner Smith, and carried unanimously. Board entered into closed session at 7:15 pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to exit closed session at 7:30 pm, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Back in open session at 7:30 pm. No action taken in closed session.

Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to give P. Cashwell and R. Boone the 2% Cost of Living Adjustment that was included in the budget ordinance beginning this fiscal year, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and carried unanimously.


Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to approve a 3% annual performance increase for P. Cashwell effective on her anniversary date of 7-2-2022, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Melvin made a motion to approve having Attorney Alan Maynard review the proposed *EnviroLink* contract, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and carried unanimously.

RECESS TO RECONVENE

Commissioner Smith made a motion to recess this meeting to reconvene on July 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm, seconded by Commissioner Strickland, and carried unanimously. Meeting recessed at 7:31 pm.

Board Approved:



Austin Brown, Mayor



Pamela Cashwell, Town Clerk/Finance Officer