

TOWN OF GARLAND
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, August 1, 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, August 1, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn R. Melvin
Commissioner Barbara A. Peterson
Commissioner Ralph Smith, Jr.
Commissioner Haywood Johnson

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were absent:

Commissioner Jo A. Strickland

Also present: Town Clerk Jennifer Gray, citizens Adam Smith, Erin Wall and Winnifred Murphy.

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.

- ❖ Cemetery road work added to Cemetery
- ❖ Side arm bushhog added to Public Works
- ❖ Letter from the Volunteer Group added to Old Business
- ❖ Parking spaces added to Streets

Commissioner Haywood Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with said changes, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MID CAROLINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

Kimberly Moffett with NCCOG stated that items a. Parks Grant and b. Consultant for Water/Sewer Project, should be removed from the presentation. Samantha Wullenwaber could not be at the meeting this evening to present these items. Mayor Brown stated that the board will need an answer on items a and b soon. Ms. Moffett presented the board with a request to amend the town's code of ordinances in Chapter 150 regarding the Planning Board. The board was presented with documents related to the planning board that was updated last in 1970. 160D mandates any municipality that does zoning must have a Planning Board in place. Ms. Moffett's recommendation is to set up a planning board to conform to the 160D Code of Ordinance, giving them the authority to hear any zoning, text amendments or rezonings. There are items at this time that need the attention of the Planning Board. Mayor Brown stated that there is currently a Planning Board in place. The Planning Board must have a calendar of their scheduled meetings. This matter has been tabled until the next regular board meeting.

Ms. Moffett request consent to prepare an ordinance amendment to include campgrounds as allowed use in the town's ETJ. Ms. Moffett is to move forward with the ordinance amendment.

Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Melvin as the liaison between the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Barbara Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

FINANCE

Credit Card Purchases: Most of the credit card purchases have been for tools.

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

BUILDINGS/CEMETERY

Commissioner Peterson addressed the board about the need for markers for the cemetery. Clerk Gray and Deputy Clerk Harper are working to get information and pricing on cemetery markers.

Mayor Brown addressed the board about the Lease Agreement for the old ABC Building. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Old ABC Building Lease agreement as drafted by Attorney Maynard. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith addressed the board about the need to add crush and run to the roads at the cemeteries. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to purchase crush and run for the cemetery roads. Commission Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Commissioner Smith addressed the gallery on record about the Garland Softball League. Commissioner Smith stated that as a commissioner he would not be bullied by the Garland Softball League. Commissioner Smith stated that league members go on social media platform Facebook and post comments that are certainly not true. It is being posted that the Garland Board of Commissioners drain the funds, which in the past this has been done because when the former mayor took office the Town was basically broke. Commissioner Smith stated that the GSL was complaining about the water fountain. The Town did not pay for the water fountain it was donated. The lights were also discussed. Commissioner Smith stated that he would not be shoved around by the Garland Softball League another second when the majority of them do not live within the town

limits. Mayor Brown stated that it has also been posted that the Town was sitting on a \$100,000 grant for the softball park, which is not true. As of this date no one knows where the grant is. The changes that have been made have never been followed through. This has been going on for a long time. According to the general public the town is sitting on the funds and that is not true. Mayor Pro Tem Melvin stated that she had received estimates for new lights for the softball park for \$127,000.00. She also received estimates for fencing. MPT Melvin recently received an email from the fencing company she had been in talks with earlier. MPT Melvin contacted the fence representative on July 31, 2023 and again August 1, 2023. MPT Melvin stated that the representative quoted a price of \$15,000.00 with a lifetime warranty for the big field. MPT Melvin stated that she had spoken with Clerk Gray on July 31 and was informed there was approximately \$15,000.00 in the budget for Parks and Recreation. MPT Melvin stated she was a money person and didn't want to take every dime in the P&R budget to complete the fence project and asked him what was the best price he could do? The representative stated that he would have to get with his manager and get back to MPT Melvin. A short time later he contacted MPT Melvin and stated that he could knock off \$500.00 which would bring it to \$15,609.00. Commissioner Johnson questioned who would take the responsibility of taking down the old fence. MPT Melvin stated that it would be the town's responsibility to remove the old fence unless the town would pay an additional \$5,000.00 for removal. Commissioner Johnson stated that the Public Works department would handle the removal of the fence. Clerk Gray stated that there was \$15,897.00 in P&R between departmental supplies and money budgeted. Mayor Brown stated that it would be a long time until the new budget year and nothing had been done at Cain Park. Mayor Brown stated that Mr. Rackley would like to know what will be done with the remaining donation for Cain Park. There was discussion about improvements and additions to Cain Park with the remaining funds. The board agreed for Mayor Brown to contact McDavid and Associates and have them go back to the original plan. Commissioner Haywood Johnson made a motion to approve the fencing quote for \$15,609.00. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, and it was carried three votes yes by Commissioner Peterson, Commissioner Johnson and Mayor Pro Tem Melvin to one vote no by Commissioner Smith. Mayor Pro Tem Melvin stated she would look into playground equipment for Cain Park.

STREETS

Commissioner Johnson addressed the board about the paving on Herring Ave and junk pile left at well #3.

Public Works Jonathan Herring addressed the board regarding a new commercial mower for the town. The Dixie Chopper mower has 1000 hours on it and is starting to break and cost the town money. PW Herring stated that he would like to sell it or auction it and purchase a commercial grade Gravely mower that would be more cost effective to operate. Commissioner Smith made a recommendation to sell the Dixie Chopper mower and replace it with a Gravely Commercial mower.

Commissioner Johnson addressed the board regarding the parking spaces for town employees and the Mayor. Commissioner Johnson stated that anyone that is parking in the Mayor or employee parking spaces that is not holding those positions, vehicle should be towed at the owner's expense. Commissioner Johnson made a motion that anyone parking in an unauthorized space, vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS – WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE

Commissioner Smith addressed the board regarding the generator purchase for well #4. There have been three quotes obtained and National Power has presented a quote for \$50,470.00. There was discussion as to which well the generator should be installed. At present well #4 is not working

properly and can't handle the water needs for the Town of Garland. Commissioner Ralph Smith made a motion to purchase the generator from National Power in the amount of \$50,470.00. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith addressed the board regarding well #4 repairs. There have been three quotes submitted. The board reviewed and discussed the quotes provided. PW Herring stated that if issues were found that needed repair, that would be over and above the quote to camera the well and pull the pump. Commissioner Smith made a motion to utilize Pearson Pump to repair well #4. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Public Works Jonathan stated that he would like to repair the finishing mower to make grass mowing around the town more efficient. It was agreed for him to purchase the parts to repair the mower.

Clerk Gray addressed the board about a transmitter antenna that was damaged at citizen Mya Richardsons house. Public Works was instructed to replace the transmitter antenna at no cost to the customer.

Mr. John Malone with North Carolina Rural Water spoke to the board about the upcoming Lead Service Line Inventory that is required by the NCDEQ to be complete by October 2024. He stated that if the town had any questions or needed direction during this project, NCRW would be available to consult.

SAFETY

Clerk Gray updated the board regarding community service hours for the individuals who broke into the old Garland Head Start Building.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Brown read a letter from the Garland Volunteer Group that was submitted in June 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MINUTES APPROVAL

Regular Meeting – June 22, 2023

Commissioner Melvin recommended corrections be made to the June 22, 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.

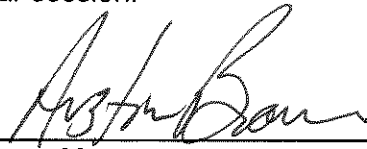
Regular Meeting – July 12, 2023

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

ADJOURNMENT

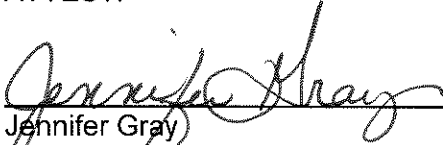
With there being nothing further to discuss, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Duly adopted this the 5th day of September, 2023 while in regular session.



Austin Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Gray
Town Clerk/Finance Officer