

**Town of Garner
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017**

The Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Garner Police Department Training Room located at 912 7th Avenue.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Mayor Ronnie Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Behringer, Council Member Jackie Johns, Council Member Buck Kennedy, Council Member Ken Marshburn, and Council Member Gra Singleton.

Staff Present: Rodney Dickerson-Town Manager, John Hodges-Asst. Town Manager-Development Services, Jeff Triezenberg-Interim Planning Director, David Bamford-Senior Planner, Pam Wortham-Finance Director, Rick Mercier-Communications Manager, Tony Chalk-Town Engineer, William E. Anderson-Town Attorney, and Stella Gibson-Town Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Johns

INVOCATION: Council Member Johns invited Louis Baker from the Faith in Action Worship Center, located at 605 Benson Road, to provide the invocation. The Worship Center has been in Garner for the past 16 years and provides services such as a food pantry, clothing, tutoring, before and after school care, pre-school, and toys for tots.

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Singleton requested to add an item to the agenda regarding property acquisition.

Motion: Johns
Second: Singleton
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

State of the Town Address Video

Presenters: Mayor Williams and Rick Mercier, Communications Manager

Hello. I'm Mayor Ronnie Williams, and I am honored to present the 2017 State of the Town address. The state of our town is strong. You can see evidence of robust growth all over; you can sense the optimism of our citizens; you can feel how we are moving Garner forward. In 2016, the Council hired a new town manager who skillfully navigated a smooth leadership transition. The manager, his budget team and Council worked through some significant challenges during the creation and approval of the current fiscal year budget. Council and staff also created a new multiyear strategic plan that provides a clear vision forward. We made noteworthy progress on our bond program in the past 12 months. We opened the new police station and broke ground on the new Town Hall and Recreation Center. We opened our second dog park and completed a sidewalk project on Benson Road and Main Street. In 2017, the new Town Hall will open. It will enable our staff to provide even more timely and efficient services to

taxpayers. The Recreation Center should be near completion by the end this year. That facility will greatly enhance the quality of life in our town for all of our citizens. In 2016, the Town Council made the wise decision to purchase the Meadowbrook Country Club property so that we can enhance our parks and recreation amenities in that key growth area. It is all part of our effort to oversee orderly growth in Garner and to provide the parkland and open space that citizens expect. We are in the midst of updating our Comprehensive Growth and Transportation Plans—and we're doing it with strong citizen engagement. The project, known as Garner Forward, will establish a roadmap for our town's orderly growth in the years ahead. I encourage you to visit GarnerForward.com to learn more and to find out how you can get involved. All of this occurs as Garner nears 30,000 in population—with fast future growth to be expected.

In the past year, the Town has seen considerable growth in its industrial, retail and residential sectors. Stock America, a company that produces sterilization systems, moved its corporate headquarters to Greenfield North Business Park, and Improved Nature, which makes meat substitute products, decided to build its manufacturing center in North Garner. On the retail side, we've seen the opening of several new shops and restaurants in White Oak, while on the residential side, we saw the approval of over 1,900 new residential units. This past year on the economic development front, we've also seen our two premier industrial sites be designated Fiber Ready by AT&T. And with voters approving a new transit plan, we should eventually see commuter rail service coming to downtown Garner. All in all, we are very well positioned to grow and prosper in the years ahead. There were other signs of growth in the past year—such as the recent groundbreaking for the new YMCA facility on Aversboro Road as well as the opening of South Garner High School and the groundbreaking for Bryan Road Elementary. Citizens can expect superior service delivery even as we grow. You saw an example of that this past year when Garner Fire and Rescue earned higher insurance ratings, which will mean lower insurance premiums for many in our town. You see that continued commitment to outstanding service delivery and quality of life in other ways, too. In the past year, the Town launched a new and improved website and continued to offer great special events and programming through our nationally accredited Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

We've had these successes while continuing to look for ways to better manage taxpayer dollars, whether that's through the Revenue Savings Plan or by looking for ways to be smarter in our investments. As we continue to move Garner forward, we will always maintain our commitment to be fiscally responsible. We will also continue to engage our citizens in a variety of ways. In 2016, our nationally accredited Police Department was proactive in reaching out to the community, holding several public forums and producing a comprehensive response to the President's 21st-Century Task Force on Policing Report. That's another example of citizen engagement that makes our community stronger. It is an honor to work such dedicated Town Council members—Mayor Pro Tem Behringer and Council Members Johns, Kennedy, Marshburn and Singleton. They have created a roadmap for success and always strive to do whatever is in the best interests of Garner. I also want to commend our key service partners—Garner Fire and Rescue and the Garner Chamber of Commerce. We are always stronger when we work together. With wise leadership, strong partnerships and high levels of citizen engagement, I know that we can continue to move Garner forward and maintain the hometown spirit that our town is known for. I am eager to see what the future holds for our All-America City. I encourage you to join us in the journey. Thank you. God bless you, and may God continue to bless Garner.

CONSENT

Council Meeting Minutes

Presenter: Stella Gibson, Town Clerk

Regular and Closed Session Council Meeting minutes from January 3.

Action: Adopt Minutes

Resolution Authorizing Town Clerk to Investigate the Sufficiency of Annexations

Presenter: David Bamford, Senior Planner

This Resolution authorizes the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of three voluntary annexation petitions: ANX-16-08 (725 Maxwell Drive), ANX-16-09 (New Bethel Church Road), and ANX-16-10 (Clifford Road).

Action: Adopt Resolution (2017) 2310

Ordinance Amending FY 2016/2017 Operating Budget

Presenter: Pam Wortham, Finance Director

This budget amendment will allow the rollover of purchase orders still open on June 30, 2016. These are items or services ordered prior to June 30, 2016, but not received or delivered before this date. This is standard procedure to officially recognize these items as part of the next year's budget and are accounted for through the assigned fund balance category that sets money aside for these planned expenditures.

Action: Adopt Ordinance (2017) 3842

Resolution to Dispose of Surplus Property

Presenter: Pam Wortham, Finance Director

This Resolution allows staff to declare vehicles that are no longer in use as surplus.

Action: Adopt Resolution (2017) 2311

Resolution Declaring Unpaid Nuisance Abatements as Liens

Presenter: Pam Wortham, Finance Director

This Resolution authorizes unpaid nuisance abatement fees to be filed with Wake County Revenue as liens to real property and added to the property owner's tax bill. The properties listed have unpaid abatements that are more than 30-days old.

Action: Adopt Resolution (2017) 2312

Motion: Marshburn
Second: Singleton
Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Presentation of Material Selections for Town Hall

Presenter: ADW Architects

The contractor has submitted carpet, tile, and other material samples for the new Town Hall. ADW Architects presented a sample board of these materials for Council review and approval.

Action: Council consensus to move forward with selections as presented

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MANAGER REPORTS

- garner info
- Building & Permit Report
- Finance Report
- Advised Council of the NC Main Street Conference scheduled for March 15-16, 2017 in Shelby, NC and asked anyone interested in attending to coordinate with the Clerk.
- Reported attending the Wake County Commissioners meeting today where the Town's ETJ expansion request was unanimously approved. Mayor Williams stated Council Member Kennedy did a good job speaking on behalf of the Town and Council Member Kennedy thanked staff for preparing a thorough application.

ATTORNEY REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Marshburn

- Asked if the ETJ expansion was built into the new comprehensive plan and Mr. Dickerson advised that it was and would be further discussed at Council's Retreat.

Council Member Kennedy

- Asked for a status of the violation on the lot located on the west side of Highway 50. Mr. Anderson stated there were two violations at the site; 1) fill dirt in the flood plain and 2) parking commercial vehicles and storage containers on the property. Each of these violations are following due course under set procedures and guidelines.
- Reported attending a meeting held by CAMPO and their consultants last Thursday night in Clayton to discuss ideas on how to solve key hotspot areas for transportation needs in Wake County. Mr. Dickerson advised representatives from CAMPO will be attending Council's Retreat for further discussion.
- Asked for a status of the Recreation Center project. Mr. Chalk advised staff is waiting for approval of the erosion control plan before the project can proceed.

Council Member Singleton

- Asked staff to request the installation of reflectors on Hebron Church Road, Clifford Road, and New Bethel Road to improve safety in these areas.
- Reported progress is being made on the Buffalo Road project.

- Asked for an update on the Thompson Road sidewalk project. Mr. Chalk advised the Town is in negotiations with the Wake County School Board regarding right-of-way.

Council Member Johns had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Behringer

- Reported reading the article in the Triangle Business Journal regarding the appointment of Jeff Triezenberg as Interim Planning Director.
- The Garner Education Foundation's Cooks for Books fundraiser is scheduled for January 26 at Garner Appliance and Mattress.
- Reported trash on both sides of Garner Road from Avery Street towards Jones Sausage Road and also on Jones Sausage Road to Highway 40 south past the old ConAgra property.
- Enjoyed attending the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration over the weekend.

Council Member Marshburn

- Thanked staff for their work in clearing the roads during the recent winter storm.
- Our State Magazine's most recent issue included a pictorial of the red barn at Lake Benson.
- Reported citizen concerns regarding the intersection of Aversboro Road and Timber Drive. Drivers are trying to bypass waiting for the traffic light and driving through the Walgreens parking lot. Asked the Police Department to investigate.
- Reported a CAMPO meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Mayor Williams reported attending the Wake County Mayor's Association meeting last month where the topic of discussion was school resource officers.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:53 p.m.