

**Town of Garner  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2018**

The Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Garner Town Hall located at 900 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mayor Ronnie Williams

Present: Mayor Ronnie Williams, Mayor ProTem Ken Marshburn, Council Member Kathy Behringer, Council Member Jackie Johns, Council Member Gra Singleton. Council Member Buck Kennedy was absent.

Staff Present: Rodney Dickerson-Town Manager, John Hodges-Asst. Town Manager, Joe Stallings - Economic Development Director, Jeff Triezenberg-Planning Director, Het Patel-Senior Planner, David Bamford-Planning Services Manager, Pam Wortham-Finance Director, Rick Mercier-Communications Manager, Tony Beasley-Inspections, Joe Stallings-Economic Development Director, Mike Franks-Budget & Special Projects Manager, Thad Anderson-Interim Attorney, Stella Gibson-Town Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Singleton

**INVOCATION:** Council Member Singleton

**PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion: Johns  
Second: Behringer  
Vote: 5:0

**PRESENTATIONS**

**CONSENT**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

Presenter: Stella Gibson, Town Clerk

Adopt minutes from the May 22, May 29, and June 4, 2018 regular meetings and closed session minutes from May 22 and 29, 2018 closed sessions.

Action: Adopt Minutes

**Extension of Town Attorney Agreement – FY2018/2019**

Presenter: Rodney Dickerson, Town Manager

Annual contract extension for legal services in FY2018/2019. No changes have been made since last year.

Action: Authorize Execution of Contract

**Ordinance Amending FY2017/2018 Operating Budget**

Presenter: Pam Wortham, Finance Director

Request to utilize building permit fees collected in excess of what was budgeted to provide two vehicles for the Inspections Department.

Action: Adopt Ordinance (2018) 3915

**Recognition of Disposable Property**

Presenter: Brandon Zuidema, Police Chief

Resolution to recognize service weapon and badge of Officer William Hinson as disposable property, so that they can be awarded to him in recognition of his retirement from the Town after almost 18 years of dedicated service.

Action: Adopt Resolution (2018) 2352

**Ordinance Amending FY2017/2018 Operating Budget (Police Department Holiday Bank Pay-Out)**

Presenter: Pam Wortham, Finance Director

Request to move funds from other departments to payout holiday leave accrued by sworn officers prior to December 31, 2017. This equates to \$57,005 in salary costs, and \$11,914 in matching fringe benefits.

Action: Adopt Ordinance (2018) 3917

Motion: Marshburn  
Second: Johns  
Vote: 5:0

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Garner Forward Comprehensive & Transportation Plans**

Presenter: David Bamford, Planning Services Manager and Scott Lane, Stantec

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing and asked Mr. Bamford to present an update of the Garner Forward Comprehensive & Transportation Plans. Staff and the consultant gave a brief presentation of both plans. Mr. Scott provided a brief overview of what's been done up until this point.

Bill Morris of Morris & Associates asked Council to consider including the following statements:

- Consider impacts to neighborhoods and the business community and major employers.
- The implementation strategies shall consider the effects of transportation improvements on travel safety and mobility, commerce, employment and existing major employers, development patterns, and the visual appeal of Garner.

Mayor Williams closed the public hearing and called for a motion.

Action: Mayor ProTem Marshburn made a motion to adopt the Garner Forward Comprehensive & Transportation Plans and include Mr. Morris' statements.

Motion: Marshburn  
Second: Behringer  
Vote: 4:1 (Singleton)

Council Member Singleton voted nay.

Council Member Singleton stated the zoning classifications were good and made them easier to understand. A master plan was needed to catch-up on sidewalks. He would like to see more greenways. Although opportunity sites are intriguing, the only land the Town owns is downtown. Additional funds will be needed to purchase more property. Due to the proposed bus stop at North Station additional property will need to be purchased in that location. The Town is behind on paving streets and improving and repairing existing infrastructure. He added he was not against bike lanes, but to add them to already narrow roads would cause accidents. He stated he thought some of the concepts were good, but changes were needed. He had doubts about the concepts in the long term.

#### **FY2018/2019 Economic Development Budget Hearing**

Presenter: Mike Franks, Budget & Special Projects Manager

Mr. Franks stated this Public Hearing was being held for the purpose of complying with the requirements of North Carolina General Statute 158-7.1 which requires a public hearing for all economic development expenditures.

Action: Receive Comments

#### **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

#### **FY2018/2019 Recommended Budget**

Presenter: Mike Franks, Budget & Special Projects Manager

Mr. Franks presented the proposed FY 2018/2019 Budget Ordinance which reflects changes made to the original recommended budget that were presented to Council at the June 4, 2018 public budget hearing. The FY 2018/2019 Fee Schedule was also included for adoption.

Action: Adopt Ordinance (2018) 3916

Motion: Marshburn  
Second: Behringer  
Vote: 4:1 (Kennedy)

Council Member Kennedy voted nay.

Council Member Kennedy stated the Town is in a good financial condition and the budget is balanced as required by law, however he is concerned about the potential impact to the Town's bond rating. Council Member Kennedy added when the proposed budget is presented to Council for discussion, it is presented with three options: accept the recommendation, reject use of fund balance and raise taxes, or reduce/eliminate certain expenditures to balance the budget. He stated using fund balance is the easiest way, but he does not believe it is a good policy especially since it's been done that way for the past several years. He stated citizens deserve a more rigorous approach.

Mr. Dickerson stated the Town's bond rating is AA2, the second highest from the top rating.

### **White Oak/Hebron Church/Ackerman Intersection Improvements (Preferred Alternative Selection)**

Presenter: Het Patel, Senior Planner

Mr. Patel presented a summary of project activities to date including: an update on then public open house meetings and the feedback received on the two (2) preferred alternatives: #3 - partial dual lane roundabouts or #7 - realignment of intersections. He also presented the benefits and concerns for each alternative.

Council Member Singleton asked for consideration of making the merger lane of the north bound White Oak Road to extend past the driveway of the mini-mart. He expressed concern of having traffic merge at a place where the goal is to keep the traffic moving.

Action: Select Preferred Alternative of #3, Partial Dual Lane Roundabouts

Motion: Behringer  
Second: Singleton  
Vote: 5:0

### **Amended CDBG Cooperation Agreement**

Presenter: Jeff Triezenberg, Planning Director

Mr. Triezenberg stated over the years, the CDBG program has assisted the Town in constructing sidewalks, enhance parks and recreation facilities. The Wake County Attorney's office has determined that amended agreements need to be re-authorized for Federal Fiscal Year 2019. The last agreement was formally signed and entered into in 2006 and have been auto-renewed in years since.

Action: Authorize Execution of Agreement

Motion: Kennedy  
Second: Marshburn  
Vote: 5:0

### **Human Resources Committee Nomination to Various Town Boards and Commissions**

Presenter: Ken Marshburn, Mayor ProTem

Mayor ProTem Marshburn stated the Human Resources Committee of the Town Council held meetings to discuss and conduct interviews and recommend appointments to the Planning Commission, Parks

Recreation and Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Action: Appoint nominees to Committees/Boards

Motion: Marshburn  
Second Johns  
Vote: 5:0

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **MANAGER REPORTS**

- garner info
- Building & Permit Report
- Finance Report
- Tour of Rec Center postponed

## **ATTORNEY REPORTS**

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Marshburn

- Reported the building at North Point Aversboro Road was being vandalized. Mr. Triezenberg responded the owner of the property is in the process of demolishing the existing structure and building a new multi-story facility.

Behringer

- Asked for an update on Google Fiber. Mr. Dickerson responded he had not heard from them in the past year. He added it was his understanding they are looking at other alternatives vs putting fiber in the ground. Installation in other communities did not go as smoothly as what they thought it would. We were informed they would serve the communities they originally said they would.
- Asked for an update on sidewalks/greenways from Lakemoor to Lake Benson Park. Mr. Dickerson responded the consultant is still working on a plan and at this time there is no timetable when the greenway will be done. An assessment of costs and route alternatives is being prepared. He will ask staff to meet with the consultant for an update.
- Reported quite a bit of trash on Garner Road and asked if removing the trash was scheduled on a regular basis. Mr. Dickerson responded trash pick-up follows the mowing cycle.

Singleton

- Reported he continues to receive citizen complaints of tall grass and thanked staff for their work to minimize this type of problem.

Kennedy

- Asked if staff had benchmarking results on the Timber Drive East bridge. Mr. Hodges responded staff completed a series of measurements of which he will provide to Council. Mr. Dickerson added NCDOT believes the movement is in the road and not in the bridge.

Williams

- Asked for an update on moving the Depot. Mr. Dickerson stated this item is still being researched and staff will come back with an update.

Council Member Johns had nothing to report.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(4) "to discuss economic development."

Motion: Kennedy  
Second: Marshburn  
Vote: 5:0

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT: 9:25 p.m.**