

**Garner Town Council
Council Work Session Minutes
January 31, 2017**

The Garner Town Council met in a Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 in the Garner Police Department Training Room located at 912 7th Avenue.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Rodney Dickerson-Town Manager, John Hodges-Asst. Town Manager-Development Services, Tony Chalk-Town Engineer, William E. Anderson-Town Attorney, Bret Kelly-IT Director, Mari Howe-Downtown Development Manager and Rebecca Schlichter-Deputy Town Clerk.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Marshburn
Second: Johns
Vote: Unanimous

REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Historic Train Depot

Presenter: Rodney Dickerson, Town Manager

Mr. Dickerson led a discussion regarding relocating the Historic Depot and the Caboose to an area outside of the railroad right-of-way. As the downtown evolves, the relocation and long-range use of the Depot needs to be considered.

Mayor Pro Tem Behringer expressed her support to move the Depot and make it an added attraction to the Town of Garner. The 2010 Revision of the Original Downtown Garner Plan indicated moving the Depot to the corner of Montague Street and Purvis Street.

Council Member Marshburn expressed his support but would like to give serious thought to what the Town would like to use the Depot for before deciding where to relocate it. He also asked if the Depot was structurally sound enough to be moved.

Mr. Dickerson advised Council that the Depot was a part of the GRA work plan.

Mayor Williams asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak regarding the Depot.

Ms. Kaye Whaley provided history on the Depot as it was moved from its original site in 1967 to Rand Road under the water tower and then it was moved back to original site on Dec. 30, 1987. Ms. Whaley would like to see the Depot preserved and used as a visitor center with the freight room in back used as a museum for the artifacts that have been collected. Ms. Whaley agreed to serve on the GRA Committee.

Mr. Bill Barry stated he lives directly across the street from the Depot and his house was originally a boarding home for the Depot. He added that he would hate to see it moved and that if it were to become for sale he would be interested in purchasing.

Ms. Judy Bass stated her support in the preservation of the Depot and agrees with the Council that it needs to be relocated in an area that already has a use. Ms. Bass agreed to serve on the GRA Committee.

Mr. Jason Waters stated the Depot was in the GRA work plan and they are committed to preserving the history of the Depot and being a part of a committee working with other citizens of Garner to provide recommendations to Council.

Action: GRA to form a committee to look at options for location and use and report back to Council in 6 to 8 months.

Council Tablet Demonstration

Presenter: Brett Kelly, IT Director

Mr. Kelly presented information outlining the differences between the two recommended tablet models (Microsoft Surface and Apple iPad Pro). These devices will allow Council to view Council meeting agendas, take notes, access email, etc.

Action: Council consensus to procure 4 Apple iPad Pro's.

MANAGER REPORTS

- Garner 101, March 2nd from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Mr. Dickerson advised Council that Mr. Bass is willing to continue to serve on the Garner Forward Steering Committee. Council Consensus to support continued service.
- Black History Month presentation is Wednesday, February 1st at 10:00 a.m.
- The Police Department is conducting public meetings concerning body worn cameras on Wednesday, March 22nd at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- GPAC is hosting The Teacup Gin dinner show on Saturday, February 11th.
- Ground Hog Day at White Deer Park, February 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
- Garner showcase of talent will be held on March 25th.
- Town Hall day is Wednesday, March 29th
- Council received Grow Garner Responsible petition.
- Moving Garner Forward, Annual Planning Retreat is February 8-9. Mr. Hodges will send a link with questions that needs to be completed for facilitator.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Williams

- Thanked Mayor Pro Tem Behringer for bringing up the Train Depot topic for discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Behringer

- Requested that a discussion be held with cable companies on being careful when working around water lines. On Saturday a water line on Creech road was cut.
- Reported the house on the corner of Yeargan Road and East Garner Road was in disrepair.

Council Member Marshburn

- Thanked Parks and Recreation for repairs on the walking trail and rebuilding the ramp on one of the wooden bridges in Lake Benson Park.
- Asked if the Fire Department was fully staffed. Mr. Dickerson replied the Fire Department currently has nine recruits in the academy.
- Stated he was looking forward to the Council Retreat.

Council Member Singleton

- Reported that Garner basketball Coach Gray is going for his 500th victory tonight. Council needs to invite him to a Council meeting to be recognized for his achievements.

Council Member Kennedy

- Asked if the Town still collects fees on rental properties. Mr. Hodges responded that we still ask people to register but no longer collect fees as a revenue source.
- Warned residents of a new telephone scam that asks "if you can hear me". Recommended not to answer, just hang up.
- Requested update from Mr. Chalk on status of Buffalo Road sidewalk project. Mr. Chalk reported that the pipe installation is complete and the Town is waiting on the relocation of 3 or 4 AT&T boxes.
- Reported he will be having lunch with Mr. Robert Massengill, City of Raleigh Public Utilities, to discuss working together on issues involving utilities with the Town in the coming years.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(5) "to discuss possible real estate acquisition and the Town's negotiating position regarding such real estate."

Pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) "to discuss litigation and specifically they case of Calvin Davenport Inc. vs. Town of Garner and ADW Architects, P.A. ".

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT: 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Schlichter