

**Town of Garner
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2020**

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Ken Marshburn, Mayor ProTem Kathy Behringer, Council Members Gra Singleton, Demian Dellinger, and Phil Matthews

Council Member Elmo Vance arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Staff Present: Rodney Dickerson-Town Manager, Matt Roylance-Asst. Town Manager-Operations, John Hodges-Asst. Town Manager-Development Services, Chris Johnson-Town Engineer, Mike Franks-Budget & Special Projects Manager, BD Sechler-HR Director, Jeff Triezenberg-Planning Director, Gaby Lontos-Lawler-Senior Planner-Transportation, Fred Baggett-Interim Town Attorney, and Stella Gibson-Town Clerk

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Behringer
Second: Singleton
Vote: 4:0

PRESENTATIONS

DISCUSSION/REPORTS

Health and Benefits Renewal Kick Off with IBA

Presenter: BD Sechler, Human Resources Director & John Gasiorowski and Paul Sydor, Independent Benefit Advisors

The Town will continue providing health benefits through the current provider, Aetna. Staff enrollment is scheduled from May 4, 2020 through May 25, 2020. Benefits will become effective July 1, 2020.

Report from Marcus Kinrade Regarding Revaluation

Presenter: Mike Franks, Budget & Special Projects Manager and Marcus Kinrade, Wake County Revenue Director

Mr. Kinrade provided a comprehensive overview of the revaluation process and its impact on the Town of Garner.

The revaluation process is conducted every four years and is designed to establish tax values at fair market value. In Garner, the average residential property increased by 23 percent and the average commercial property increased 32 percent. Residential growth was driven by increases in homes with lower values as homes less than \$250k increased by 31 percent on average. Growth in the commercial sector was driven by multiple categories including hotels (48%), apartments (45%), and industrial (31%).

Garner Local Transit Study Update

Presenter: Gaby Lontos-Lawlor, Senior Planner – Transportation and Mary Kate Morookian, Kimley-Horn & Associates

Consultants from Kimley-Horn & Associates provided a status update, an overview of initial findings from the study, and presented the next steps.

The Town of Garner secured funds through the Community Funding Areas Program (CFAP), provided by the North Carolina Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), to complete a transit planning study. The CFAP is meant to encourage community-based transit projects that complement the Wake Transit Plan regional service development and to meet local transit needs. The Garner Transit Study will also develop an implementation plan and service model, evaluate transit capital investment needs, and identify potential funding sources.

Cancer Risk in the Fire Service

Presenter: Matt Poole, Fire Chief

Private 1st Class Zack Johnson provided information regarding recent studies that have drawn attention to the increased risk of cancer that firefighters face due to exposure to smoke and hazardous chemicals. Firefighters have a high risk of cancer because of the constant exposure to carcinogenic toxins such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Mr. Johnson also reviewed the GVFRs recent cancer prevention efforts.

FY 2021 Budget Process Overview

Presenter: Mike Franks, Budget & Special Projects Manager

Mr. Franks provided an overview of the FY 2020 budget and an initial outlook for the FY 2021 budget. Information related to the FY 2021 budget process as well as key dates were reviewed.

MANAGER REPORTS

- Groundhog Day Event is at 1:00 p.m. at White Deer Park
- Pennington Grove Phase 2 (income based senior housing/DHIC project at Heather Spring Drive) submitted an application. This project will be reviewed by staff as it's an expansion of what's already there.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Dellinger

- Commented on the tax evaluation data; the trend is slowly evaporating where working people can afford to buy a house; the next few years are on a similar trajectory. This could change the fabric of the Town if we don't pay attention.

Vance

- Thanked the Public Works Department for removing debris from Hwy 50.

Behringer

- Asked that the bus stop sign for Route 20 be closer to Chadwick's; not in front of the Senior Center.
- While installing cable on Garner Road this week, AT&T left a mess on the sidewalk at 101 W. Garner Road and she requested they clean-up.
- Stated the Garner Education Foundation's recommended allowance for their scholarship program is \$10,000 and asked to potentially raise the amount to \$20,000.
- Previously, a committee was formed by the public regarding beautification and public code enforcement. Mr. Hodges stated the committee put several initiatives in place but there were no plans to reconvene.

Singleton

- Council Member Singleton advised it was good to see the sidewalk work on Spring Drive. There is continued work on the Hwy 70 turning lane. Construction on Montague Street is almost complete.

Matthews

- Council Member Matthews went to NAI this past week and there was a highlight presentation on Garners' great work. He also noted we need to be prepared for the growth coming to Garner and Wake County.

Marshburn

- WRAL published several sponsored articles highlighting the Town of Garner.

A ceremony will be held on February 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the Rec Center in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:32 p.m.