

**Town of Garner
Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2024**

The Council met at 6:00 p.m. in the Ronnie S. Williams Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 900 7th Avenue, Garner.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mayor Buddy Gupton

Present: Mayor Buddy Gupton, Mayor ProTem Elmo Vance, Council Members Gra Singleton, Kathy Behringer, Phil Matthews, and Demian Dellinger

Staff Present: Rodney Dickerson-Town Manager, John Hodges-Asst. Town Manager, Jodi Miller-Assistant Town Manager, David Beck-Finance Director, Jeff Triezenberg-Planning Director, Terri Jones-Town Attorney, and Stella Gibson-Town Clerk

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mayor Buddy Gupton

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor ProTem Vance requested to add a closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143.318.11(a)(4) to discuss litigation.

Motion: Vance
Second: Matthews
Vote: 5:0

PRESENTATIONS

Dena McDonald of Choose Local and Small Y'All made a presentation describing their community events.

DISCUSSION/REPORTS

Total Personnel Rewards Strategy Enhancements

Presenter: Sabrina McDonald, Human Resources Director

Ms. McDonald presented an update and recommendations on additional benefit enhancements for Town employees. These included paid parental leave, paid family illness leave, tuition reimbursement enhancement, paid community involvement leave and paid wellness leave and would be implemented in the 4th quarter of the year. Ms. McDonald also presented benefits under review for FY25.

Council consensus to place on the February 20th Consent Agenda

2023 Garner Forward Comprehensive Plan – Use and Decision Making

Presenter: Jeff Triezenberg, Planning Director

Planning Committee members present: Jon Blasco, Phillip Jefferson, Gina Avent, Ralph Carson, Jihan Hodges, Sherry Phillips and Michael Voiland.

The Town Council and the Planning Commission met jointly to discuss how the adopted 2023 Garner Forward Comprehensive Plan would be applied to zoning amendment cases with an initial public hearing date after February 16, 2024. Staff evaluated methods for reviewing zoning amendment requests

against the new comprehensive plan and discussed those with the Planning Commission. The suggestion of using a score card for projects was well received by both the Council and Planning Commission.

Mayor Gupton stated that he would like to create a task force that would focus on making the meetings more effective and efficient. Council Member Dellinger was asked to chair the committee and Council Member Matthews was asked to co-chair. It was recommended that the Committee consist of two members of the Planning Commission, two staff members and the Town Manager.

MANAGER REPORTS

- Pending Agenda
- The Town's marketing and communication staff prepared a list of events that can be found on the Town's website calendar as well as on the Garner info app.
- The City Vision Conference, which is conducted by the North Carolina League of Municipalities, will be on April 23rd through the 25th in Winston Salem.

ATTORNEY REPORTS

None

COUNCIL REPORTS

Behringer

Attended the Downtown Garner Association Retreat last week and that she is looking forward to some of the activities and changes that are going to come forward.

Thanked Ms. Harrison for explaining how speed humps work.

Mayor Gupton, Mayor ProTem Vance, Council Member Dellinger and Matthews had nothing to report.

CLOSED SESSION

Town Council met with staff to discuss potential litigation and economic development. Direction was given to staff but no formal motions or votes were taken.

ADJOURN: 9:30 p.m.