

**Town of Garner
Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
February 27, 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 Kathy Behringer, Phil Matthews, and Demian Dellinger

Staff Present: John Hodges-Assistant Town Manager, Jodi Miller-Assistant Town Manager, David Beck-Finance Director, Jeff Triezenberg-Planning Director, Terri Jones-Town Attorney, Erin Joseph-Assistant Planning Director, Leah Harrison-Town Engineer, Mari Howe-Management Analyst, Paul Padgett, Inspections Director, Stella Gibson-Town Clerk, Rebecca Murray-Deputy Town Clerk.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mayor Buddy Gupton

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Vance
Second: Matthews
Vote: 5:0

DISCUSSION/REPORTS

Development Services Software, Portal and Website Updates

Presenter: Mari Howe, Management Analyst and Paul Padgett, Inspections Director

Ms. Howe and Mr. Padgett presented an overview of the recently launched development services software and walked-through a demonstration of the portal as well as updates to the website.

Action: Receive as information

MANAGER REPORTS

Review of updates to the Pending Agenda Report
Mr. Hodges provided an update on the status of the LMG

ATTORNEY REPORTS

Attorney Jones reported that she will be attending the Municipal Attorney's Winter Conference on Thursday, February 29 and Friday, March 1.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Dellinger

- Requested a Council field trip around Garner to visit projects approved over the past several years in order to assess them. He also requested to visit other projects around Wake County to see what the Town can draw inspiration from for our Garner Forward Plan.

Matthews

- Veterans Group is hosting Salute to the Troops at Aversboro Church on Sunday, March 10th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Encouraged folks to come out and enjoy family fun with inflatables and hot dogs.

Singleton

- Thanked the Engineering Department for getting the striping on 5th Avenue and resurfacing the stop bars at Vandora Avenue. He also was happy to see that the missing pieces on Lakeside have all been reconnected.

Mayor ProTem Vance, Council Member Behringer had nothing to report.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143.318.11(a)(6) to discuss the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or conditions of appointment of an individual public officer or employee.

Action: Move to approve a Mutual Separation Agreement with the Town Manager Rodney Dickerson with a separation effective on March 1, 2024 at 4pm and authorize the Mayor execute the Mutual Separation Agreement on behalf of the Town

Motion: Matthews
Second: Vance
Vote: 5:0

Mayor Gupton read the following statement:

The Garner Town Council and Town Manager Rodney Dickerson have agreed to a mutual separation effective March 1, 2024.

The Town Council is grateful for Mr. Dickerson's 23 years of service to the Town. He has served as town manager since March 2016. Mr. Dickerson was initially employed as an assistant to the town manager and later as assistant town manager before being appointed town manager.

As town manager, Mr. Dickerson led the Town through the difficult COVID-19 pandemic. He also guided the Town through completion of several major bond projects, oversaw key property acquisitions and had numerous other significant accomplishments that have helped make Garner a great place to be. During his tenure, three Town departments achieved national accreditation or re-accreditation—Public Works, Police, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

Action: Appoint Jodi Miller to serve as interim town manager.

Motion: Behringer
Second: Dellinger
Vote: 5:0

Jodi Miller will serve as interim town manager beginning 4 p.m. on March 1. Ms. Miller joined the Town as an assistant town manager in February 2022. Prior to that, she had served as deputy county manager for Durham County since 2016. Ms. Miller also served as a deputy city manager for the City of

Williamsburg, Va., for 16 years. The Town Council looks forward to working with Ms. Miller and staff during this transitional period.

ADJOURN: 10:15 p.m.