

**Town of Garner  
Regular Session Agenda Minutes  
March 17, 2020**

The Council met in a Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 900 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mayor Ken Marshburn

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

Staff Present: Rodney Dickerson-Town Manager, John Hodges-Asst. Town Manager-Development Services, Matt Royslance-Asst. Town Manager-Operations, Rick Mercier-Communications Manager, David Beck-Finance Director, BD Sechler-Human Resources Director, Mike Franks-Budget & Special Projects Manager, David Bamford-Planning Services Manager, Joe Binns-Interim Police Chief, Fred Baggett-Interim Town Attorney, and Stella Gibson-Town Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Ken Marshburn

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Marshburn invited Rev. Wayne Dubnansky of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church to deliver the invocation.

**PETITIONS AND COMMENTS**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Request to add discussion of the 2020/2021 Health & Benefits Renewal Recommendations as the first item under New/Old Business.

Motion: Behringer  
Second: Singleton  
Vote: 5:0

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Garner Fire-Rescue Annual Report**

Presenter: Matt Poole, Fire Chief

Chief Poole presented the Garner Fire Rescue 2019 Annual Report. Highlights of the report were the increased number of calls from 2018 (5231) to 2019 (5564), the number of incidents per month and days of the week, and response times.

**CONSENT**

Council Member Dellinger requested to move discussion of the budget amendment for the space Needs Study to the last item under New/Old Business.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

#### **2020/2021 Health & Benefits Renewal Recommendations**

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

Mr. Sechler provided an overview of the Town's health insurance premiums.

Health plan: 5.0% decrease

Dental plan: 7.3% increase

Life & Disability Insurance: no change

COBRA & FSA Administration: no change

Retiree Medicare Part D: 20.2% decrease

Action: Place on April 6 Consent agenda

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update**

Presenter: Mike Franks, Budget & Special Projects Manager

Mr. Franks provided a review of the Town's revenue and expenditure estimates and funding recommendations. Mr. Franks also reviewed potential one-time requirements that excess funding could be utilized for.

Action: Update only; no action

#### **Census 2020 Update**

Presenter: Rick Mercier, Communications Manager and David Bamford, Planning Services Manager

Mr. Bamford provided an update on the upcoming 2020 Census and the activities and outreach efforts being made. Mailing of census forms began last week.

Action: Report only; no action

#### **Lobbyist Report**

Presenter: Sam Bridges, Lobbyist

Mr. Bridges reported recent activities by Wake County relating to allowing the County Manager to spend an additional \$2M to respond to health crisis, school assignments, as well as activities relating to the general assembly. Also discussed was the percent of students coming in as magnet versus ones already there. Council requested to know the actual number of magnet school students.

Action: Council requested to know the actual number of magnet school students.

### **Budget Amendment - Space Needs Study**

Presenter: David Beck, Finance Director

At the February 18, 2020 regular meeting, Council authorized contracting with IBI Group for a space needs study. Funding for the study will come from available fund balance.

Action: Adopt Ordinance (2020) 4049

Motion: Singleton  
Second: Matthews  
Vote: 5:0

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Attorney Recommendation

Presenter: Mayor Ken Marshburn

Mayor Marshburn recommended Council agree with the recommendation for the Town to pursue an in-house full-time attorney. Council consensus to proceed.

### **MANAGER REPORTS**

- Garner info
- Building & Permit Report
- Traffic Calming-testing devices on Sycamore Street in the Eagle Ridge subdivision-staff resurveyed the areas and got some data with different results. Staff is replacing counters to ensure there are no equipment issues. Retesting will be done during regular school traffic. Once the data is compiled, Council consensus to take to the Public Works Committee.
- Move forward with March 31<sup>st</sup> Work Session as scheduled. The facilitator may not be available for the April 1<sup>st</sup> Retreat (due to travel restrictions), so the plan is to start the March 31<sup>st</sup> Work Session at 4:00 p.m. and invite Davenport to make their presentation then.
- Coronavirus Update - staff has been working on updated guidelines. All rentals at the Town's facilities (Nature Center, Senior Center and shelters) have been cancelled. The parks will still be open. Posted safe workplace practices on doors and meeting areas. The President invoked the Stafford Act (official disaster declaration) which will allow some COVID-19 expenses to be reimbursed. Adjusted meetings and provided guidance to staff for teleworking and business travel. Meals-on-Wheels congregate gatherings ended, but grab-and-go meals was put in place. Wake County has a link on their website regarding when meals can be picked up.
- The Wall that Heals event was cancelled.
- Town Hall doors closed to the public, employees still working. Utility customers are encouraged to pay online or through the drop box, but we are still taking walk-up customers. City of Raleigh waived cut-off program. There are legislative requirements such as inspections that will need to continue.

### **ATTORNEY REPORTS**

Mr. Baggett had nothing to report.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Singleton

- Thanked staff and public for Sunday meeting.

Behringer

- The 'big reveal' event at Capital Church on the 29<sup>th</sup> is cancelled.
- Thanked Public Works for cutting the brush on the property at US70/Timber.

Vance

- Thanked Public Works for investigating a citizens concern regarding a drainage ditch.
- There are several locations where breakfast and lunch meals for kids can be picked up.

Dellinger

- Reported having conversations with small business communities and asked if the Town could match \$20K for a small business resiliency fund (micro loans). Funds received would be from public investment and a committee could be formed to disburse funds. This would speak to how Garner comes together. Council Member Dellinger asked for conditional approval to engage partners and come back to Council with the program/partnerships to get final approval for the funds.

Matthews

Council Member Matthews had nothing to report.

## **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.

The Council met in closed session to discuss a possible real estate acquisition. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN:** 10:30 p.m.