

TOWN OF GARLAND  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024  
6:30PM

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Garland was held at the Garland Town Hall in Garland, NC on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:30pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Mayor, Austin Brown  
Mayor Pro Tem, Jo Strickland  
Commissioner Ralph Smith, Jr  
Commissioner Lee Carberry  
Commissioner Anthoy Norris  
Commissioner Timothy Blackburn  
Town Clerk, Shauna' Harper

Also present were several Garland residents, Kimberly Moffett from Mid Carolina Regional Council

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Austin Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: was recited by all in attendance.

INVOCATION: Conducted by Mrs. W.J. Hill

QUORUM: Mayor Austin Brown and Town Clerk Shauna' Harper established there was a quorum present.

ADJUSTMENT(S)/ ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was asked that item 8f moved to 5a regarding Public Hearing and comments for the CDBG-NR grant funds. It was also requested by Commissioner Smith to add discussion of library to buildings under commissioner report.

Motion to adopt agenda with said changes by Mayor Pro Tem Strickland, Seconded by Commissioner Carberry, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: *Consent agenda allows for routine items or items that have been thoroughly discussed previously to be adopted with one motion, rather than each having an individual motion. Any board member can request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda for added discussion.*

- a. Draft Minutes
- January 2, 2024 Regular Session
  - January 2, 2024 Closed Session
  - January 8, 2024 Special Session
  - January 25, 2024 Special Session

Motion to accept draft minutes by Mayor Pro Tem Strickland, Seconded by Commissioner Blackburn, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Smith stood for the Garland Volunteers. She said they are dedicated to family, town, and community. They encourage positivity and good thoughts. They are requesting an itemized financial statement of funds available in the community restricted and unrestricted accounts. They have provided a list of events for the Town in 2024. Easter celebration and Project Graduation needs board responses immediately.

Joseph Gibbs requested assistance with home if funds are available through CDBG grant. End public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING-CDBG-NR

Commissioner Blackburn made a motion to go into Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Norris for CDBG-NR. Public comments are welcomed by Mayor Brown. Grant was set up for parks for citizens to become more active and enjoy. There was much discussion about Garland Ballfield and Cain Park. The ballfield will have 70% of the funds replacing the existing ballfield fencing, existing ballfield lighting and if funds available, the walking track will be paved. Cain Park will receive 30% towards replacing playground equipment. In summary, Commissioner Blackburn motioned to do a 70/30 split of funds between the two parks, seconded by Commissioner Carberry, motion passes 4-1, Commissioner Smith, nay.

Motion made by Commissioner Blackburn for the approved minutes to go to the grant writers, seconded by Commissioner Carberry, motion passes.

COMMISSIONER REPORT-

Finance- Mayor Pro Tem Strickland - copies of BVA, Credit Card and Check Listing were presented. No comments or questions.

Building/Cemetery- Commissioner Norris had no reports. Commissioner Smith says the library turns the wi-fi off at 5:00 but some cannot afford it and for the record he did not vote for that. Mayor Pro Tem Strickland added that not all county libraries have open wi-fi.

Parks & Recreation- Commissioner Blackburn previously discussed.

Streets- Commissioner Carberry states potholes need attention. Would like suggestions and would like to try the patch starter kit that is used on the air strips. A 5-gallon bucket liquid that seals when it cures. The cost is \$315.00 and that will cover 500 square feet. Mayor Pro Tem Strickland motioned to purchase to try to see if better than cold patch. Seconded by Commissioner Blackburn. All in favor.

Public Works- Water/Sewer/ Garbage- Commissioner Carberry states a shelter is needed to protect the generators and Neptune system. He will build himself. The heater for well #4 is on the way. The backhoe needs repair. Commissioner Blackburn will follow up. Well #4 generator has not been delivered yet and the roof needs repair in order to not damage panel box. Metal screens are needed at lagoon. Commissioner Carberry requested to purchase and approved to get. Motion made

Commissioner Norris and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strickland to allow PW staff to work on Saturday for repairs. motion carried.

Safety- Mayor Pro Tem Strickland. Deputies are doing their job. Commissioner Blackburn is concerned with speeding traffic. Consider solar speed detectors. Deputies would try to borrow from the sheriff's office.

#### OLD BUSINESS

2024 Garland Board of Commissioners amended regular meeting and work sessions. Resolution 2024-02A.- Motion made to approve resolution was made by Commissioner Norris, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jo, passed 4-1, Commissioner Smith, Nay.

Appraiser Regarding sale of old police department- Town Clerk Harper contacted 3 appraisers whose prices ranged \$2000.00-\$5000.00. She recommended to contact the county building inspector to see if it was feasible. Commissioner Norris motion to contact county inspector, seconded by Commissioner Mayor Pro Tem Strickland. Motion passed unanimously.

Mid Carolina Regional Council Code Enforcement/Nuisance- Commissioner Carberry is concerned with code violations and would like enforcement. Clean up burnt houses, overgrown yards, and properties in town. Commissioner Smith expressed concern with MCCOG enforcing the town codes. Commissioner Carberry motioned for MCCOG to enforce, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn, motion passes 4-1, Commissioner Smith, nay.

#### NEW BUISNESS

Garland Volunteer Group- Commissioner Norris concerned accountability of funds and gifts. Commissioner Smith applauded the committee. Commissioner Norris misunderstood where their funding was coming from. Mayor Brown said they raise their own money for events. It is audited money that is receipted in through the town. They should be their own entity in control of their events and funds. Recommended they become a 501c3 non-profit organization. A volunteer was unhappy with the Christmas dinner, and it was acknowledged. Mayor Brown presented a request from the committee to hold events for the town and need Board approval immediately on HS Graduation and Easter Monday. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the events of Easter Monday and Project HS Graduation 2024, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn. Motion carried.

Amended list of fees and charges for zoning-Town Clerk Harper directed staff to adopt ordinance 2024-02-01. There is a lot of work that goes into zoning permits. To align with surrounding towns, most towns have these fees. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Carberry, seconded by Commissioner Norris, passed unanimously.

Updated Personnel Policy. Motion to table by Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Norris, motion carried. Will discuss during work session.

Lease Agreement w/ Sampson County regarding Senior Center. Mayor Pro Tem Strickland recommended having a lease agreement with Sampson County. They receive funding for the center and the Town of Garland taxpayers fund it. A motion was made by Commissioner Carberry to contact the county for open discussion helping with paying bills. Commissioner Smith seconded; motion carried.

Fire Department Donation. Commissioner Norris donation request from the fire department. It will be discussed during the budget session.

8:06 pm Commissioner Norris motion to go into closed session, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strickland, all in favor.

At 8:10 pm Commissioner Carberry motioned to close closed session, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn, all in favor.

Commissioner Smith motioned to go in open session, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Strickland, all in favor.

Commissioner Carberry motioned to hire Jordan Montgomery for public works position, seconded Commissioner Norris, motion carried.

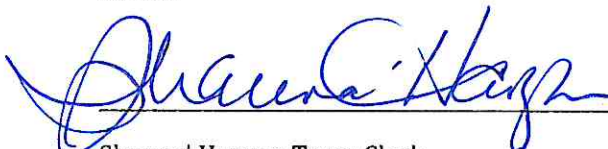
Motion to adjourn Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Carberry, all in favor.

Adjourned at 8:20pm

Duly adopted on the 8 day of April, 2024.

  
Austin Brown, Mayor

Attest:

  
Shauna' Harper, Town Clerk

