

TOWN OF GARLAND
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024
6:30PM

The Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Garland was held at the Garland Town Hall in Garland, NC on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 6:30pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Mayor Austin Brown, Commissioner Lee Carberry, Commissioner Timothy Blackburn Commissioner Ralph Smith, Town Clerk, Shauna' Harper and absent was Mayor Pro Tem, Jo Strickland, and Commissioner Anthony Norris. Also in attendance was a resident and Sampson Independent representative.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: was recited by all in attendance.

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

ADJUSTMENT(S)/ ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Smith made a motion to address the Mayor Pro Tem seat, the finance, building, cemetery, and safety committee member. Commissioner Carberry seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried with said changes to agenda.

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 additional discussion.*

- a. Draft Minutes
 - April 29,2024 Work Session
 - May 7, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to accept draft minutes and seconded by Commissioner Carberry, all in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None at this meeting

REPORT FROM ORC- Neil Carroll. Mr. Carroll presented 4 jars of water to show the difference in testing. The drinking water is clear and clean. The sewer water on the other hand is not up to standards. There are 1 out of 8 samples taken and at least 1 (the 8th) will generate a notice of violation from the state always from the sample from Lamb Rd. There is a sewer project scheduled to begin for repairs but until then; the gate is broken; pump and line gets clogged, the seals do not work, a bar screen is needed and an aerator is needed. Mayor Brown states it has not been dredged in 5 years. He will continue to do as much as possible but until the repairs are completed, expect future failures of testing for the sewer and lagoon.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Finance- Town Clerk Harper provided a budget vs actual, credit card statements and check listing. There were no questions or comments. The budget amendments will be made to relocate money to appropriate line items. Reminder: Budget Public Hearing is Monday, June 17, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Due to complaints and issues, Commissioner Smith motioned to remove Jo Strickland from the seat of Mayor Pro Tem and replace with Commissioner Blackburn. In a separate motion, to remove Ms. Strickland from the position of finance committee chairperson. Seconded by Commissioner Carberry on both motions, discussion was conducted, vote taken, unanimous vote to remove and replace the Mayor Pro Tem and finance committee chairperson.

Cemetery- Commissioner Blackburn states that the cemetery spraying for ants and bugs has been conducted by Mr. Ruffin and they seem to be minimal and under control for the most part.

Buildings- Commissioner Blackburn expressed a concern for security issues. He would like to see alarms and no door ring bell. That was installed during Covid and there is no access to it. Quotes will be presented at the next work session.

Parks & Recreation- Commissioner Blackburn has touched base with the contractor about the ballfields. Bids are being accepted until July 16th. There is no start date until the bidding is closed.

Streets- The Powell Bill was conducted on May 15th with Commissioner Carberry. The inspection went very well looking at streets, signs, ditches, and curbs. There was discussion of unpaved but kept streets that could possibly fall under the Powell bill, if they were annexed in. If annexed in, the town would have to provide water, sewer, residents would have to vote considering they then would have to pay city taxes on property. We will consult with Attorney Griffin about annexing. Leaf and limb pick up was discussed, we now have a vacuum and trailer to support this clean up more efficiently. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith to conduct the clean up during the week of June 17th through June 21st. A one call will be made to all residents and businesses to notify of this event also a mass mailing will be done as well for notification. Seconded by Commissioner Blackburn, all in favor, motion carried.

The Senior banners will come down the week of June 17 and the United States flags will go up. There will be flags from welcome sign to welcome sign on every pole that has a bracket. Commissioner Carberry will make sure they are ready to go up the same time banners come down.

Public Works- The lagoon pumps were closed; the check valves were clogged. It took approximately 3 days to clear out the problem. Public Works will check weekly to ensure there are no issues.

The Ferguson tractor is locked up in 4th gear and a longer overhead is needed for cutting/mowing. This is not the first time it has been locked up. Discussion was made to obtain quotes to purchase a new tractor. Possibly trade the Ferguson and the John Deere at the lagoon for an improved machine. Will look into state surplus, other options, and present quotes at the next work session.

Safety- Commissioner Smith motioned the deputy schedules to be handled by the Town Clerk due to payroll and the need-to-know basis. Seconded by Commissioner Carberry, a discussion was held, and the motion was carried unanimously. Because of his LEO background and close proximity to Town Hall, Commissioner Smith also motioned for Commissioner Carberry to be the primary

"keyholder" for the Town Hall building, if issues arise Discussion was held, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn, motion carried.

Old Business: The Cintas uniform contract has been discussed previously and Commissioner Carberry motioned to stay with original contract and uniforms, that all PW employees are to wear them, bring them in weekly for cleaning, as it is part of contract. Seconded by Commissioner Smith, motion passes. PW Mr. JJ Herring will get uniforms immediately.

Tony Porter, Zone/Code Compliance has provided an update on properties. What should be done to help enforce? Ordinance states a fine of \$50.00. but not specifically state on number of offense. In order to set levels of offense, the board must amend current ordinance. Will contact attorney for advise...

New Business

Mayor Brown read a letter from resident Brandon Smith expressing concerns over the policy of late fees. The board took no action.

Commissioner Carberry discussed the new sampler electronic keyboard needs a lean tube to cover from the weather elements. Quotes will be submitted by the next meeting.

Resume Builder rep, Violet Barnes reached out to the Town Clerk and asked that Hiring Child Labor Laws and Best Practices be added to the town website under resources. Ms Barnes provided information and links to add to the website. The board had no problem with adding.

7:22 Commissioner Smith motioned to go into closed session. Commissioner Carberry seconded, all in favor.

7:55 Open Session- Motion by Commissioner Smith to go into open session, seconded by Commissioner Carberry, all in favor, motion carried.
In Closed Session there was no action taken.

Commissioner Smith motioned to terminate Kenneth White effective immediately. Commissioner Carberry seconded, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.


Commissioner Smith motioned pending passing the background check and drug test, hire Joey LaFleur and Eli Venecia part time @ \$15.00/hour @ 30 hours per week under the NCORR grant. Commissioner Blackburn seconded, all in favor motion carries.

Commissioner Smith motion to adjourn, Commissioner Carberry seconded to adjourn, all in favor, motion carries.
Adjourned at 8:10pm.

Duly adopted on the 2 day of July, 2024 while in regular session.

ATTEST: 
Shauna Harper, Town Clerk/Finance Officer




Austin Brown, Mayor