

TOWN OF GARLAND
SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024
6:30PM

The Special Meeting/Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Garland was held at the Garland Town Hall in Garland, NC on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:30pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Mayor Austin Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Blackburn, Commissioner Lee Carberry, Commissioner Jo Strickland, Commissioner Ralph Smith, Town Clerk, Shauna' Harper and absent was Commissioner Anthony Norris. Also, in attendance were several residents.

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

PRESENTATION:

Samanta Wullenwaber, Deputy Executive Director, Mid Carolina Regional Council presented the board with budget information. Included was the tax rate analysis, growth rate, county property re-evaluation, explanation of the neutral tax rate, collection rate of property taxes and examples of how to balance the budget based on the RNTR of .44 cents.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into the public hearing, Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn seconded the motion and motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:6:45pm

First to speak, was resident, Tim Register, home, and business owner. He thanked the board for the roles and added there were misconceptions from the previous presentation. Advised of his financial background in finance and states as home and business owner the current tax rate of .72 cents from the town is unaffordable and the county tax helps. He recommended a decrease in the town tax rate since it is the highest around and has been for years. Residents and businesses will not be able to afford their property taxes. Consider the lower tax rate to help the Town of Garland residents and businesses.

Mrs. Mary Ann Johnson also requested the town to adopt a lower tax rate. The current tax rate is high and asks to show love and attention to the residents. A lot of older folks struggle with the current prices of today and live on a fixed income.

In response, Commissioner Smith pledged to vote on revenue neutral tax rate and agreed with Mr. Register.

Mayor Brown followed up with .72 is high however the town does provide services for the citizens.

Commissioner Smith motioned to close public comments, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Blackburn, motion passes.

REGULAR SESSION: 6:58pm

Per Mayor Brown, discuss tax rate, cuts, and budget ordinance at a later date. There will be budget work session Thursday, June 20th @ 6:30.

Commissioner Smith motioned for a .47 cent tax rate. Motion dies. Commissioner Strickland motioned to table the vote on tax rate so there is time to research, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn, motioned passed 3-1, Commissioner Smith, nay.

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Carberry, motion carried.

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



Austin Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shauna Harper
Town Clerk/Finance Officer

