

**TOWN OF GARLAND  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020  
6:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Garland was held at the Garland Town Hall in Garland, N.C. on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present:

Mayor Winifred Hill Murphy  
Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown  
Commissioner Barbara Peterson  
Commissioner Eddie Bronson, Jr.  
Commissioner Carolyn R. Melvin  
Commissioner Jo A. Strickland

Also present were Mr. Chase Jordan of the *Sampson Independent*, Jeff Shipp and Joseph Andrews from Star Communications, Glenn Heath and Brandon Stokes from Core & Main.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Mayor Winifred H. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

QUORUM

Mayor Winifred H. Murphy established there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Murphy would like to delete line item numbers 4 and 5. Add under line item 7A Water/Sewer line repairs estimate submitted by T.A. Dudley Services. 7B Neptune Software Updates. Under F add number 5 CDBG-I Updates, and 6 CDBG Signature Cards & Resolution. Adding under New Business 4A Computer Quotes.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown made the motion to approve the agenda with the added line items, seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Melvin. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

PRESENTATION BY STAR COMMUNICATION-FIBER INSTALLATION

Joseph Andrews explained the first Fiber Installation project from Lamb Road to Dick Street has been completed now we are moving to Project 3 which include from the water tower to 701 area.

We are going to rely on Mr. Richard Brown for locating the water/sewer pipes. Moving forward in the event a line is damaged what is the process for restoration at this time? Mayor Murphy stated we are trying to get funding from the state which will take a long time. We have purchased some supplies in the event a water line is damaged. Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown spoke with Mr. Tim Dudley who submitted a price sheet explaining his cost for service. Mayor Murphy recommend that we start with \$10,000 out of our Capital Outlay Improvement to assist with repairs for water/sewer pipes in the event they are damaged during the installation.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved we use \$10,000 of the Capital Outlay Improvement, seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Melvin. All in favor.

#### CORE&MAIN PRESENTATION-NEPTUNE SOFTWARE UPDATES

Glenn Heath explained the system that the Town is currently using and what is being required for December of 2020. The new Neptune system will be called Neptune 360 it will be accessible anywhere. Quotes was sent out via email and included in the board packets. (see attached) Mayor Murphy recommend a decision not be made until the finance officer is back to review the quotes for the upgrade.

#### COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

##### **ADMINISTRATION**

###### Mayoral Report

Mayor Murphy stated she has been working with potential buyers for the Brooks Brothers plant. We are hoping for good news within the next few weeks concerning this matter. Rock Ministry has been a distribution site during this pandemic. We were donated mask if anyone needs any, they are available at Town Hall. We ask that you please encourage everyone to wear masks during this pandemic. Mayor Murphy recommend adding Juneteenth a Town Holiday by reading a resolution to adopt. (see attached) Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to adopt Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>) as a Town Holiday, seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Melvin. All in favor.

##### **FINANCE**

Mayor Murphy asked does anyone have any questions concerning any financial documents located in the board packets. (see attached). Internal Controls will be completed by Commissioner Carolyn Melvin for July 2020. Mayor Murphy stated under AP check listing in the amount of \$587.58 was for reimbursement items for the Graduation Project. There are three Budget Amendments in your packet that needs approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to approve the Budget Amendment 2014-1, seconded by Commissioner Jo A. Strickland. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to approve the Budget Amendment 2015-1, seconded by Commissioner Carolyn Melvin. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to approve the Budget Amendment Revitalization 2019-1, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

## **BUILDINGS/CEMETERY**

### **Cemetery Update**

Commissioner Barbara Peterson has nothing new to report. Commissioner Barbara Peterson stated she spoke with Mrs. Becky whose mother's grave is washing out. I was hoping we could get some sand hauled to the cemeteries for this issue. Mayor Murphy stated Mr. Jimmie Blackman requested we get the Garland Cemetery surveyed to better locate plots. Mayor Murphy stated please continue working on getting the records updated for both cemeteries.

### **Buildings**

#### **Building Upgrades**

- Library- Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown stated the drain work in front of the library has been completed. We will know when we get a good rain how successful the project was.
- ABC Store- Commissioner Barbara Peterson stated the ABC Store building floor and painting has been done. The gentleman that done the painting reached out to inform me that he would be willing to paint the restroom and office at no cost if the Town purchase the paint. The toilet located in the building needs to be replaced. Mr. Leo Skinner has the AC unit running in the ABC Store. Mayor Murphy recommend the pictures located at Town Hall be placed inside the ABC Store.
- Town Hall- Commissioner Barbara Peterson stated the vanities and toilets will be replaced, however the ladies at Town Hall will need to go and pick out these items for installation.
- Senior Center- Mayor Murphy stated the electrical bills for all departments are being examined due to the increase. We have asked the Senior Center to conserve on electricity within the center to avoid major increase in the utility bill.

## **PARKS/RECREATION**

- Commissioner Eddie Bronson Jr stated he has nothing new to report currently.
- Commissioner Jo A. Strickland stated the DVR project has been completed at the park. Anyone that would like to learn how the system works please feel free to contact me.
- Mayor Murphy thanked Commissioner Carolyn Melvin for cleaning out the concession stand.

## STREETS

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown recommend we contract with Mr. Dudley with getting the ditch cleaned out on Dawson Avenue. There are several ditches that needs to be cleaned out due to the excessive rain standing in them. Mayor Murphy recommend getting a quote from Mr. Dudley and finding other areas that need to be cleaned.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved that we contract with Mr. Tim Dudley for repair work for our sewer lines, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. All in favor.

## PUBLIC WORKS- WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE

### NUISANCE PROPERTIES

Mayor Murphy stated there are several properties that needs to be addressed with letters and fines. Please start identifying some properties and give names to Deputy Clerk Alexis Devane for these properties.

### SUMMER CLEANUP

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved that Summer cleanup be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 items left out will be the responsibility of the homeowner, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

### WATER FOUNTAIN & CLOCK REPAIR

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown informed the board Mr. Randy Boone and Mr. Leo Skinner mentioned the pump at the fountain was left on and froze. The pump at the fountain will need to be replaced.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved for us to purchase the pump for the fountain and allow Mr. Leo Skinner to install it, seconded by Commissioner Jo A. Strickland. All in favor.

Commissioner Eddie Bronson Jr stated he will contact Mr. Ernest Fryar to assess the paint damage on the water fountain.

### CLOCK REPAIR

Mayor Murphy stated someone will need to take over this project to address why the clock is not working.

### GREASE TRAPS

Mayor Murphy stated a letter is being written at this time to send to all restaurants within Town informing them about pouring grease down the drains. I will get this letter out for approval once it has been completed.

### CDBG-I UPDATES

Mayor Murphy stated Mc David & Associates are cleaning up the work after they have finished placing the sewer lines on each street.

CDBG SIGNATURE CARDS & RESOLUTION

Mayor Murphy stated there was a signature card resolution that came in from Mc David after the board packets were issued. (see attached)

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved that we approve the signature cards resolution, seconded by Commissioner Eddie Bronson Jr. All in favor.

SAFETY

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

NAME BADGES FOR BOARD MEMEBRS AND STAFF

Commissioner Barbara Peterson stated this suggestion for badges would be beneficial for the public to recognize who we are when out doing community work. It will also help to have these badges if we must approach someone who is not abiding by the Town's policy and procedures.

Commissioner Barbara Peterson moved to have ID badges for Town employees, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING, FINES AND PENALTIES

Mayor Murphy stated this is where we need to assess the old movie theatre, along with other properties where residents are living without utilities. Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown, Commissioner Jo Strickland, and Commissioner Eddie Bronson Jr will assist with code enforcement and fines.

CARES FUNDING

Mayor Murphy stated there was a certain amount of money that came to the counties and municipalities from the state which we have received to help with COVID-19. We are working on trying to get more for items to help with COVID-19 within our Town.

- Telephone System Quote from Stare Communication & Computer Quotes- Mayor Murphy stated we have received a quote to allow both Clerks in the office to social distance by upgrading the phone systems. (see attached)

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved that we approve the sales proposal from Star Communication to upgrade our phone system, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. All in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to approve the sales proposal for the computers, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. All in favor.

#### **PEDDLERS PERMIT**

Mayor Murphy stated, "I am in the process of reviewing the City of Clinton's peddlers permit to write up our own to provide to citizens that come in wanting to sell different items".

#### **BULK WATER SALES**

Mayor Murphy stated we have been having some issues with citizens filling up swimming pools. I recommend these residents be sent notices and fines for this issue. This is for them to know that we are aware of what is being done with the water.

#### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Mayor Murphy recommend during these hot days Randy Boone be allowed to work the hours of 7am to 4pm instead of 8am to 5pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved that we allow Randy Boone to begin coming in from 7am to 4pm, seconded by Commissioner Jo A. Strickland. All in favor.

#### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for July 16, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. All in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to approve the Reconvened Meeting minutes for June 25, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Jo A. Strickland. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown moved to approve the Closed Session Meeting minutes for June 16, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown made the motion to enter Closed Session Attorney-Client Privilege and Personal at 7:53pm, seconded by Commissioner Jo A. Strickland. All in favor.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Murphy stated we are back in Open Session at 8:28 pm. No action was taken in closed session.

Commissioner Jo Strickland moved to proceed with the necessary paperwork to offer a purchase contract for \$40,000 for a Maintenance Building. This was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Austin Brown. All voted in favor.

Mayor Murphy questioned Commissioner Bronson about his recommendation to designate a residence as a nuisance problem due to multiple illegal activity. Commissioner Jo Strickland asked who owned the property. Mayor Murphy indicated that the homeowner lives in Clinton.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested that a letter be written to the homeowner about the activity of her tenants because of the illegal activity and then to talk with Attorney Maynard about our options.

Mayor Murphy recommended to Commissioner Bronson to continue documentation of the illegal activity and recommended to get the E911 call records.

Mayor Murphy thanked all commissioners for all that they do and stated that we can get through this together.

Mayor Pro Tem moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Peterson, all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Alexis Devane  
Alexis Devane, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved:

Winifred Hill Murphy  
Winifred Hill Murphy, Mayor

9/15/2020  
Date