

**Garner Town Council  
Work Session Minutes  
July 27, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.**

The Garner Town Council met in a Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 in the Town Hall Council Meeting Room

**Attending:** Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Behringer, Council Members Marshburn, Singleton, Kennedy and Johns

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hardin Watkins, Town Manager; Rodney Dickerson, Assistant Town Manager; Bill Anderson, Town Attorney; Brad Bass, Planning Director and Tony Beasley, Economic Development Director

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**DISCUSSION**

**Transportation/Streetscape Plan**

Presenter: Brad Bass, Planning Director

The new 2010 Transportation Plan will replace the 1999 Transportation Plan. The 2010 Transportation Plan will establish suggested areas of improvements that will guide Garner's future budget and transportation planning. Mr. Brad Bass, Planning Director led the presentation of this plan with Mr. Scott Lane, Director of Planning, Louis Berger Group giving the final presentation. Mr. Lane presented the document, highlighting the areas of importance to the citizens and the Steering Committee. The following are areas of suggested improvement:

1. Public Transportation
2. Completion of the Timber Drive extension
3. Appearance of the highways
4. Roadways and collector streets
5. Bicycle and pedestrian access to areas throughout the Town

The Garner Streetscape Plan will establish suggested areas of improvements in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization Plan that will guide Garner's improvements to Main Street for future budget and planning. The following are the five main areas of suggested improvement:

1. Main Street
2. Benson Road and Main Street
3. Benson Road and US 70
4. New Rand Road and US 70
5. New Rand Road and Garner Road

Once the presentation was complete, Mr. Lane asked for questions and comments from the Council.

Council Member Kennedy asked about the thought process of the North Garner Plan suggestion of having a roundabout at NC 50 and Old Garner Road and moving it to the south side of the tracks. Mr. Lane said Garner Road will be a secondary connection to Raleigh from a revitalized, busier downtown area. Garner Road is recommended as a three lane road which makes it difficult for a roundabout. The plan proposes a better pedestrian access and softer right turn at that intersection.

Mr. Lane said, going back to the roundabout at Benson Road, the idea was to have a gateway at Main Street rather than Garner Road.

Council Member Singleton said he has all kinds of issues with the proposed roundabout. He said he thought the main entrance to downtown was going to be Montague Street. He has concerns for the community and felt this came out of left field. He questioned how much study time was spent on traffic volumes in that area. Council Member Singleton said there are four schools on Garner Road. This is a very busy intersection; he said a roundabout would be more appropriate at Fifth Avenue and Aversboro Road.

Mr. Lane said a roundabout will tie in landscaping and slow traffic in that area. Mr. Bass said this plan does not show a dedicated right turn lane at the Toot & Tell Restaurant and added that NC Department of Transportation will determine the level of analysis and would have to approve this change.

Council Member Singleton said we need to work toward keeping the traffic flowing and not slow it down. He said he will not support this, stating he thought the entrance to downtown was to be Montague Street.

Council Member Marshburn said he feels this will keep traffic moving; he said he would also be concerned how it would impede traffic.

Council Member Kennedy suggested another option which is to place emphasis on traffic safety at Garner Road and NC 50 and make long lasting improvements; at West Garner Road and NC 50 improvements could be made to the appearance of the area. Mr. Bass added that during the study there was discussion of using black poles with mast arms to support traffic signals there like the ones at Creech Road and Garner Road.

Mayor ProTem Behringer said Garner Revitalization Association will soon place new entrance signs on Main Street and will give attention to the downtown area.

Council Member Johns said he walks that area every morning and cars can be stacked up all the way to Hudson's Hardware; children are coming out of the Bryan Woods Apartments walking to school. He said we need to look at this roundabout more closely. He agrees with Council Member Singleton that there needs to be a right turn lane. Council Member Singleton added that it would be nice to widen Avery Street.

Mr. Bass said there is a lot more work to be done. Council Member Singleton noted one of the fast track items was sidewalks. He said he feels we should complete the sidewalks first; finish the ones on Main Street and the section around the bridge at the Railroad tracks. Mr. Bass asked, beyond the sidewalks, what are the Council's thoughts on priorities; redesign of Garner Road and Benson Road intersection, lighting or planters. Council Member Singleton said the Main Street street lighting would be a benefit with the sidewalks. The Council requested the sidewalks on Benson Road be extended to the Garner Plaza Shopping Center.

Action: Staff will meet with the Fire Department regarding the proposed roundabout; staff will present revised Transportation Plan and Streetscape Plan at the September 7, 2010 meeting

### **Council Meeting Procedures**

Presenter: Judy Bass, Town Clerk

Several Members of the Council have requested to adopt formal meeting procedures. The draft Town Council Meeting Procedures was compiled from similar documents used in other local governments and from Suggested Rules of Procedure for Small Local Government Boards, third addition by Fleming Bell. This document defines types of meeting, the meeting process, the order of the

agenda, establishes rules for public hearings and generally addresses procedural type matters.

The Council has for the most part been following the procedures in Mr. Bell's publication. New items being introduced are as follows:

1. Rules for public comment/public hearings. This document introduces a time limit on public comment.
2. Rules to allow placement of an item on the agenda. New items should be submitted seven days prior to the scheduled meeting.
3. If an item is to be removed from the Consent agenda, staff requests notification by 3:00 the day of the meeting.
4. The Council will not begin discussion on an item with the exception of closed session after 10:15 P.M. without a majority vote.

The Council requested the time limit on public speakers be between 3 and 5 minutes.

This change will be made in the Meeting Procedures and presented to the Council for adoption consideration at the September 7, 2010 meeting.

Action: Presented as amended at the September 7, 2010 meeting.

Closed Session:

This Closed session is pursuant to 143 318 (11) a (3) to confer with counsel regarding a matter of prospective litigation.

Motion: Kennedy  
Second: Singleton  
Vote: Unanimous

The Council returned to Regular Session.

#### **REPORTS**

1. Code of Ethics. The Council will review the Model Code presented to them by staff.
2. Invested Funds Report

#### **ETHICS TRAINING WEBINAR**

The Council received the required ethics training via webinar produced by the School of Government and approved by the Legislators.

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:15 PM**

Motion: Kennedy  
Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Judy Bass, Town Clerk