



TOWN MAINTAINS AFFORDABILITY, GREAT SERVICES WITH FY 2020-21 BUDGET

Garner residents still enjoy lowest cost for services in Wake County

THE GARNER TOWN COUNCIL on June 16 unanimously adopted a \$40,695,534 operating budget for fiscal year 2020-21, which began on July 1. A breakdown of revenues and expenditures by categories is provided in the tables below. The following provides a summary of the adopted budget ([visit garnernc.gov/departments/finance](http://visit.garnernc.gov/departments/finance) for more):

- The budget includes a tax rate of \$.4971 per \$100 of assessed value, which is an increase of 3.5 cents above the revenue-neutral rate of \$.4621 per \$100 of assessed value. A

revenue-neutral rate is defined as the rate that is estimated to produce revenue for the next fiscal year equal to the revenue that would have been produced for the next fiscal year by the current tax rate if no property revaluation had occurred. Garner is projected to have the lowest effective tax rate in Wake County (*see the table on the next page*).

- The new budget includes funding to support

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REVENUES, FY 2020-21

Revenue Type	Council Approved	Percent of Budget
Property Taxes	\$23,075,723	56.7%
Permits and Fees	\$2,587,080	6.4%
Sales Tax and Other Taxes	\$5,834,338	14.3%
Intergovernmental	\$3,288,318	8.1%
Fees for Service	\$589,710	1.4%
Interest Revenue	\$450,000	1.1%
Other Revenue	\$202,500	0.5%
Other Financing Sources	\$4,667,865	11.5%
TOTAL	\$40,695,534	100%

EXPENDITURES, FY 2020-21

Category	Council Approved	Percent of Budget
General Government	\$10,345,857	25.4%
Public Safety	\$12,968,502	31.9%
Transportation	\$3,547,036	8.7%
Development Services	\$3,511,312	8.6%
Solid Waste and Recycling	\$2,321,786	5.7%
Cultural and Recreational	\$3,905,182	9.6%
Debt Service	\$4,095,858	10.1%
TOTAL	\$40,695,534	100%

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various public safety initiatives. The budget funds a community liaison officer and a school resource officer in the Police Department and three firefighters for Garner Fire-Rescue. The community liaison position will provide proactive community outreach at a time when strengthening community relationships and partnerships is critical. The school resource officer will ensure student-to-staff ratios at South Garner High School remain appropriate with the addition of the 12th grade. Adding three firefighters will enable Garner Fire-Rescue to complete a staffing model of having four full-time personnel on all staffed fire trucks.

- The budget includes funding to implement the results of a pay-equity study. This will enable the Town to fix longstanding compensation issues affecting nearly half of

all Town and Garner Fire-Rescue employees.

- The budget includes funding to address items identified as part of the Public Facility Repair and Maintenance Process—a cross-departmental initiative that involves review of maintenance requirements across the Town. The funding for this initiative will enable the Town to provide more proactive maintenance of Town assets.
- The budget also provides funding that will help the Town prepare for an upcoming bond referendum that will likely be on the November 2021 municipal ballot. One-time funding will help the Town finish analyzing potential bond projects to determine feasibility and establish cost estimates. There will also be funding for an engineering plan reviewer position. This will allow an existing Engineering Department employee to become a dedicated capital projects manager for bond projects.

COST COMPARISON FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES IN WAKE COUNTY

Wake County Municipalities	Property Tax Rate	Annual Property Tax*	Annual Solid Waste Fees	Annual Water and Sewer Charges	Annual Storm Water Fees	TOTAL
Garner	\$0.4971	\$1,146	\$0	\$693	\$0	\$1,840
Knightdale	\$0.4200	\$1,033	\$190	\$693	\$48.00	\$1,965
Fuquay-Varina	\$0.3950	\$1,103	\$171	\$798	\$0	\$2,073
Raleigh	\$0.3552	\$1,122	\$205	\$693	\$60.00	\$2,080
Morrisville	\$0.3650	\$1,338	\$0	\$770	\$24.96	\$2,134
Wake Forest	\$0.4950	\$1,561	\$0	\$693	\$0	\$2,255
Apex	\$0.3800	\$1,423	\$247	\$671	\$0	\$2,343
Cary	\$0.3500	\$1,435	\$234	\$775	\$0	\$2,444
Wendell	\$0.4700	\$997	\$264	\$1,226	\$0	\$2,487
Holly Springs	\$0.4216	\$1,495	\$217	\$742	\$36.00	\$2,490
Rolesville	\$0.4600	\$1,601	\$264	\$693	\$0	\$2,559
Zebulon	\$0.5500	\$1,052	\$296	\$1,455	\$0	\$2,803
Average	\$0.4238	\$1,287	\$190	\$837	\$15.36	\$2,330

NOTES: Rates and fees for other municipalities are based on FY 2019-20 totals as prepared by the City of Raleigh. Home values used to calculate property tax totals are based on the average tax value of single-family homes according to the Wake County Revenue Department. Annual water/sewer charges are based on usage of 3,740 gallons or 5 CCR per month. Annual stormwater rates are based on 2,000 square feet.