



**February 8, 2021 7:00 PM**  
**Town of Garner Planning Commission Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting**

The Planning Commission meeting was conducted remotely (pursuant to Session Law 2020-3). The meeting video is available on Facebook Live at [facebook.com/TownofGarner/](https://www.facebook.com/TownofGarner/)

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Blasco called the regular meeting of the Town of Garner Planning Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021.

**II. Roll Call**

The Secretary conducted the roll call for the virtual meeting.

Members present: Jon Blasco, Chairman; Vang Moua, Vice Chairman; Gina Avent; Dean Fox; Michael Voiland; and Phillip Jefferson.

Staff in attendance: Mr. Jeff Triezenberg, Planning Director; Mr. Tony Beasley, Inspections Director; Ms. Stacy Griffin, Principal Planner; Mr. David Bamford, Planning Services Manager; Ms. Gaby Lontos-Lawler, Senior Planner - Transportation; Ms. Alison Jones, Planner II; Ms. Leah Harrison, Assistant Town Engineer; and Mr. Brian Godfrey, Planning Technician.

**III. Invocation**

Ms. Avent gave the invocation.

**IV. Minutes**

**Regular Meeting Minutes January 11, 2021** – Mr. Voiland made a motion to approve the presented minutes of the January 11 meeting with the revisions proposed by Mr. Fox. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fox. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**V. Old/New Business:**

There were no cases before the Commission.

## VI. Reports

**A. Garner Transit Study** - Ms. Gaby Lontos-Lawler delivered a follow-up presentation on the Garner Transit Study and requested a recommendation to Town Council for adoption as an appendix to the Transportation Plan. Ms. Avent asked about coordination with Amazon and asked for details about ridership studies. Mr. Voiland asked whether the Town Council adopting the study would act as a proposal to move forward. Mr. Jefferson asked what the next steps would be after adoption and whether additional changes to transit routes could be made. Mr. Jefferson asked whether routes could be changed in response to changing ridership demands and whether there was a timeframe in place for reviewing changes. Mr. Jefferson asked whether additional funding was something Garner needed to have in place such that the Town would not have to wait on Wake County. Mr. Fox asked whether the route for 'Local Route Option Number 2' was finalized. Mr. Fox asked about the high-destination area of Home Depot/Target, at the corner of US 70 and Timber, and whether this area could be accommodated with service later on. Mr. Fox asked about incorporating access to Garner's future regional rail station. Mr. Fox asked about future transit service to the areas of Auburn/Greenfield Drive and McCuller's Walk. Mr. Moua commented that this was a good project for Garner, and that transit is important and increasingly becoming the norm. Mr. Jefferson asked whether the Town could suggest a second transit line for Wake Tech that was not an 'Express' route.

**RESULT: Recommend to Town Council for Adoption [5-1]**

**Motion: Ms. Avent** – I move that the Planning Commission recommend the Garner Transit Study to Town Council for adoption as an appendix to the Transportation Plan.

**Second: Mr. Jefferson**

**VOTE: Aye: Avent, Blasco, Moua, Jefferson, Voiland**  
**Nay: Fox**

Mr. Fox stated for the record that he was not opposed to the Garner Transit Study and the majority of its results, but that he voted against the motion because of his concern over the selection of the route and the lack of opportunity to give input on the route.

## **B. Planning Director**

Mr. Jeff Triezenberg is delivering an annual update on the Town's progress towards the goals of the comprehensive plan. Mr. Blasco asked whether it was the Town's intent to connect greenways through requirements for developers or through Town-led construction efforts. Mr. Fox asked whether the analogous report delivered to Town Council could be made available to the Planning Commission. Mr. Fox asked whether vertical projects could be opportunities for public art projects. Mr. Fox asked about the possibility of a Small Area Plan for the neighborhood around South Garner High School. Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Voiland commended the annual update presentation.

## **C. Planning Commission**

Mr. Fox noted that his term on the Commission—as well as Ms. Hogan's—was set to expire in the summer. Mr. Fox asked whether progress had been made towards creating a new procedure for familiarizing future appointees with the Commission's work. Mr. Fox asked whether the current Commissioners could contribute their knowledge towards educating new appointees.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Having no further matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.