



July 12, 2021 7:00 PM
Town of Garner Planning Commission Minutes
Council Meeting Room
900 7th Avenue · Garner, North Carolina 27529

I. Call to Order

Mr. Blasco called the regular meeting of the Town of Garner Planning Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021.

II. Roll Call

The Secretary conducted the roll call for the virtual meeting.

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

Staff in attendance: Mr. Jeff Triezenberg, Planning Director; Ms. Gaby Lontos-Lawler, Senior Planner - Transportation; and Mr. Brian Godfrey, Planning Technician.

III. Invocation

Seeing no development cases before the Commission, Mr. Blasco tabled the Invocation by general consensus.

IV. Election of Officers

The Commission discussed the annual election of officers.

RESULT: Jon Blasco was Elected as Chair [UNANIMOUS]

Motion: Ms. Avent – I move that the Planning Commission elect Jon Blasco as Chair.

Second: Mr. Moua

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

RESULT: Phillip Jefferson was Elected as Vice Chair [UNANIMOUS]
Motion: Mr. Blasco – I move that the Planning Commission elect Phillip Jefferson as Vice Chair.
Second: Mr. Voiland
VOTE: Aye: Avent, Blasco, Jefferson, Moua, Voiland
Nay:

V. Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021 – Mr. Voiland made a motion to approve the presented minutes of the June 14 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jefferson.

RESULT: The presented minutes of the June 14 meeting were approved [4 Yes, 1 Abstain]
Motion: Mr. Voiland – I move that the Planning Commission elect Phillip Jefferson as Vice Chair.
Second: Mr. Jefferson
VOTE: Aye: Avent, Jefferson, Moua, Voiland
Nay:
Abstain: Blasco

V. Old/New Business:

VI. Reports

A. Sidewalk Improvement Prioritization – Ms. Lontos-Lawler gave the presentation on the Town’s efforts for sidewalk improvements, demonstrated the GIS map of proposed improvements, and requested feedback from the Commission. Mr. Blasco asked whether the identified sidewalk projects had already been approved but had yet to be implemented. Mr. Blasco suggested to the Commission some criteria for prioritization, including being in proximity to a school, activity center, shopping center, or employment center. Mr. Blasco also suggested that other criteria for prioritization would be sidewalks that complete or fill a gap. Mr. Jefferson asked how bus stops were considered in planning for sidewalk improvements. Mr. Blasco suggested that bus stops could be added to the GIS map for consideration by Commissioners. Mr. Jefferson commented that HWY US 70 presented a high priority area and that he sees pedestrians crossing near Vandora

Springs Road in dangerous conditions. Mr. Jefferson asked what types of things would be considered financial obstacles for sidewalk projects. Mr. Voiland asked whether the presented sidewalk projects represented the planning department's leanings. Mr. Voiland asked whether 'Safe Routes to Schools' was a higher-ranking criteria. Mr. Voiland asked for clarification about areas with safety concerns and whether building sidewalks in these places could worsen safety conditions. Mr. Moua asked whether vehicular crash incident data was available for display on the map. Ms. Avent asked what the colors on the map represented and whether a legend was available. Mr. Moua asked whether sidewalk projects could be quickly pulled by their identification numbers, then demonstrated how this could be done on the application. Mr. Jefferson asked for clarification about the excel sheet.

B. Planning Director – Mr. Triezenberg gave the Commission updates and stated that new appointments to the Commission were upcoming. Mr. Triezenberg gave updates on recent development projects and noted their approval by the Town Council. Mr. Triezenberg informed the Commission about the upcoming joint work sessions with the Town Council.

C. Planning Commission

Mr. Blasco asked about development projects that had been approved months ago but had yet to break ground. Mr. Voiland asked for updates on the VA Clinic. Ms. Avent asked whether timelines exist for building permits that dictate when project must begin before the permit expires.

VII. Adjournment

Having no further matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.