

1 **Town of Pleasant Garden**
2 January 8, 2008 / 7:00 pm
3 Kirkman Municipal Building
4

5 **Minutes**
6 Regular Town Council Meeting
7

8 **In attendance**

9 Mayor Anne Hice
10 Councilwoman Chris Johnson
11 Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Jo Smith
12 Councilman Rick Wallace
13 Councilman Bob Wyrick
14

15 **Also in attendance**

16 Darla Robenolt / Assistant Town Clerk (Part-time)
17 Diana Schreiber / Town Clerk
18 Don Vaughan / Town Attorney
19 Lynn Willis / *Pleasant Garden Post*
20

21 **Audience**

22 40 +
23

24 Call to order by Mayor Hice at 7:00 pm
25

26 Councilman Wallace asked why the Agenda was changed to reflect only Moment of Silence and not
27 Invocation / Moment of Silence? Town Attorney answered that this is a “hotly contested issue right
28 now”. Councilman Wallace made a motion to begin each Town Council meeting with an invocation.
29 Councilman Wyrick seconded the motion. A voice vote was called – **5/0; the motion carried.**
30 Discussion took place after the motion was seconded and before the final vote. Councilwoman Johnson
31 mentioned that she believes an invocation and/or Pledge of Alliance can be done before the gavel
32 drops. Continued discussion and conjecture took place about the ‘liability’ of what is / is not
33 acceptable and where the Town’s liabilities may be.
34 Councilman Wallace delivered the invocation.
35 Mayor Hice led the Pledge of Allegiance.
36

37 **Roll Call**

38 Town Clerk Schreiber called the roll. A quorum was present.
39

40 **Approval of minutes**

41 Mayor Hice asked the Council to review the most recently updated set of minutes (updated 1/8/08) for
42 the December 11, 2007 Regular Meeting minutes to make changes / corrections if needed. Mayor Hice
43 indicated that since the minutes have had considerable changes made to them they would be on the
44 agenda for approval at the February 12 Regular Meeting. Councilman Wallace asked that the changes
45 be discussed this evening and then the minutes could be approved.
46

47 Mayor Hice made a motion to table approval of the minutes of the December 11, 2007 Town Council
48 Meeting until the February 12, 2008 Town Council meeting to allow the council members time to

1 review the edits / changes made. Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded the motion. **3/2** (Rick Wallace, Bob
2 Wyrick); **the motion carried.**
3 Councilman Wyrick mentioned that he wants to see / have the minutes of the previous meeting each
4 month for review at least fifteen (15) days prior to the next meeting / approval.
5

6 **Public Comment**

7 *Alan Marshall – 2318 Carlford Road:* Mr. Marshall distributed to the Town Council and read his
8 recommendations for change to the Pleasant Garden spending / expenditure ordinances, policies and
9 procedures (attached). Mr. Marshall stated that there has been a lot of discussion and heart ache about
10 the recent expenditures and this suggestion would allow for a more level playing field before
11 expenditures are made.
12

13 *Ted Christopher – 1803 Neeley Road:* I'd like to discuss two (2) topics: 1. Recycling – I went from my
14 house on Neeley Road to Pleasant Garden Road, about 38 houses, and counted only 12-13 with their
15 recycling bins out for collection. That's only 1/3 of the houses. On the road behind me only about 1/2 of
16 the people recycle. We need to get the word out about recycling. 2. Pleasant Garden Disaster Plan –
17 Does Pleasant Garden have a disaster plan? In the 1930's a tornado hit what's now Martin Luther King
18 Street and virtually wiped out that area. What should be done now to establish what is to be done in
19 case of disaster?
20

21 *Jean Greeson – 700 Ritter's Lake Road:* It's good to see everyone out. Rick and Bob, did it seem as if
22 you guys were left out of these minutes again? I want to mention that Diana is the one who really
23 pushed for / started the Farmer's Market in 2000. Remember the melted ice cream, Diana? Let's give
24 Diana a hand.
25

26 *Glenda McGinnis – 6829 Branson Mill Road:* This is only the third council meeting I've come to in all
27 my years in this town. I came initially because I'd learned about all the feuding and fighting. I didn't
28 want to continue coming and have to stand next to all these folks at the theater, pharmacy, church, etc.
29 I do want to thank all the members of the Town Council. I sure wouldn't want to do this job.
30 Remember how you got here as community-minded, kind-hearted people who have the community in
31 mind. When you get 'ugly' it's not a good reflection on you or our community.
32

33 *Bill Wright – 6402 Walter Wright Road:* In November 1997 we voted to incorporate as a town. We
34 held our first meeting in December at Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church and subsequent
35 meetings in the Quaker Church. Reverend Nolan gave the blessing at the December meeting and many
36 meetings after that and we've had an invocation / given blessing at every town meeting since then for
37 the last ten (10) years. This is our tradition. We ask that prayer be made a policy in the town for all
38 meetings in the future. (With this remark sustained applause broke out in the council chambers /
39 audience.)
40

41 *Alan Carroll – 5901 Hagan Stone Park Road:* "Diana, thank you!" Like Alan Marshall, I want to talk
42 about spending. Mostly how citizen input is avoided and it's not what's voted on to spend money on.
43 In regard to prayer, we have to look at our own principles and follow those. We should support all
44 those small towns across the US who still want prayer in their community.
45

46 Mayor Hice made a motion to close the public comment period. Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded the
47 motion. **5/0; the motion carried.**
48

1 **Presentations**

2 A. *Jim Mills, Analog Digital Solutions, Inc.:* We are distributors for FTR software. There are three
3 (3) different ways your can record your meetings with FTR (listed on attached document). This is the
4 best audio I've ever worked with. It came out in 1999 and there are 35,000 customers / installs
5 worldwide. Anybody can use it, regardless of the media used. The system drives the data captures
6 based on time / date / location. We have close to 200 references in NC alone. I will load the software
7 on Diana's pc so she can play back the minutes we're recording of this meeting. Mayor Hice asked Mr.
8 Mills if the software worked with Apple computers. Mr. Mills responded that Windows Media Player
9 software is needed on the Apple computer to make it 'compatible'. Mr. Mills went on to say that the
10 system has the ability to continue recording even while reversing to play back.

11
12 Councilman Wyrick asked for an explanation of the various (3) packages offered on the letter,
13 including maintenance.

14 Mr. Mills responded that the first year warranty is covered on all three packages. The second and
15 subsequent years are about \$450 per year and includes all / any patches and upgrades to the software –
16 through version 3.999.

- 17 • The FTR Record Reporter 3.3 Pro Software Audio Recording Package (\$4,980) doesn't include
18 video software or a camera.
- 19 • The FTR 2.2 Pro Software Audio Recording Package (\$3,984) is the most popular package. Video
20 capability cannot be added. You can record to the hard drive and to the jump drive simultaneously.
21 Maintenance costs about \$350 per year.
- 22 • The FTR Hearing 3.3 Basic Software Audio Record Package (\$2,984) may be upgraded to 3.3 Pro
23 to include video capabilities.

24
25 B. *Cameron Smith - Martin, Starnes & Associates:* (Refer to attached slide show) Ms. Smith
26 presented the Town of Pleasant Garden's audit and their 'unqualified' opinion – the audit is completed
27 and 'clean'. She gave each Town Council member a hard copy and a CD of the full basic report and
28 transmittal letters (attached). Councilman Wallace explained that the 2007 budget @ \$527,378 was due
29 to revenues. These are the numbers as of June 30, 2007. He asked if there were any questions. Mayor
30 Hice asked Ms. Smith if we have a one (1) year or three (3) year contract with Martin, Starnes &
31 Associates? Ms. Smith didn't know, but told Mayor Hice she would get back to her with that answer.
32

33 C. *Erin Musiol, Benchmark CMR, Inc.:* (Refer to attached materials) I understand there will be no
34 decision tonight, but the discussion will be taken to the February 2 Town Council Planning Session.
35 Mayor Hice asked when the final decision on which strategic land use plan to use is needed by
36 Benchmark, CMR? Mayor Hice went on to clarify that the Town Council had their planning session
37 planned for Saturday, February and plan to discuss this whole topic at that meeting. Ms. Musiol
38 responded that a decision should be made before the next Town Council meeting – Tuesday, February
39 12. She went on to say that the suggested alternatives (attached) can be 'mixed' if the decision is to do
40 so in order to reach exactly the land use plan level the town decides upon. Ms. Musiol let the Town
41 Council know that Benchmark, CMR recommends the Moderate development plan based on their
42 research and analysis. Councilman Wyrick queried that on the Moderate development plan there are
43 some zoning changes and was concerned that about 6% of the changes were from RS-40 to RS-80. Ms.
44 Musiol responded that it's still very low density and a represents a very minimal change.
45

1 **Closed Session: Staffing** (No closed session held)

2 Prior to the closed session taking place, where Mr. Kim Payne's proposal for accounting services was
3 to be discussed Councilman Wallace asked why the Council should go into closed session. He stated
4 that Town Clerk Schreiber's last day is Thursday, January 10 and the town really needs to have a
5 finance person immediately. Councilman Wallace made a motion to hire Mr. Kim Payne, based on Mr.
6 Payne's proposal (attached), for \$760 per month until a new / replacement Finance Officer is in place.
7 Councilman Wyrick seconded the motion. Mayor Hice interjected that Mr. Payne was so valuable to us
8 / Town Clerk Schreiber during the audit. She also iterated that Mr. Payne would not approve or sign
9 checks. **5/0; the motion carried.**

10
11 **Old Business**

12 A. *2008 Meeting Schedule:* Mayor Pro Tem Smith made a motion to accept the revised 2008
13 Town Council and Advisory Board Meeting Schedule (attached). Councilman Wallace seconded the
14 motion and noted one change; the Recreation Board meeting for December 2008 should be changed
15 from Tuesday, December 23 to Thursday, December 18. **5/0; the motion carried.**

16
17 B. *Board Appointments:*

18 *Zoning Board:* Councilman Wyrick stated that all boards have a minimum of five (5) members. Mayor
19 Pro Tem Smith made a motion to establish the 2008 Zoning Board at no more than seven (7) members.
20 The initial five (5) Zoning Board members shall be selected by having each Town Council member
21 select one (1) name from the pool of Zoning Board Volunteer Applications. The additional two (2)
22 members shall be selected from the remaining Zoning Board applicants by asking each Town Council
23 member to vote for no more than two (2) applicants. The two (2) applicants receiving the most votes
24 will be selected for the Zoning Board. The remaining applicants will be thanked for their willingness to
25 serve and their names will be kept on file in the event the Town Council may ask them to serve in the
26 future. **5/0; the motion carried.**

27 Discussion took place after the motion was seconded and before the final vote. Mayor Hice mentioned
28 that it's desirable to have an odd number (5, 7) on each board to avoid tie votes. Councilwoman
29 Johnson stated that nine (9) members are too many. Councilman Wyrick stated that some of the board
30 applicants hadn't put down their experiences and reasons why they want to serve. He stated that he felt
31 the most qualified people should be selected for the boards. Mayor Hice explained that all the Town
32 Council members had received a copy of all the applications. She went on to say that each council
33 member most likely knows at least three (3) of the board applicants for each board. Councilwoman
34 Johnson interjected that the volunteer board applicants were no different than Town Council members
35 in that some don't have much experience, but they have a willingness to serve. She said she felt
36 comfortable making the board selections this evening. Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt explained to the
37 council that Mr. Alan Carroll's application / name had been moved from the Long-Range Planning
38 Board list to the Zoning Board on December 11 because Mr. Carroll indicated he wants to serve on the
39 Zoning Board, but would be willing to serve on the Long-Range Planning Board if necessary. Each
40 council member then selected a volunteer to serve on the Zoning Board:

- 41
42
- 43 • Ron Surgeon selected by Councilman Wallace
 - 44 • Alan Carroll selected by Councilwoman Johnson
 - 45 • Alan Marshall selected by Councilman Wyrick (changed to David Lewis – see *LRP Board*)
 - 46 • Jamie Sealey selected by Mayor Pro Tem Smith
 - 47 • Steven Bullis selected by Mayor Hice

1 Councilman Wyrick stated, once again, that he doesn't feel as if he knows the applicants well enough
2 to vote for them. Mayor Hice assured the council that the Volunteer Application Form would be
3 changed in the future to include more information from the applicants.
4

5 The remaining five (5) applicant names were presented for vote:

- 6 • Rene Aldridge received a vote from Mayor Pro Tem Smith, Mayor Anne Hice, and Councilwoman
7 Johnson.
- 8 • David Lewis received a vote from Councilman Wyrick (1)
- 9 • David Seel received a vote from Councilman Wyrick (1)
- 10 • Henry Tripp received a vote from Councilman Wallace, Councilwoman Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem
11 Smith and Mayor Hice (4)
- 12 • Phillip Wadsworth received a vote from Councilman Wallace (1)

13
14 Mayor Hice indicated that Ms. Rene Aldridge and Mr. Henry Tripp had received the most votes and
15 therefore would be placed on the Zoning Board.
16

17 *Long-Range Planning Board:* Councilman Wyrick stated that the Long-Range Planning (LRP) Board
18 has been operating as a project-oriented board and not a planning board. Councilman Wyrick made a
19 motion to dissolve the LRP Board. No second. **Motion failed.**

20 Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that she was not willing for the LRP to be dissolved. She went on to say
21 that it is up to the Town Council to give direction to the LRP. There is a business overlay on file in the
22 Town Hall that the LRP Board could have been working on.
23

24 Councilman Wyrick made a motion to retract his appointee for the Zoning Board (Alan Marshall) and
25 appoint Mr. Marshall to the Long-Range Planning Board. Councilman Wallace seconded the motion.
26 **3/2** (Chris Johnson, Anne Hice); **the motion carried.**
27

28 Mayor Pro Tem Smith made a motion to accept all five (5) applicants for the Long-Range Planning
29 Board plus Mr. Alan Marshall (total = 6). **4/1** (Bob Wyrick); **the motion carried.**
30

31 Councilman Wyrick selected / nominated Mr. David Lewis to the Zoning Board then made a motion to
32 accept all six (6) applicants for the Long-Range Planning Board. Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded the
33 motion. **5/0; the motion carried.**
34

35 The 2008 Long-Range Planning Board members are:

- 36 • Melvin Hinshaw
- 37 • Donald Jones
- 38 • Wayne Kirkman
- 39 • Alan Marshall
- 40 • Scott May
- 41 • Glenn Morgan

42
43 Councilman Wyrick stated that more volunteer applications should be solicited for each board in case
44 members leave / resign, etc.
45

1 *Recreation Board:* Town Clerk Schreiber read the list of applicants for the Recreation Board.
2 Councilman Wallace made a motion to accept all applicants onto the 2008 Recreation Board. Mayor
3 Hice seconded the motion. **5/0; the motion carried.**
4

5 The 2008 Recreation Board members are:

- 6 • Cristina Bragg
 - 7 • Jan Cox
 - 8 • Chris Culler
 - 9 • John Furlough
 - 10 • Brent Lewis
 - 11 • Wendy O'Brien
- 12

13 C. *Legislative Update (Don Vaughan):* Town Attorney Vaughan stated that the Town Council
14 should vote tonight on the mayoral election issue. The Civil Rights Division of the Department of
15 Justice requires this. It's a formality, but necessary to codify the item into the Pleasant Garden
16 Ordinances. The 'recall provision' is a separate thing. Councilman Wallace made a motion to allow
17 Town Attorney Vaughan to prepare a request for the current Voting Rights Act amendment to be
18 added to the Pleasant Garden Town Ordinances. Councilman Wyrick seconded the motion. **3/2** (Anne
19 Hice, Nancy Jo Smith); **the motion carried.**

20 Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that she voted 'no' because this is not the information she has seen.
21 Mayor Hice stated that she doesn't want to vote on a referendum prior to seeing it in the voting booth.
22 Councilman Wyrick stated that the whole town has already voted on this referendum. Mayor Hice
23 indicated that the 'process' was at issue. Mayor Pro Tem Smith indicated that it was each member's
24 right to vote however he or she wanted. Town Attorney Vaughan stated that the legislature would
25 reconvene in May. There was a 118:0 vote on the bill (#1195 – Parts 1, 2, 3) in the House and it
26 permits the town to have recall elections. Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked Town Attorney Vaughan if the
27 council members had seen the bill? Councilman Wallace interjected that the council had given Town
28 Attorney Vaughan the authority to develop the bill. Mayor Hice indicated that the council had not seen
29 it in its final form, though she indicated she had looked it up on-line a few weeks ago and read it over.
30 Town Attorney Vaughan stated that the recall provision was filed on March 28, 2007 and passed the
31 first reading on March 29, 2007. It was reported favorable on May 22, 2007. Maggie Jeffus assigned
32 the bill to Earl Jones. Town Attorney Vaughan stated that it is possible to amend the bill in the Senate
33 and will get a copy of the bill to each member of the Town Council. The Town Council has until May,
34 when the Legislature reconvenes, to prepare amendments. At this point a lengthy discussion took place
35 between Town Attorney Vaughan and Councilwoman Johnson on how bills are prepared and
36 introduced to the legislature. Councilman Wyrick mentioned that he was confused after hearing "the
37 three of you talking from the same page on this." Mayor Hice indicated this topic would be put on the
38 February 2 Town Council Planning Session agenda.
39

40 D. *Forestry Management:* Councilman Wallace made a motion to table the Forestry Management
41 agenda item until a new Town Clerk has been hired. Mayor Hice seconded the motion.
42 **5/0; the motion carried.**
43

44 E. *Orientation Meeting – Monday, January 14, 7:00 pm:* Mayor Hice indicated that letters were
45 going to be prepared for each board appointee after tonight's meeting and sent out alerting them of
46 their selection and of the Board Orientation meeting they are 'invited' to attend on Monday, January
47 14 at 7:00 pm. Town Clerk Schreiber stated that there will be three (3) presentations: 1) Town Attorney

1 Vaughan will discuss the roll of the Town Attorney and the various applicable laws for open meetings,
2 etc.; 2) A representative from the League of Municipalities will discuss procedural issues; and 3)
3 Mayor Hice will present a slide show on the Mayor / Town Council form of government.
4

5 F. *Council Planning Session Goals:* Mayor Hice indicated that three (3) council members (Chris
6 Johnson, Bob Wyrick, and Nancy Jo Smith) had volunteered to accompany her to meet with Ginger
7 Booker at the Piedmont Triad Council of Government to plan the Council Planning Session scheduled
8 for Saturday, February 2, 8:30 – 3:30. Only one (1) member will be selected and their name will be
9 drawn this evening. Town Attorney Vaughan drew from the names and Councilwoman Johnson was
10 selected to attend the meeting. Town Attorney Vaughan cautioned to make sure the meeting is posted
11 as a regular / open meeting and everyone's invited.
12

13 New Business

14 A. *Budget Discussion (Diana Schreiber):* Town Clerk Schreiber presented the council with a list
15 of budget accounts that are spent over their allocated amounts for the year (attached) and asked the
16 council what they would like to be done? Mayor Hice asked if budget amendments were required.
17 Town Clerk Schreiber indicated they are. Councilwoman Johnson made a Town Clerk Schreiber and
18 Mr. Kim Payne the authority to move the suggested / appropriate budget line items. Mayor Pro Tem
19 Smith seconded the motion. Discussion took place and Councilman Wallace suggested asking Town
20 Clerk Schreiber and Mr. Kim Payne to make suggestions to the council as to where budget line items
21 can be reduced to increase the items over spent. Councilwoman Johnson restated her previous motion
22 and made an amended motion for Diana Schreiber and Kim Payne to make a list and present it to the
23 Town Council as to which budget line items can be decreased in order to increase / make the necessary
24 amendments to the current budget. Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded the motion. **5/0; the motion**
25 **carried.**

26 Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to move the allocated funds from budget line item 11029.7-
27 Stipends to budget line item 11026.3-Office Equipment. **4/1 (Rick Wallace); the motion carried.**
28

29 B. *Property Tax Reduction (Bob Wyrick):* Councilman Wyrick presented a budget report showing
30 how a reduction in the Pleasant Garden town taxes could be made (attached). Mayor Hice thanked
31 Councilman Wyrick for his research and asked Town Clerk Schreiber to read over the Profit and Loss
32 Statement (attached) and indicated these are the figures Councilman Wyrick used. Mayor Hice also
33 asked Mr. Kim Payne if he was planning to provide this statement to the council each month. He
34 indicated he would. Based on the information provided, Councilman Wyrick made a motion to
35 decrease property taxes to \$.025 in Pleasant Garden for budget year 2008-2009. No second. A roll call
36 vote was taken. **1/4 (Anne Hice, Nancy Jo Smith, Chris Johnson, Rick Wallace); the motion failed.**
37 Discussion took place after the motion was seconded and before the final vote.

38 Councilman Wyrick indicated that a second isn't necessary for small councils. He asked the council
39 members to look over his documentation and plan to discuss it at the February 12 Town Council
40 meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that she agreed that a tax cut may be in order, but can't decide
41 on the amount yet without studying the budget. Mayor Hice indicated that upon looking at the Profit
42 and Loss Statement the town has 'contributed' \$106,000 this fiscal year that they probably won't be
43 contributing in the next fiscal year. Councilman Wyrick stated that the council must show the citizens
44 that the council means business and not wait until the new budget cycle. Mayor Hice responded that
45 when the council gets into the budget process for next year it will be easier to track what's coming in
46 and what's going out. Councilman Wyrick stated that it will be the same as this year, what's budgeted
47 and what's received. He went on to say that the council is already in the mindset to reduce
48 expenditures so let's be bold and tell the citizens we have \$3,000,000 in the bank. Town Clerk

1 Schreiber interjected that the town must have established goals in order to collect taxes / funds. What
2 the funds are to be used for must be established. For example, if funds in excess of 20% of the budget
3 are leftover . . . Councilman Wallace interjected that this issue was addressed in the 2007 budget
4 process. Councilman Wyrick stated that the town's Capital Reserve Fund should have monies allocated
5 to specific projects. Mayor Hice stated that some time is needed for the council members to digest the
6 information Councilman Wyrick has presented and perform our own analyses so we're not making
7 promises we can't keep. At this point a roll call vote was taken for the motion on the floor.
8

9 C. *2304 Carlford Road (Don Vaughan):* Town Attorney Vaughan reported that the owners /
10 residents of 2304 Carlford Road in Pleasant Garden were violating junk ordinances, nuisance
11 ordinances, use violations, and other violations. They were given ultimatums and now have
12 accumulated over \$7,000 in penalties due to Pleasant Garden. Town Attorney Vaughan asked if the
13 town / council wants him to file for the arrears penalties from James D. and Patricia Lyons?
14 Councilwoman Johnson recommended not to further pursue since the owners / residents have cleaned
15 up the property and did it in a timely fashion. [No motion made or vote taken!] Town Attorney
16 Vaughan reported that he had spoken with Mr. Greg Niles, Director, Guilford County Planning
17 Department who indicated that inspection of the property by the county shows that it has not only been
18 cleaned up, but remains in good order. Mr. Alan Marshall, Long-Range Planning board member,
19 interjected that he lives four (4) houses from the one at 2304 Carlford and has noticed a 110%
20 improvement over what it was. Councilwoman Johnson asked Mr. Marshall if he knows Mr. & Mrs.
21 Lyons' ages? Mr. Marshall responded that they were probably in their mid-fifties, but may have health
22 issues.
23

24 D. *Special Called Meeting – Staffing:* Mayor Hice stated that she had forgotten to put the special
25 called meeting for town hall staffing issues on this evening's meeting agenda and would like to insert it
26 at this point in order to establish a meeting date. Councilman Wyrick indicated he had no problem with
27 just addressing the staffing issue this evening. Mayor Hice responded that it was just too late and
28 would take too long to address all the issues that need to be discussed. Councilman Wallace stated that
29 this whole process has been handled very poorly. He went on to say that the council had been aware
30 for two (2) weeks that Town Clerk Schreiber was leaving and have known Assistant Town Clerk
31 Robenolt since the end of November. Councilman Wallace went on to indicate to Mayor Hice that he
32 had not supported her for mayor due to her "lack of managerial skills." Councilwoman Johnson
33 retorted that there was no 'interview' for the position. Councilman Wallace indicated that the council
34 couldn't wait any longer to do something and asked if job descriptions were written / people were
35 going to be hired? Much discussion took place at this point regarding the whereabouts of the 'old'
36 Town Clerk job description (the one for Brooks Lockhart) as well as the advertised job description
37 used before Diana Schreiber was hired. He also asked why the council was not given the new Town
38 Clerk job descriptions when they were prepared to look over and why it was necessary to hold a
39 special meeting when, with planning, it could have been resolved this evening? Why are we waiting to
40 get this information and then calling another meeting? Town Attorney Vaughan suggested holding the
41 Special Called Meeting for Staffing on Monday, January 14 at 5:00 pm before the Board Orientation
42 Meeting at 7:00 pm. The council discussed the suggestion / agreed and Town Attorney Vaughan
43 reminded them that a notice should be published announcing the special meeting. Mayor Pro Tem
44 Smith suggested taking a recess / recess taken for a few minutes.
45

46 **Reports**

47 A. *Town Clerk / Financial Officer (Diana Schreiber):*

- 1 • Town Clerk Schreiber introduced the council to the Scattered Site Housing Program
2 information (attached) in Guilford County. Mayor Hice asked if Pleasant Garden has done
3 this before. Councilman Wallace indicated that the information / invitation has been made
4 available for us to use. Councilman Wallace made a motion to participate in the Guilford
5 County Scattered Site Housing Program. Councilman Wyrick seconded the motion. **5/0;**
6 **the motion carried.**
- 7 • Town Clerk Schreiber presented various budget documents / information (attached) and
8 discussed the town budget periods and if tax rates are adjusted how it will affect the 2008 /
9 2009 budget. Town Clerk Schreiber introduced the issue that the brick the town had given
10 Town Clerk Lockhart as a going away gift when he left had not be funded or purchased.
11 Councilman Wallace made a motion to fund the commemorative brick for Brooks Lockhart
12 for \$75. **5/0; the motion carried.**
13 Some discussion took place regarding the cost of the brick being \$100 and not \$75.
14 Councilman Wallace then made a motion to fund the additional \$25 (total of \$100) for the
15 commemorative brick for former Town Clerk Brooks Lockhart. **5/0; the motion carried.**
- 16 • Town Clerk Schreiber read a letter to the council from Steven Branson / Fun for All project
17 (attached), thanking the town for the \$5,000 contribution to their park project. Also a letter
18 from the Lion's Club (attached) was read thanking Pleasant Garden for their contribution to
19 the Fun for All project.
- 20 • Town Clerk Schreiber read a letter (attached) from the town to Douglas Winslow regarding
21 his property on Spur Road. She is awaiting Mr. Winslow's reply regarding the town /
22 volunteers helping clean up Mr. Winslow's property. Councilman Wyrick stated that this is
23 'scary' business and we / the town does not want or need that liability risk. Discussion took
24 place between the council member and Town Attorney Vaughan regarding the town's risk /
25 liability. Councilman Wyrick made a motion to rescind the letter sent to Douglas Winslow
26 regarding his property on Spur Road and not get involved as a town with this type of
27 volunteer program. Councilman Wallace seconded the motion. **5/0; the motion carried.**
28 Discussion took place after the motion was seconded and before the final vote.
29 Councilwoman Johnson stated that it's a shame that these things, like helping clean up an
30 older / invalid citizen's property, isn't done at the community level. Councilman Wallace
31 reminded the council that there was a process in place for handling this type of thing and it
32 should be used. Councilman Wyrick interjected that volunteering is wonderful, but not as a
33 way to complete town functions. He went on to say that he didn't think the town should be
34 involved in this type of thing. Town Attorney Vaughan indicated he had read the letter
35 over. Town Clerk Schreiber agreed to put together a letter to Mr. Winslow rescinding the
36 first letter and would run it by Town Attorney Vaughan before sending it out. Mayor Pro
37 Tem Smith asked if it would be okay to just send them a note that the issue was being
38 turned over to (non-town) volunteers. [*NOTE: As it turned out the first letter offering town*
39 *volunteer services to Mr. Winslow was never sent out, therefore the letter rescinding the*
40 *first / offer letter was also never sent.*]
- 41 • Councilman Wallace reminded the council that Town Clerk Schreiber would not be here
42 next Monday, January 14 for the meetings. He asked Town Clerk Schreiber if she thought
43 the town needed two (2) full-time employees. Town Clerk Schreiber responded that the
44 town needs a Town Clerk and a Finance Officer. She went on to explain that Town Clerks
45 take minutes and the Finance Officer does all the finances and special projects, etc. Town
46 Clerk Schreiber went on to indicate to the Town Council members that they must realize
47 what jobs the people are doing in these positions. Councilman Wyrick asked if she felt the

1 town should reduce the number of people they hire. Town Clerk Schreiber indicated that
2 the number of people isn't the issue, but rather the job functions assigned to each position.

- 3 • Mayor Hice thanked Town Clerk Schreiber for organizing the files and thanked Assistant
4 Town Clerk for helping with all the special events and all the time she spends on those
5 functions.
- 6 • Town Clerk Schreiber went on to report that the Soccer Commissioner Brent Lewis
7 received ½ his soccer stipend in the Fall and should continue to receive those funds in the
8 Spring. Mr. Lewis (Chairman, Recreation Board) is considered a 'seasonal' employee and
9 receives a stipend for the Fall and Spring soccer seasons. Taxes are deducted from his
10 stipend and he is covered for workmen's compensation / town insurance. The town's
11 insurance premium did not increase because there is a certain minimum that we haven't
12 even reached yet before we have to pay a higher premium.

13
14 B. *Historical Project Update / NCLM Update (Jean Greeson)*: Per Ms. Greeson the Historical
15 Society has received nothing from the public for the NC League of Municipalities book and nothing
16 has been received at the Town Hall either. The Historical Society will meet before January 26th and put
17 together some information to send in to the NCLM for this project.

18
19 C. *Recreation Board (Brent Lewis)*: Chairman Lewis reported that the Volunteer Appreciation
20 Dinner was planned for December 2007 and \$1,000 was appropriated by the Town Council to fund the
21 dinner. The December / January timeframe is very hard to plan for this type of thing since everyone is
22 so busy with the Holidays and there are so many town events to plan that occur in November and
23 December. Chairman Lewis stated that he has been asked to define who's a volunteer. The Recreation
24 Board members do not feel it's their place to plan a function honoring volunteers when, in fact, they
25 are volunteers too. They feel they should receive the 'honor' along with all the other volunteers and not
26 have to work planning and manning the function since they have given a lot of their time, etc. as
27 volunteers to the town. There should be a 'committee' planning the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
28 and/or the Town Council should do it. Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that the Town Council should
29 think about taking over this function and possibly the Fireman's Appreciation dinner for 2008.

30 31 **Public Comment**

32 *Jean Greeson – 700 E. Ritters Lake Road*: It's a damn shame that this town could not send flowers to a
33 councilman's father's funeral. The town staff has always taken care of these 'special' things in the
34 town. Also, the Capital Reserve Fund was always separated / correct until there was a change in the
35 North Carolina law.

36
37 *Glenda McGinnis - 6829 Branson Mill Road*: Listening to Diana's description of the Town Clerk
38 would suggest that the person to come on board would have a bit of knowledge of hiring, scheduling,
39 salaries, etc. Anytime you sit and discuss these issues without discussing the issues with all the people
40 with whom they need to be discussed it is unethical and unprofessional and sooner or later it will all
41 catch up with you.

42
43 Mayor Hice, after asking if there were any additional comments, moved to close the second public
44 comment period. Councilman Wallace seconded the motion. **5/0; the motion carried.**

45 46 **Staff Comment**

- 47 • Town Clerk Schreiber had no comments.

- 1 • Assistant Town Clerk Robenolt called the council’s attention to the Town of Pleasant Garden 2008
2 Business Planners (calendars) in their folder. The calendar is a ‘gift’ for their use to help schedule /
3 keep track of meetings and events.
- 4 • Town Attorney Vaughan indicated he was working with Jack Stanley on the Time Warner cable
5 issues.

6 | 7 8 **Council Comment**

- 9 • Councilman Wallace referred to Mr. Christopher’s comments about a disaster plan and suggested
10 contacting Alan Purdue at Guilford County because a disaster plan does exist.
- 11 • Councilwoman Johnson thanked everyone for coming and indicated that she wished the audience
12 would respect the Town Council and stop talking, throwing things, etc. during council meetings.
13 She indicated that she had attended council meetings in much bigger towns / cities and had never
14 seen the type of rude behavior that takes place in Pleasant Garden.
- 15 • Councilman Wyrick spoke out saying that it seems as if Councilwoman Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem
16 Smith, and Mayor Hice want to exclude him and Councilman Wallace from town business. He
17 mentioned that Mayor Hice had sent an email to each council member and the Town Clerk that was
18 not sent to him or Councilman Wallace. Learning about town events through others is a sad way to
19 learn. Councilman Wallace and I were not made aware of the bonus offered by Mayor Hice to
20 Town Clerk Schreiber to consider staying with the town after she had submitted her resignation.
21 Also, we were not made aware of the January 3 interview with Winn Underhill (a retiree who
22 Town Clerk Schreiber mentioned might be willing to fill and ‘interim’ Town Clerk position until
23 someone was hired). Most of what I do know about what’s going on has been learned from Town
24 Clerk Schreiber and not from my fellow Town Council members – actions speak louder than
25 words!
- 26 • Mayor Pro Tem Smith reported that she would be attending the Essentials for Municipal
27 Government training. She also attended the January Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
28 (PTCOG) meeting and is entering their materials and her notes on the economic issues of water
29 (costs / rates / conservation) into the minutes of this meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Smith also thanked
30 Town Clerk Schreiber for getting them each a copy of the Town’s Personnel Policy.
- 31 • Mayor Hice mentioned that the Pleasant Garden Baptist Church is sponsoring a Wellness Health
32 Screening (materials attached). Ms. Glenda McGinnis interjected that her church (Pleasant Garden
33 Baptist Church) sponsors this event each year. Ms. Jean Greeson interjected that the Wellness
34 Health Screening is a good thing and she has had it in the past. Mayor Hice also quoted from the
35 News & Record of Sunday, January 6 (attached) where five (5) ‘resolutions’ were listed to follow
36 (example: Have the courage to accept other’s beliefs). Mayor Hice responded to Councilman
37 Wyrick’s earlier comment by indicating that she had met with Town Clerk Schreiber because there
38 could not be a quorum (three or more) of Town Council members to meet. Councilman Wyrick
39 responded that Mayor Hice gave Town Clerk Schreiber an offer and that’s not legal. He read from
40 the Pleasant Garden Personnel Policy - Salary Increase. Mayor Hice countered that she did not give
41 Town Clerk Schreiber an offer, she told her that if she should be willing to stay the Town Council
42 would need to vote on giving her a bonus. Councilman Wyrick stated that there was no law broken,
43 but the spirit of the law was broken since the idea is to share and work together toward one
44 community. Mayor Hice quoted Mahatma Gandhi “You must be the change you wish to see in the
45 world.”
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Councilwoman Johnson motioned to adjourn at 11:15 pm. Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded the motion.
5/0; the motion carried.

Clerk

Date

Mayor