

1 **Town of Pleasant Garden**
2 April 8, 2008
3 Kirkman Municipal Building

4
5 **Minutes**
6 Town Council Regular Monthly 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 Sandy Carmany / Town Administrator/Clerk
17 Don Vaughan / Town Attorney
18 Kim Payne/Acting Finance Director
19 Lynn Willis / *Pleasant Garden Post*
20

21 **Audience**

22 65+
23

24 **Call to Order**

25 Mayor Hice called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
26

27 Councilman Wallace delivered the invocation.
28

29 Mayor Hice led the Pledge of Allegiance.
30

31 **Roll Call**

32 Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany called the roll, and all members were in attendance. A quorum
33 was present.
34

35 **Oath of Office**

36 Town Attorney Vaughan administered the Oath of Office to Town Clerk/Administrator Carmany.
37

38 **Approval of Minutes**

39 **MOVED by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2008 meeting,**
40 **seconded by Mayor Hice. APPROVED, 5-0.**
41

42 **MOVED by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting.**

43 Councilman Wallace noted one change, that the word "files" should be added on page 5, line 7.

44 **APPROVED, 5-0.**
45

46 **MOVED by Councilman Wallace to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2008 meeting,**

47 **seconded by Mayor Hice. APPROVED, 5-0.**
48

1 **Approval of Agenda**

2 Mayor Hice announced that Davis Montgomery of Duke Energy had a schedule conflict and would not
3 be able to attend this meeting; he should be removed from the agenda.
4

5 **MOVED by Councilman Wallace to approve the agenda**, seconded by Mayor Hice. **APPROVED,**
6 **5-0.**
7

8 **Presentation**

9 *John Nance from the Guilford County Health Department* shared information about a program the
10 Department presented in Oak Ridge about the drought. Information was presented on how to conserve
11 water and forecasts on future rainfall was shared. Attendees were able to ask questions of the
12 presenters. Things are not as critical now, but he could make the same presentation for Pleasant
13 Garden. Mayor Hice noted that Oak Ridge officials were very complimentary of the program. Mr.
14 Nance uses monitoring wells around the county to determine the effect of the drought on groundwater
15 levels and will be checking groundwater levels again soon. Councilman Wyrick asked if there were
16 other monitoring wells in the area besides the one in Hagan Stone Park, and Mr. Nance responded it is
17 the closest one. Councilwoman Johnson noted that the presentation appears to have alleviated citizen
18 concerns, and Mr. Nance responded that was the case, things were not as bad as many people feared.
19 Councilman Wallace asked that dates be identified when this public presentation could be given in
20 Pleasant Garden.
21

22 **Public Comment**

23 Mayor Hice read the guidelines for public comments and asked Town Attorney Vaughan to keep time.
24

25 *Mark Wilcox 2305 Ridgepoint Circle* stated that he had been asked to speak for Tom Sizemore who
26 had signed up but had to go to the hospital earlier in the day. He passed out copies of a letter from Mr.
27 Sizemore that he read to the councilmembers (*copy attached*). Mr. Sizemore wrote that voters were
28 being disenfranchised by the vote at the February 11, 2008 Town Council meeting to withdraw
29 HB1195. He shared the history of the bill and expressed concerns about the reasons for withdrawing
30 it. He asked that the Town Council move forward with this bill instead of delaying. Time was called
31 on Mr. Wilcox.
32

33 *Dr. Dick Fields of 1812 Neelly Road* urged councilmembers to amend HB1195 and send it on for
34 approval. It is the will of the people to be able to recall their elected officials. He stated that he was
35 going to act as Paul Revere who was also a dentist and expressed concern about a tattoo parlor that
36 located next to the florist shop on Pleasant Garden Road. He is concerned about the effect tattoo
37 parlors have on the community. He urged the Town Council to enact an ordinance to require a permit
38 to operate a business in the Town of Pleasant Garden in order to have some control over the
39 development of commercial establishments. Time was called on Dr. Fields.
40

41 *Alan Marshall of 2318 Carlford Road* asked members of the audience to raise their hands if they were
42 in support of the recall provision; most of those present did so. He described the current government
43 in Pleasant Garden as an elected dictatorship. Officials are elected every four years but cannot be
44 removed unless convicted of a felony; “we can hire you, but we cannot fire you.” He reviewed the
45 history of HB1195 and councilmembers’ stated reasons for not supporting it. He asked
46 councilmembers to give the citizens of Pleasant Garden the right to exercise reasonable control over
47 their elected officials.
48

1 Ms. Sharon Wright of 6402 Walter Wright Road spoke about HB1195, saying it was needed for future
2 generations. She yielded the rest of her time to Mr. Wilcox to complete his remarks. Mr. Wilcox
3 continued to read Mr. Sizemore's letter which listed other issues that the Town Council should be
4 addressing instead of having to deal with this controversy. He asked that the Town Council either
5 amend the bill for the Senate committee to act on it or take steps to place it as a referendum on the
6 November 2008 ballot.

7
8 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to close the public comment period**, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.
9 **APPROVED, 5-0.**

10 11 Reports

12 A. *Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany* reviewed her report and the addendum to it (*copies attached*).
13 Under Administrative Items, she noted that overdue reports had been submitted, RFPs issued for the
14 July 4th fireworks, the grounds maintenance contract extension processed and a revised RFP prepared
15 for approval tonight, Personnel Policy revisions prepared, soccer accident insurance renewed and a
16 payroll process for soccer referees and linesman developed, the new agreement signed with AT&T that
17 lowers monthly costs 25%, Internet service costs will be rising due to the installation of public wireless
18 access, and Town email accounts are set up and will be activated once Time-Warner completes their
19 work order.

20
21 Under Building and Maintenance, she thanked Cypress Networks and Marty Heim for getting the new
22 server installed and running. The new recording system has been installed and being used for this
23 meeting; the microphone is sensitive and will pick up all sounds in the Council Chambers. Mr. Mills
24 has suggested that permanently microphones be installed and wired into the system at some point.
25 AT&T installed the sixth telephone line that will be dedicated to the soccer office. The annual fire
26 inspection should be conducted soon. Two security video monitors were purchased to replace two that
27 were not working properly.

28
29 Pending items include the hiring of an Administrative Assistant, adoption of the Flood Ordinance in
30 May, and preparation of the budget. She has received more calls requesting to use Town Hall, and she
31 strongly suggested that a use policy be developed to address these requests. At this point, Mrs.
32 Carmany has not been able to locate an inventory list for Town equipment and will need to create one
33 if one does not already exist.

34
35 Mrs. Carmany noted that now a computer has been placed in the lobby with wireless Internet access,
36 the Town Council might want to consider establishing a public use policy regarding adult sites, access
37 by children. The computer has been set up so that emails cannot be sent from the Town account on
38 that computer so that individual's emails would not appear to be official Town emails. She shared a
39 printout of the hits on the Town's website prepared by Ms. Heim (*copy attached*).

40
41 Mrs. Carmany reviewed information handed out at the Greensboro MPO meeting about the US421
42 interchanges with Woody Mill Road and Neelly Road (*copy attached*). There is money available from
43 NCDOT for small urban projects if the Town is willing to provide a 50% match.

44
45 Mayor Hice suggested adding the issues of a Town Hall use policy and the Internet access policy to
46 next month's agenda and information be gathered on that issue. Town Attorney Vaughan stated that
47 the free-speech is an unsettled area that should be watched.

1 Councilman Wyrick suggested asking the technology people to put a block for sites for kids 14 and
2 under to begin with and perhaps establish a time limit per use per person.

3
4 **MOVED BY Councilman Wyrick to put a filter on the computer to limit Internet access to**
5 **minors**, seconded by Councilman Wallace. **APPROVED, 5-0.**

6
7 Marty Heim explained that the monthly increase in the Time-Warner service is related to the use of
8 this public computer.

9
10 B. *Financial/Budget*: Kim Payne reported a Fund Balance of \$1,083,487.10, the Capital Reserve Fund
11 of \$1,763,486.61, and Capital Projects of \$3,664.84 for a total fund balance of \$2,850,638.55 as of
12 March 31, 2008. Check Registers, Private Money Account and Operations Budget vs. Actual Income
13 and Expenditures were also reviewed. He presented budget ordinance amendment #7 to cover
14 expenses for the new computer server. (*copy attached*)

15
16 **MOVED BY Councilman Wallace to approve budget amendment #7 to move \$6,000 from**
17 **11080.8 GF Contingency/disaster to 11026.3 Equipment Purchases**, seconded by Mayor Hice.
18 **APPROVED, 5-0.**

19
20 Mr. Payne presented a preliminary budget worksheet and noted that he took a different approach from
21 what has been used in the past. (*copy attached*) The worksheet shows figures for the past three budget
22 years and a “guesstimate” column for 2008-09 based on previous expenditures. The sheet is divided
23 into three sections – 1) the income section, 2) the expenditures section showing normal recurring town
24 expenses every year, one-time expenses, and Community Outreach expenses, and 3) the transfers to
25 Capital Reserve and Fund Balance. The projected leftover amount for 2008-09 of \$193,500 is the
26 amount the Town Council on which the Town Council needs to make decisions. He and Mrs.
27 Carmany will work out the second section regarding expenses for normal town operations.

28
29 Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked about one item in the expenditure where the Guilford County may have
30 been overpaid for their services this year. Mr. Payne responded that it appears that the county was
31 owed a payment from a previous year. Unexpected computer problems account for the overage in the
32 equipment maintenance area.

33
34 After receiving clarification from Mr. Payne on gross expenditures, Councilman Wallace asked that
35 the Town Council direct Mr. Payne to prepare a budget proposal based on a 2.5-cent tax rate. Mayor
36 Pro Tem Smith said she wanted to see a budget based on actual expense, and Mr. Payne noted that is
37 what his worksheet projects.

38
39 **MOVED BY Councilman Wallace to present a budget based on a 2.5-cent tax rate**, seconded by
40 Councilman Wyrick. Mr. Payne asked if the Town Council would like a sliding scale budget with
41 several different rates, including the 2.5-cents. Councilman Wallace agreed to include the sliding scale
42 option at Mayor Hice’s request. Mayor Hice asked Councilman Wallace if he was still interested in
43 providing garbage collection service; he indicated he was not interested if there was no grant funding
44 available for it. Councilman Wyrick noted that with the figures shown in the budget worksheet, it
45 appeared this would be an easy task. **APPROVED, 5-0**

46
47 Mayor Hice suggested setting a date for a budget workshop and thanked Mr. Payne for completing the

1 overdue report forms due to the state.

2

3 *C. Legal Update:* Town Attorney Vaughan noted that emails and open records are a hot topic in the
4 news. The Governor has appointed a blue ribbon commission to look into the requirements. The
5 public computer and email dumping system described by Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany is the
6 best thing we know about at the moment. He suggested that people phone him with confidential
7 information instead of emailing them. Mayor Hice asked which emails Town Attorney Vaughan
8 should be receiving, and he responded he did not need to see the day-to-day correspondence, only legal
9 matters. The General Assembly will likely address this issue during the upcoming session. Town
10 Administrator/Clerk Carmany asked if working drafts of contracts and policies exchanged by email
11 were considered public record and Town Attorney Vaughan responded “yes, anything put in writing is
12 public record.”

13

14 Town Attorney Vaughan also reported on the NCGo! meeting on transportation. There will be a lot of
15 stress on North Carolina roads with an increase of the equivalent of the population of South Carolina
16 coming by 2030. Congestion is going to get worse, and NCGo! is trying to address it. Mayor Hice
17 previously shared handouts from that meeting with councilmembers.

18

19 *D. Recreation Board:* Chairman Brent Lewis reported on the March 25 Board meeting. Litter Sweep
20 will be held on April 19. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on May 16 at Pleasant
21 Garden Methodist Church due to weather concerns; the event will be catered. Rodney Gann discussed
22 the need for kitchen inspections for sellers of prepared foods at the Farmers Market and requested that
23 the sale of eggs be allowed. 648 kids are signed up for soccer on 48 teams; three more sponsors are
24 needed. The Board agreed to allow political candidates to set up tents and meet people, but no
25 fundraising activity would be allowed. The soccer season opens on April 12 and he thanked everyone
26 for their help. The Independence Day celebration will be held on July 5 to avoid conflicts with
27 Greensboro’s event. The fireworks RFP has been reworked and issued. The Board will work on the
28 budget at their April meeting.

29

30 Councilwoman Johnson asked about estimates on the cost of the fireworks. Mr. Lewis noted that one
31 company had stated their costs would be greatly increased if the event is held on July 4. It was more
32 fiscally responsible to have the fireworks on July 5. A rain date will be discussed when the contract is
33 awarded.

34

35 Mayor Hice asked about the soccer camp that has been advertised in the newspaper. Mr. Lewis
36 explained that Eurotech that conducted the camp in the past has folded and the Dynamo would be
37 operating the camp this summer. Four or five pros will work with 65-80 kids for four hours a day for
38 \$125 for the week of June 16-20. The Dynamo provides the insurance policy for the camp and will
39 handle most of the registration and fees except for what is done on-site at the soccer games. Mr. Lewis
40 said there will be a formal contract to be signed by a Town official after Town Attorney Vaughan
41 reviews it.

42

43 *E. Other Reports -- Solid Waste Committees:* Mayor Hice reported that a successful Guilford County
44 clean-up event was held on Friday, April 4 at the Agricultural Cooperative Extension and lots of tires
45 were collected. Inmates worked at the event.

46

1 **Consent Agenda**

2 A. *Red Cross Blood Drive* – This item would approve the Town co-sponsoring a Blood Drive with the
3 Pleasant Garden Fire Department at Town Hall and participating with the Pleasant Garden Lions Club
4 on their vision screening event.

5
6 **MOVED by Councilwoman Councilman Wallace to approve the Consent Agenda**, seconded by
7 Councilman Wyrick. **APPROVED, 5-0.**

8
9 **Old Business**

10 A. *Adoption of Land Use Plan* – Richard Smith of Benchmark CMR gave a PowerPoint presentation
11 on the 14-month process to develop a land use plan for the Town of Pleasant Garden including the
12 timeline, Advisory Committee and the public involvement process. (*copy attached*) He reviewed the
13 characteristics of Alternative 1 (Current Path) and Alternative 2 (Moderate Development) and noted
14 that the Town Council could adopt one, a variation of the two, or neither.

15
16 **MOVED BY Councilwoman Johnson to adopt Alternative 1, also known as the Current Path**
17 **Vision Plan, as presented by Benchmark**, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Smith.

18
19 Councilman Wyrick asked Mr. Smith if Alternative 2 was the plan originally recommended by
20 Benchmark, and he responded that it was their recommendation earlier based on their market analysis.
21 He noted that revisions often come forward in the planning process; sometimes no plan is adopted.

22
23 Mayor Hice shared information from the NC Wildlife Commission regarding the need to conserve
24 open spaces and statistical information about the number of building permits issued over the years in
25 the Town.

26
27 Councilman Wallace reviewed the history of why he felt a land use plan was needed; without a plan,
28 the Town had no ETJ or ability to negotiate with neighboring municipalities on development issues.
29 He shared the mission statement that was adopted by the Town Council at that time along with the
30 efforts and costs to hire someone to do the study. Although he personally supports Plan 2, he will vote
31 for Alternative 1 to fulfill his commitment to get a land use plan adopted.

32
33 Councilman Wyrick stated he was on the Advisory Committee from the very beginning and he felt it
34 was set up for failure. Benchmark did good work and came up with a good plan, but he believed some
35 committee members were there to keep anything from happening. He also thought there was a lot of
36 misinformation in the community about Plan 2 with references to “cookie cutter houses.”

37
38 The motion to approve Alternative 1 of the Land Use Plan was **APPROVED, 4-1.** (*Yes – Hice,*
39 *Johnson, Smith, Wallace; No—Wyrick*).

40
41 B. *Revision and approval of the 2008-09 Grounds Maintenance RFP --*

42 **MOVED BY Councilman Wallace that the Town Council approve the RFP as presented,**
43 seconded by Mayor Hice. Councilman Wyrick asked why the contract was being separated into two
44 sections, the Town Hall lawn care and the soccer field maintenance. Councilman Wallace noted that
45 there were two separate contracts in the 2005-06 budget, but there were some additional work on
46 soccer fields that wasn't originally contracted and had to be paid. Councilman Wyrick noted there was
47 only one contract in 2007-08; Mayor Pro Tem Smith noted that the contract did have two sections in it.
48 There was discussion about what was and was not included in the previous contracts and the allowance

1 for additional services. Councilman Wallace noted that Mr. Lewis had authorized work in the past that
2 was not budgeted and there had to be a way to account for it. Councilman Wyrick said he still did not
3 understand why it is being separated into different sections and prices. Mayor Hice explained that it
4 was more of a tracking issue. Councilman Wallace noted this as an improvement to the past process.
5 Councilman Wyrick stated he preferred one contract not broken into sections. Councilwoman Johnson
6 noted that Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany had been seeking input on the document and
7 incorporated that feedback into the revised RFP. The motion to approve the grounds maintenance RFP
8 was **APPROVED, 5-0.**
9

10 C. *HB1195*—Councilman Wallace confirmed with Town Attorney Vaughan that any decisions
11 regarding this legislation would have to be made this month for it to go before the legislature. He
12 asked the Town Council to allow Alan Marshall five minutes to report on the progress of his petition
13 so that they could use it for information in their discussion. Mayor Hice suggested three minutes, and a
14 compromise of four minutes was granted.
15

16 *Alan Marshall of 2318 Carlford Road* said that he had collected approximately 250 signatures. There
17 are still signatures coming in from a mailing. He shared specifics of recall petitions from other
18 jurisdictions and noted they were all similar. His petition strikes Section 6.11 regarding the defects in
19 the petition that some councilmembers have found troublesome. Councilwoman Johnson asked if any
20 of those bills had a “for cause” provision in it, and the response was “no.” He noted that listing
21 specific causes would render it unusable. In response to a question, Mr. Marshall said the petition will
22 not be certified and signers are not necessarily registered voters. Councilwoman Johnson clarified that
23 the mayoral referendum and the recall have always been two separate issues. Councilman Wyrick read
24 from past minutes that Town Attorney Vaughan had advised that the General Assembly had to address
25 the recall issue, that it could not be part of the mayoral referendum. In May 2007, councilmembers
26 instructed Town Attorney Vaughan to proceed with drafting a bill, but they did not see the bill itself
27 before they voted on it. Councilman Wallace noted that this served the intent of the motion. He
28 suggested that the Town Council make any changes that councilmembers want and send it forward.
29 Discussion continued on which bills were passed, what they contained and the actual procedure and
30 timeline to carry out the recall process. Mayor Pro Tem Smith said nothing would be lost by waiting
31 until after the budget process and dealing with this at a later time. Councilman Wyrick stated he had
32 met with Senator Dorsett and presented her with information and emails he had received on this issue.
33 Mayor Hice asked about the timing of this issue in reference to the mayoral election; Town Attorney
34 Vaughan advised these are two separate issues.
35

36 **MOVED BY Mayor Pro Tem Smith to postpone consideration of legislation to recall elected**
37 **officials until August 12, 2008 at which time the Council shall begin to develop a legislative**
38 **package to present to the 2009 Guilford delegation. This will allow time for research, input, and**
39 **discussion,** seconded by Mayor Hice. Councilman Wyrick asked if there are other legislative items
40 councilmembers are currently considering; Mayor Pro Tem Smith responded “no.” He said we do not
41 need to delay this and complimented former councilmember Ron Surgeon for supporting this bill on
42 behalf of constituents even though he personally objected to it. Mayor Hice requested that Councilman
43 Wyrick share the information he gave to Senator Dorsett. Councilman Wallace said the bill can be
44 amended to remove the section some councilmembers dislike. Mayor Hice said she had no problem
45 with a recall provision after the public has had a chance to see and discuss it. The motion to postpone
46 **FAILED, 3-2.** (*Yes -- Hice, Smith; No – Johnson, Wallace, Wyrick*)
47

1 **MOVED BY Councilman Wallace that the Town Council send the delegation from our district a**
2 **revised recall petition with the elimination of “regardless of any defects in the recall petition”**
3 **and submit this as presented with that change and ask Mr. Vaughan to contact them and**
4 **resubmit it to the House,** seconded by Councilman Wyrick, **APPROVED 4-1.** (Yes -- Johnson,
5 *Smith, Wallace, Wyrick; No – Hice*)
6

7 **New Business**

8 *A. Farmers Market Vendor Guidelines:* Mayor Hice stated that Rodney Gann had been asking for
9 kitchen inspections for vendors who sell prepared foods at the Farmers Market. This is a safety issue
10 and the kitchen inspection is a simple process.
11

12 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to add required kitchen inspections to the Farmers Market guidelines**
13 **to be sent out to the vendors,** seconded by Councilman Wyrick. Councilman Wyrick asked how
14 many people would be affected and who is responsible for enforcing the guidelines. Mayor Hice
15 responded that Jan Cox plans the Market and Mr. Gann is in charge on site. It was agreed that the
16 Recreation Board should have the authority to enforce the guidelines. The requirements for the sale of
17 eggs are still unclear so that will not be addressed tonight. The motion to require kitchen inspections
18 was **APPROVED, 5-0.**
19

20 *B. Personnel Policy Revisions –* Mayor Hice explained that typos and errors were discovered in the
21 current Personnel Policy when she reviewed the policy with Mrs. Carmany when she was hired. (*copy*
22 *attached*) Councilman Wyrick asked what the difference is between “part-time seasonal employee”
23 and “part-time employee” and if both are needed. Mayor Pro Tem Smith explained that this
24 information came from the IRS and NCLM. The Town Council directed that the seasonal definition be
25 added at the special meeting on soccer on February 18. A change is being made to the compensatory
26 time formula. Councilman Wyrick noted that the reference to the G. S.160A-148 on page 9 is
27 incorrect since it refers to the powers and duties of the Manager, not the Town Council. Town
28 Attorney Vaughan said he would supply the correct citation.
29

30 **MOVED by Mayor Hice approve the Personnel Policy revisions subject to the correction to be**
31 **provided by Town Attorney Vaughan,** seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. **APPROVED, 5-0.**
32

33 Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany will print out the revised copies.
34

35 *C. Hiring Process for Assistant Town Clerk –*

36 **MOVED BY Councilman Wallace to allow the Mayor and Councilman Wyrick to work with**
37 **Mrs. Carmany to facilitate the process to hire the Assistant Town Clerk,** seconded by Mayor Hice.
38 Councilman Wyrick asked if a second person was really needed due to discussion he had heard and the
39 failure to hire a temporary employee as authorized. Councilwoman Johnson said her question was
40 only about the need for two full-time people. Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that the intent from the
41 beginning was to hire two people and that once the Town Administrator/Clerk had been hired, he/she
42 was to be involved in the hiring process for the assistant. According to the job description for an
43 Administrative Assistant developed by former clerk Diana Schrieber, this position should be 25-30
44 hours per week. Town Hall is open for 32 hours per week, but the salaried Town Administrator/Clerk
45 works the number of hours to get the job done. **APPROVED, 4-1.** (*Yes – Hice, Johnson, Wallace,*
46 *Wyrick; No – Smith*)
47

1 D. *Preliminary Budget Direction to the Town Administrator/Clerk* – Mayor Hice asked
2 councilmembers to look at their calendars to set a night for a budget work session. Councilman
3 Wallace suggested doing it sometime after the May 13 council meeting since Mr. Payne’s worksheet
4 had simplified things. Mayor Hice said she would like to have a public budget hearing prior to the
5 adoption of the budget. Town Attorney Vaughan suggested scheduling the work session for Monday,
6 May 19 at 5:00pm prior to the 7:00pm Zoning Board meeting. Councilmembers should submit their
7 budget requests/directions to the Town Administrator/Clerk no later than April 30 in order to give Mr.
8 Payne and her enough time to gather appropriate information and cost figures.

9
10 **Public Comment**

11 *Alan Marshall of 2318 Carlford* thanked the Town Council on behalf of the citizen of Pleasant Garden
12 for allowing some reasonable control of our government.

13
14 *Jean Greeson of 700 Ritters Lake Road* noted that the sound system is not working well and it is hard
15 for the audience to hear. She thanked Councilwoman Johnson and Mayor Pro Tem Smith for their
16 votes. She asked what the Town Council’s goals are for the next year; the public knows nothing.
17 What do you want to do for this Town and its citizens? In the past, the Town Council always stated
18 goals.

19
20 *Sharon Wright of 6402 Walter Wright Road* thanked Councilman Wallace for his professionalism and
21 perseverance on HB1195 and thanked the Town Council for passing it.

22
23 There were no other persons indicating they wished to speak and Mayor Hice stated the public
24 comment period was closed.

25
26 **Staff Comment**

27 There were no staff comments.

28
29 **Council Comment**

30 *Councilman Wallace* said there should be a welcome added to the beginning of the Town Council
31 meetings instead of waiting until the end. This council is here to perform the people’s business. We
32 do have a land use plan now; whether it is the best one or not, that’s questionable, but at least we have
33 one. He thanked everyone who stayed for the meeting and councilmembers for their participation,
34 saying he thought they had collectively done some good things here tonight.

35
36 *Councilwoman Johnson* stated she wanted to respond to Mrs. Greeson. She ran on reducing taxes if
37 possible and to preserve RS-40/80, noting that she was laughed down when she made the motion to
38 protect those, saying it was impossible to pursue water and sewer on a 2.5-cent tax rate. She
39 referenced an article in the *Pleasant Garden Post* regarding lack of communication and noted that
40 emails concerning the grounds maintenance contract went out to all councilmembers on March 2. She
41 expressed discomfort with some of the rude comments that have been made by councilmembers and
42 the audience and thought them unnecessary.

43
44 *Mayor Hice* said that the Town Council did need to work on the public comment sign-up sheets next
45 time because they are a little confusing; the Town Council also needs to review the procedure for
46 public and council comments. She thanked people for staying. She said she would go along with the
47 majority of council regarding the recall process but felt that many citizens did not understand it. She
48 requested copies of the materials Councilman Wyrick shared with Senator Dorsett.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

Mayor Pro Tem Smith closed with the following quotation: "The person in love with their vision of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community wherever they go."

Councilman Wyrick said he agreed with Councilwoman Johnson's statement about not being able to pursue water and sewer on a 2.5-cent tax rate, but if the decision had been made to pursue it, the tax rate would have been more. Because of the path that has been chosen, there is no need to continue to take money of these people's pockets. He also wants to review the speaker sign-up sheet; this is a procedure that should be addressed by all the Town Council. He noted that the current form is almost identical to Greensboro's and wanted to know why the old form was changed. The new form asks for more information than is needed and would like for us to go back to the old sheet. Mayor Hice asked Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany where the new form came from. She replied that she found it here in the office and used it when the Mayor said the old form needed to be fixed. Councilman Wyrick said that Pleasant Garden does not have lots of departments to which copies would be distributed like in Greensboro.

Councilwoman Johnson added that the issue of the 2.5-cent property tax rate was brought up long before the Land Use Plan was adopted.

Adjournment

MOVED by Councilman Wallace to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. **APPROVED, 5-0**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22pm.

Clerk

Date

Mayor