

Town of Pleasant Garden
Long Range Planning Board
October 16, 2007, 7:00 pm
Kirkman Municipal Building

The next scheduled regular meeting is November 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Attendance

Alan Carroll
Melvin Hinshaw
Donald Jones, Vice Chairman
Alan Marshall
Scott May
Glenn Morgan, Chairman

Also in Attendance

Anne Hice / Council Liaison
Darla Robenolt / Assistant Town Clerk (Part-time)
Diana Schreiber / Town Clerk
Lynn Willis / *Pleasant Garden Post*

Audience

5

Call to order by Chairman Morgan at 7:00 pm
Invocation led by Donald Jones
Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Morgan

Roll Call

Ms. Schreiber called the roll. A quorum was present. Mr. Marshall made a motion to excuse David Lewis. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. **6/0; the motion carried.**

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Morgan indicated that Dr. Rojeski would not be presenting "Water and Sewer Alternatives for Pleasant Garden" as indicated on the agenda. The presentation will be presented at the November 20 meeting. Mr. Marshall made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended. Chairman Morgan seconded the motion. **6/0; the motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Morgan queried the board for any changes to the September 18, 2007 regular minutes. Hearing no changes, Mr. Hinshaw made a motion to approve the September 18, 2007 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. **5/0; the motion carried.** [Mr. Carroll abstained from the vote].

Welcome

Chairman Morgan welcomed all the board members, staff, presenters, and audience to the meeting.

Presentations

None

Unfinished Business

Crime Statistics in Pleasant Garden (Alan Marshall) – Mr. Marshall stated that he was asked to research crime statistics in Pleasant Garden. He pointed out that each board member has a printout of the crime statistics for Pleasant Garden for the period January 1, 2005 through August 31, 2007 in their packet of information (attached). Not all the ‘crimes’ are within the Pleasant Garden town limits, but all are within the immediate area. Mr. Marshall indicated that he had ‘gleaned’ the most accurate information he could, but they’re not 100%. As of January, 2008 the report will show only those calls from within the Pleasant Garden town limits. There were 4,344 calls in that period time from this area. The three (3) page document breaks down each type of call. Mr. Marshall indicated that the town could get this information each month from the Sheriff’s Office. Chairman Morgan asked if the town could start to get the monthly information immediately? Mr. Marshall recommended to start in January 2008 since it would be ‘scrubbed’ to only show actual Town of Pleasant Garden information. Ms. Willis interjected that most of Zone 35 is Pleasant Garden. Zone 36 includes Climax, Julian, etc. You can get information for just zones 35 and 36 broken out by crime type and use the information to do analyses of specific neighborhoods.

Mr. Marshall continued by indicating he had asked the Major about extending law enforcement coverage options in Pleasant Garden:

1. 24/7 coverage
2. 40 hours / week
3. Contract with the county and have similar coverage to what we currently have

The first option (24/7 coverage) is very expensive. Jamestown has five (5) deputies and four (4) fully equipped police cruisers at a cost of \$351,486 / year. Mr. Marshall indicated he didn’t believe Pleasant Garden crimes supported that kind of cost. Chairman Morgan stated that the statistics seem to indicate that Pleasant Garden’s crimes don’t justify paying for our own police force.

The second option (40 hours / week) would be a bit less costly. Stokesdale, for example has an officer for 40 hours a week at an annual cost of \$78,072.

The third option, we currently have.

Mr. Marshall went on to say that the Guilford County Sheriff’s Department is willing to help any way they can. They currently patrol from Rte. 421 to Randleman Road and _____ 24 hours a day. Jamestown’s viable business district does indicate that more protection is needed, but Stokesdale is more like Pleasant Garden. Chairman Morgan asked Mr. Marshall if there was ‘double’ coverage – what they currently have and what they would pay for? Mr. Marshall responded that way probably correct. Council Liaison Hice asked what the maintenance costs are (for vehicles)? Mr. Marshall responded that Guilford County provides the maintenance services under contract at a fixed rate. Chairman Morgan asked Mr. Marshall what Jamestown’s tax rate is? Mr. Marshall answered that he didn’t know. Mr. Carroll stated that the main thing that Pleasant Garden would gain would be an officer within the town limits at all times rather than out patrolling other areas, going to Jamestown for a shift change, etc. Mr. Marshall indicated that Pleasant Garden would most likely get better response time. Mr. Marshall went on to say that an analysis could be done on the data / information we currently have and then determine what the citizens want. Chairman Morgan indicated he feels we’ve got the

research and can use it at a later time. Mr. Marshall went on to say that the 40 hour option could be looked at in a long range plan for 4 to 5 years from now based on getting updated statistics each year so the analysis data can be current and accurate when put to the citizens to make their decision. Council Liaison Hice asked if Guilford County ‘supplies’ the detective? Mr. Marshall responded that they do, but in Jamestown they have their own and use Guilford County as ‘backup’ staff (CSI, etc.).

New Business

None

Public Comment

Chris Johnson – 1700 Sparrow Drive: It’s an interesting statistic that during the period of time from January 1, 2005 through August 31, 2007 that there were over four thousand incidences in Pleasant Garden, of which it seems about 10% were ‘bogus’ 9-1-1 calls. Do we have, or can we get, the current / average response times on calls?

Mark Wilcox – 2503 Ridge Point Circle: It seems the overwhelming theme here is response time. I’d like to see the ‘source’ of the crime – where is it coming from? I’d like to look at programs in the community to reduce crimes committed by those above ‘soccer’ age. Let’s try to take a look at ways we can reduce the money needed for police protection.

Discussion took place: Mr. Marshall discussed the statistics of various calls in relation to the type of crime committed. Mr. Jones indicated that Pleasant Garden currently has no ordinance against firearms and further indicated “lots of folks hunt”.

Chairman Morgan indicated that unless there was further comment from the public the Public Comment part of the agenda was closed.

Staff Comment

Town Clerk Schreiber indicated that she had included information in the board’s packet from the city of Trinity who hired a police officer. Ms. Schreiber asked the board members to refer to the Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services (attached) as a sample to show there was a salary paid to the county and then the county handled all the other duties – hiring, payroll, etc. The Sheriff’s deputy was at the Trinity facility during the assigned time periods and would investigate and take appointments with citizens. I would like to do some more research on response times and maybe on elderly / senior 9-1-1 uses, etc. Council Liaison Hice indicated to Ms. Schreiber that her research on response times could possibly be directed to Lt. Hamilton for his help and input. Ms. Schreiber reminded the LRP board that Lt. Hamilton was currently scheduled to present to the November 13 Town Council and could possibly provide some response time information then.

Board Comment

Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Marshall for researching and providing the board with this information. Mr. Jones went on to comment that Pleasant Garden probably has the best ‘crime’ statistics in the county. Chairman Morgan also thanked Mr. Marshall for the information he provided.

Adjournment

Mr. Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Morgan seconded the motion. **6/0; the motion carried** and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Clerk

Date

Chair