

1 of the Open Meetings Law, making the consideration of those items improper and out of order. He
2 questioned specific provisions in the proposed contract.
3

4 Councilman Wallace said he concurred with Councilman Wyrick. Councilwoman Johnson noted that
5 both gentleman were aware of the Closed Session and chose not to attend. Councilman Wyrick
6 responded he did not participate in the interview process but intended to participate in the selection
7 process. He referred to a town policy adopted on May 14, 2004 governing the actions of board
8 members and read from a draft the Town of Pleasant Garden's ethics ordinance addressing the
9 appropriate conduct of town officials.
10

11 **The substitute motion to remove items 7 and 8 from the agenda was DEFEATED 2-3.** (*Yes –*
12 *Wallace and Wyrick; No -- Hice, Johnson, Smith*)
13

14 **The original motion to approve the agenda as written was APPROVED 3-2.** (*Yes –Hice,*
15 *Johnson, and Smith; No – Wallace and Wyrick*)
16

17 **MOVED by Councilman Wyrick to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing**
18 **personnel issues.** Mayor Hice ruled the motion out of order since the agenda was now approved and
19 did not include a Closed Session on it.
20

21 **MOVED by Councilman Wyrick to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel issues.**
22 **DEFEATED 3-2.** (*Yes – Wallace and Wyrick; No – Hice, Johnson, and Smith*)
23

24 **Approval of Contract/appointment of Town Attorney**

25 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to approve the contract for the position of Town Attorney for the law**
26 **firm of Frazier, Hill and Fury with William Hill being the primary attorney for the Town of**
27 **Pleasant Garden, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Smith.** Councilman Wyrick asked who
28 negotiated the proposed contract, and Mayor Hice responded that she did so under the authority of
29 the Mayor after the interview process was completed. There was discussion as to whether this was
30 in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Councilman Wallace said the process was not
31 transparent and he would not support hiring Mr. Hill because he supported Mr. Vaughan. However
32 he would work with Mr. Hill if he was selected. Councilman Wyrick echoed those comments and
33 noted this was a matter of bad process. **APPROVED 3-2** (*Yes -- Hice, Johnson, and Smith; No –*
34 *Wallace and Wyrick*)
35

36 **Change to the Monthly Meeting Schedule of the Town Council**

37 Mayor Hice explained that Mr. Hill is also the Town Attorney for the Town of Summerfield. That
38 council also meets on the second Tuesday of the month, creating a schedule conflict for Mr. Hill.
39

40 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to accept the change to the regular monthly meeting schedule for the**
41 **Town Council moving it from the second Tuesday to the first Tuesday of each month for the**
42 **Town of Pleasant Garden, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.** Councilman Wyrick objected
43 to changing the structure of the town's meetings. Councilman Wallace said most business people do
44 not change their schedules to accommodate a contractor; he congratulated Mr. Hill and welcomed
45 him to Pleasant Garden. **APPROVED 3-2** (*Yes -- Hice, Johnson, and Smith; No – Wallace and*
46 *Wyrick*)
47

48 Mr. Hill moved to the staff table and began serving as the Town Attorney.

1 **Public Hearing on the proposed amendment to the Town Charter regarding the election of**
2 **members of the Town Council**

3 Mayor Hice read the procedure for the conduct of the public hearing. She explained the intent to
4 change the election cycle of councilmembers so that two would be elected for a four-year term at
5 each municipal election.

6
7 The current language in the ordinance read as follows:

8 **Section 3-3. Term of Office of Council Members.**

9 Members of the Council are elected to four-year terms. In 1999, five members shall be elected to the
10 Council. The three members receiving the highest number of votes shall serve four-year terms. The
11 two receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve two-year terms. In 2001, and
12 quadrennially thereafter, two members shall be elected to the Council. In 2003, and quadrennially
13 thereafter, three members shall be elected to the Council.

14
15 The proposed language for the ordinance read as follows:

16 **Section 3-3. Term of Office of Council Members.**

17 Members of the Council are elected to four-year terms. In 2011, three members shall be elected to
18 the Council. The two members receiving the highest number of votes shall serve four-year terms.
19 The one receiving the third highest number of votes shall serve a two-year term. In 2013, and
20 biennially thereafter, two members shall be elected to the Council to serve four-year terms.

21
22 There were no speakers in favor of the change. There were no speakers against the change.

23
24 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to close the public hearing.** In response to a question, Town Attorney
25 Hill said all the statutory requirements for the public hearing had been met. **APPROVED 5-0**

26
27 **Consent Agenda**

28 Mayor Hice reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the minutes
29 of the February 3, 2009 Public Input Meeting on the 2009-10 Budget, the February 10, 2009
30 Regular Meeting, the February 17, 2009 Special Meeting, and the February 17, 2009 Closed Session.

31
32 Councilman Wallace said there was an error on page 6, line 29 of the February 10, 2009 Regular
33 Meeting minutes because he did not make the motion to approve the resolution on the Jordan Lake
34 Rules. Councilmembers agreed to vote on each set of minutes separately.

35
36 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2009 Public Input Meeting**
37 **on the 2009-10 Budget. APPROVED 5-0**

38
39 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2009 regular meeting.**
40 **APPROVED 5-0**

41
42 Councilman Wallace asked if the change to the February 10 minutes was included in that motion.
43 Town Attorney Hill advised this approval should be tabled until the clerk can check on the problem.

44
45 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to rescind the motion approving the minutes of the February 10, 2009**
46 **Regular Meeting. APPROVED 5-0**

1 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to table the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Regular Meeting until**
2 **the April meeting. APPROVED 5-0**

3
4 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2009 Special Meeting.**
5 **APPROVED 5-0**

6
7 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2009 Closed Session.**
8 **APPROVED 5-0**

9
10 **Presentation**

11 *Overview of Guilford County Sheriff's Department District 3 and Pleasant Garden crime statistics:*
12 Mayor Hice introduced Captain S.C. Collins who is the commander for District 3. Captain Collins
13 presented information about the size of the district, the 32 officers who work in the district, statistics
14 relevant to the Town of Pleasant Garden such as the number of calls and response times, and how
15 those statistics are used to determine work assignments. A copy of his presentation is attached.

16
17 Mayor Hice spoke about the Community Watch program held at Town Hall the previous night and
18 the second one scheduled for March 23 at 7:00pm. She said she was participating in the Citizens
19 Academy class and encouraged other interested citizens to sign up for it next year.

20
21 **Public Comment**

22 Mayor Hice reviewed the guidelines for the public comment period.

23
24 *Eddy Patterson of 6009 Spring Forest Court* said he was a member of the board of the Pleasant
25 Garden Heritage and Preservation Committee that created the veterans memorial in front of Town
26 Hall dedicated last May. They would like to hold a follow-up ceremony near Memorial Day on
27 Sunday, May 24 beginning at 2:00pm. The event would have a guest speaker and music but would
28 be on a smaller scale. The Committee would like to use portions of Town Hall for that event and
29 have someone available to let them in the building. He requested immediate discussion on the issue.
30 Town Attorney Hill advised this item was not on the agenda and should be addressed under the
31 council comments section of the agenda.

32
33 *Dianne Kuhn of 6384 Walter Wright Road* spoke about who is allowed to serve on town boards and
34 committees. She agreed with background checks but had concerns about the residency requirement.
35 She asked if the Town Council had considered setting a certain minimum percentage for residents
36 and allowing otherwise qualified non-residents to participate as well. She did not think having to be
37 a registered voter was a necessary requirement. Ms. Kuhn expressed embarrassment about the
38 political infighting and bickering she had witnessed at meetings. She shared a quote about absolute
39 power corrupting absolutely.

40
41 *Bill Wright of 6402 Walter Wright Road* expressed concern about the budget revenue numbers such
42 as the sales tax. He recalled the actions of former Governor Easley who withheld sales tax revenue
43 from local governments during the last economic downturn. Governor Perdue has already taken \$88
44 million from the education lottery fund and \$100 million from the Clean Water Management Trust
45 Fund to run the state through the end of the fiscal year. Other areas are going to be hit to address the
46 state's \$2.2 billion budget shortfall. There has been some chatter in the General Assembly about
47 withholding the sales tax again. He urged the Town Council to take a conservative approach and
48 adjust revenue projections for the budget downward to avoid an unpleasant surprise in the future.

1 Alan Marshall of 2318 Carlford Road asked the new attorney if the actions taken by the Town
2 Council up to this point would stand up to an investigation by the State Attorney General's office in
3 regard to the Open Meetings Law.
4

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

8 Reports

9 A. *Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany* presented the monthly report (*copy attached*) that included a
10 memo from Randy Billings of the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments regarding a meeting with
11 DENR Secretary Dee Freeman and his staff on the Jordan Lake Rules. Efforts are moving forward
12 on a compromise solution; affected local governments will be given the opportunity to accept or
13 reject the proposed compromise once it is drafted. A sugar maple donated to the Town by PTCOG
14 in observance of its 40th anniversary was planted by the Mayor in the butterfly garden. The
15 newsletter was mailed last week.
16

17 There are approximately 576 youth registered for the spring soccer program with a large number of
18 those registering onsite the past Saturday. Mrs. Carmany has been working with Brent Lewis to
19 prepare for the season and everything seems to be under control and moving forward.
20

21 Mrs. Carmany attended a meeting with the NCLM Risk Management program to receive information
22 on the projected rates for medical, liability and workers compensation insurance rates in the coming
23 year. Efforts are being made to keep increases to a minimum, but most of the rates are expected to
24 rise.
25

26 Mayor Hice noted there was a problem with the projection screen that is going to require
27 maintenance work.
28

29 A budget work session has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00pm to set general directions
30 for the 2009-10 budget. Mrs. Carmany noted that Mr. Wright's earlier comments were right on
31 target. Two requests for funding from community organizations have been received; the submission
32 deadline is March 31.
33

34 B. *Financial/Budget*: Finance Officer Carmany presented the financial report for the period ending
35 February 28, 2009 (*copy attached*). The General Fund had a balance of \$1,097,827 and the Capital
36 Reserve Fund had a balance of \$1,875,233 for a total of \$2,973,060. She reminded the council of the
37 need to designate the use of the Capital Reserve Fund for both the current fiscal year and 2009-10.
38 Mrs. Carmany reviewed the Check Register and the Budget vs. Actual report with nothing unusual to
39 report.
40

41 Mrs. Carmany presented an updated report on the cable and franchise utilities tax revenues. She had
42 expressed concern at the last council meeting that Mr. Payne and she may have double-counted the
43 projected cable TV franchise revenues in the budget. Mr. Payne checked on this and found that was
44 not the case. After breaking the cable tax revenues out separately, those projections were right on
45 target. However, the franchise utility tax revenues were down significantly in the natural gas
46 category because Hanson Brick has ceased their brick production operations and are not using their
47 kilns that burn natural gas. The projected \$20,000-25,000 revenue shortfall is due to the resulting
48 lower natural gas franchise collections, not the cable TV franchise taxes.

1 Property tax revenues are doing well at slightly over 100% of the projected amount. Soccer
2 registration fees will likely exceed the number projected in the budget. There are about 20 paid
3 sponsorships at this point; several former sponsors are unable to participate this year to the economic
4 crisis.

5
6 Mrs. Carmany referred to an additional chart that tracked sales tax revenue collections. The monthly
7 figures have on a downward trend between July 1, 2008 and the present. She reminded
8 councilmembers that the sales tax revenues will be lower in 2009-10 because the distribution
9 formula is based on the Town's property tax that was cut in half for 2008-09.

10
11 *C. Legal Update:* William Hill introduced himself and the law firm of Frazier, Hill and Fury. He
12 offered to address any of the questions that had been raised. He has been the Summerfield town
13 attorney for 3.5 years. Mr. Hill has defended lawsuits against municipalities and is a former police
14 officer. He stated he was there to do the best job he could for the Town.

15
16 Councilman Wallace inquired about the Jordan Lake Rules. Town Attorney Hill responded things
17 are changing daily on this issue with three bills already introduced in the General Assembly, one of
18 which is a solid compromise sponsored by Senator Vaughan. It eliminates a provision that would
19 force local governments to buy back land in developed areas in order to comply with watershed
20 rules, a requirement he noted as a back breaker and a bank breaker. It is unlikely the rules will be
21 totally eliminated. Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany informed the council that Warren Simmons
22 of the Guilford County Planning and Development Department who had assisted the Town with
23 stormwater issues was no longer with the county due to the recent cuts in county staff.

24
25 *D. Recreation Board:* Recreation Board Chairman Steve Brandt reported that the entire Recreation
26 Board was present at the meeting. The Board met on February 24 and addressed several issues.

27
28 The Independence Day celebration will be held on Saturday, June 27 in partnership with the Pleasant
29 Garden Community Center; live entertainment is being pursued. Zambelli Fireworks submitted a
30 RFP for the fireworks display as requested; the firm has worked well with the Town and Pleasant
31 Garden Fire Department in the past and the Board saw no need to seek further proposals. Zambelli
32 offered the same amount of fireworks at last year's price of \$3,200 and an option for an enhanced
33 display at \$3,500.

34
35 **MOVED by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve the contract in the amount of \$3,500 with**
36 **Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Inc. with the Town named as an additional insured on the**
37 **contract, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Approved 5-0**

38
39 Chairman Brandt stated that the fall Litter Sweep was less than successful with only two members of
40 the Recreation Board showing up. Since participation in this program was begun by the Town
41 Council, the Recreation Board would like to give it back to the Town Council for oversight purposes.
42 Mayor Hice responded that the Recreation Board did initiate the first one as shown by documents
43 signed by John Furlough who was Recreation Board chairman at the time.

44
45 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to table this issue until the April meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro**
46 **Tem Smith. APPROVED 5-0**

47

1 Chairman Brandt noted that Mayor Pro Tem Smith suggested at the last council meeting that the
2 Town Council should handle the Farmers' Market, and the Recreation Board unanimously agreed
3 with that recommendation. Mayor Pro Tem Smith said it would be appropriate for Town
4 Administrator/Clerk Carmany and Assistant Clerk Baker to discuss how they could handle this and
5 present a plan at next month's meeting on how they would handle this; Mayor Hice and she
6 volunteered to assist with this. Action was delayed on this item until the April meeting.

7
8 Chairman Brandt reported that Veterans Appreciation Day will be held on November 8. The 2008
9 event was a huge success held at the Pleasant Garden Fire Department. Chief Tommy Cole offered
10 to permanently host the event. The Recreation Board voted to accept Mr. Cole's invitation for the
11 foreseeable future and to ask Mary Ann Yow to chair the event again. Mayor Hice asked that the
12 event be extended to move the big wreath to the Veterans Memorial with an official ceremony. Ms.
13 Yow should complete the volunteer application form for a background check. Action was delayed on
14 these items until the April meeting.

15
16 Chairman Brandt said that planning had already begun on Pet Day, the canine demonstration is
17 already booked and some vendors have already committed to participate. Former resident Pat Odom
18 has agreed to work on the committee; the Recreation Board recommended appointment of Ms. Odom
19 to the committee even though she is not a resident. Mayor Pro Tem Smith said the residency
20 requirement policies have been place a very long time; nothing had changed except voter registration
21 had to be in Pleasant Garden instead of elsewhere. Ms. Odom could serve as a volunteer consultant
22 and advise Assistant Clerk Baker in the planning; other persons might be interested in volunteering.
23 Mayor Hice said Pet Day was for inserting ID chips, giving rabies shots, and offering animals for
24 adoption in addition to the fun contests.

25
26 Stephen Bliss resigned from the Board due to personal health reasons. The Recreation Board is
27 looking at bringing back the 5K run and a dog walk in addition to other possible activities.

28
29 *E. Healthy Living Committee:* Mayor Hice reported that the committee did not meet on March 9 as
30 planned due to the snow that day. The meeting has been rescheduled for March 23 at 5:30pm to get
31 the committee organized. Recent health efforts have focused on education and prevention.

32
33 *F. One City, One Book Committee:* Mayor Pro Tem Smith announced the committee selected the
34 theme of "Reading Grows Community" at their February 27 meeting. They are beginning to plan
35 activities that include an event on Sunday, May 3 with author Tommy Hays and musicians; the
36 projected budget is \$1,500-2,000 that could be taken from the unused Community Surveys line item
37 in the budget. Approximately 30 books are already out in the community, and there are plans to
38 involve churches and other core leaders in the community. The next meeting is scheduled for March
39 20 at 1:00pm.

40
41 **MOVED by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,500 from line item**
42 **5515.00 Community Surveys for this event, seconded by Mayor Hice.** There was extensive
43 discussion about the number of participants, the cost of the proposed event compared with other
44 Town events and programs, activities and topics to be included in the event, the target audience and
45 community outreach, the potential for an eventual library in the town, other possible funding sources,
46 the timing of the event, the current financial situation, and the overall objective of the project.
47 Mayor Pro Tem Smith said the committee would be pursuing sponsors and the entire amount of the

1 town's money might not be needed. **APPROVED 4-1** (*Yes – Hice, Johnson, Smith and Wallace; No*
2 *– Wyrick*)

3 *G. Piedmont Triad Council of Governments:* Mayor Hice explained that the PTCOG highlights a
4 member government at each of the delegate meetings and Pleasant Garden was the featured town at
5 the February meeting. Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany shared the PowerPoint presentation from
6 that meeting that was prepared by Paul Kron with credits to Martha Jo Jones for some of the
7 photographs.

8
9 *H. Solid Waste Committee/E-cycling Event:* Mayor Hice announced that Susan Heim would attend
10 the April council meeting to present the revised solid waste plan for the Town Council's adoption. A
11 draft of the plan is available on the Town website and the county will hold a public hearing on March
12 16. The E-cycling event open to all Guilford County residents will be held at Town Hall on March
13 14 despite the predicted heavy rain. The Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Department, county and town
14 staff, and volunteers will be assisting in the collection of anything that contains a computer chip or
15 circuit board. She urged citizens to participate.

16 **Old Business**

17 Town Attorney Hill advised this would be the appropriate place on the agenda to consider Mr.
18 Patterson's request to use Town Hall for the Memorial Day event if the Town Council had dealt with
19 this issue in the past.
20

21
22 **MOVED by Councilman Wallace to allow the Heritage and Preservation Committee to utilize**
23 **the facilities on May 24 for the Memorial Day event, seconded by Councilman Wyrick.**

24 **APPROVED 5-0**

25
26 Mayor Hice and Councilman Wyrick volunteered to assist and open the building the day of the
27 event. Mayor Hice asked Mr. Patterson to provide a follow-up letter and work with Town
28 Administrator/Clerk Carmany to get things set up and make sure fire code regulations are observed.
29

30 **New Business**

31 *A. Contract for the 2009 soccer camp:* Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany said there could be a
32 problem with the June 15-19 dates for the camp because Guilford County Schools scheduled a snow
33 make-up date on June 15. She suggested that the Town Council approve the agreement without
34 specific dates to allow the Carolina Dynamo the flexibility to select the appropriate dates.
35

36 **MOVED by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve the proposal for the Carolina Dynamo to**
37 **conduct a soccer camp on the Town's soccer fields contingent on Town Attorney Hill's review**
38 **of the liability insurance certificate, seconded by Mayor Hice. APPROVED 5-0**
39

40 *B. Speed limit on Appomattox Road from Neelley Road to Rosswood Road:* Councilman Wallace
41 said people do not follow the new speed limit on Appomattox Road. It is very annoying to drive
42 35mph through the area all the time when the intent was to slow down traffic during school hours.
43 He would like for Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany to follow up with NCDOT to change the
44 speed limit back to 45mph except during normal school hours.
45

46 Mayor Hice asked who initiated the original change and if the school had been contacted.
47 Councilman Wallace responded he did not know and he had not spoken with anyone at the school
48 about this. Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany was directed to follow up with Mrs. Matthews at the

1 school and Lane Hall at NCDOT and report back at the next council meeting.

2

3 *C. Request to attend NLC Congressional Cities Conference:* Councilman Wallace said he did not
4 realize this was going to be such a big issue but would entertain any questions anyone had.

5 **MOVED by Councilwoman Johnson to transfer \$750 from line item 5420.00 Council Meeting**
6 **Expense to line item 5416.00 Council Continuing Education, leaving a balance in Council**
7 **Meeting Expense of \$480.97. The new total for line item 5416.00 Council Continuing Education**
8 **would become \$1,304.50 and this amount shall be divided by five, thereby establishing**
9 **individual continuing education line items for each council person in the amount of \$260.90 for**
10 **the remainder of the 2008-09 fiscal year, seconded by Mayor Hice.** Town Attorney Hill advised
11 a motion to amend the budget was not appropriate because it was not related to the agenda item
12 under discussion. Councilwoman Johnson withdrew her motion.

13

14 There was extensive discussion about the proper procedure for councilmembers to register for
15 conferences and workshops, specific uses of the Continuing Education line item, the benefits of
16 attending conferences, councilmembers' participation in retreats and other Town activities, and
17 councilmembers' expenses for other workshops and conferences.

18

19 **MOVED by Councilwoman Johnson that the \$360 registration fee for Mr. Wallace to attend**
20 **the conference be taken out of the Continuing Education line item, seconded by Mayor Hice.**
21 Councilman Wyrick asked if this would cover mileage expense, and the response was no. **Approved**
22 **5-0**

23

24 **MOVED by Councilman Wyrick to transfer \$636.60 from 5510.01 Movers & Shakers-Facility**
25 **to Council Travel and Expenses, leaving a balance of \$1,000 in the Movers & Shakers line**
26 **item, seconded by Mayor Hice.** Mayor Hice asked why this amount and Councilman Wyrick
27 responded there would be money left to cover other councilmembers' travel if needed. **APPROVED**
28 **4-1 (Yes – Hice, Johnson, Wallace and Wyrick; No – Smith)**

29

30 *D. Crime Stoppers request:* Mayor Hice reported Sheriff Barnes sent a letter to Guilford County
31 mayors requesting contributions to the Crime Stoppers budget that depends on donations. She has
32 been invited to join the Crime Stoppers board and provided information from that morning's
33 meeting. Mayor Hice gave Crime Stoppers the funding request application to complete and submit
34 to the Town for consideration for funding.

35

36 *E. Red Cross breakfast:* Lu Johnson of the American Red Cross asked if the Town of Pleasant
37 Garden would sponsor a table of nine at the upcoming "Ask Event" at 7:30am on Thursday, April 2.
38 There is no charge to do so, but donations will be solicited. She asked if councilmembers and
39 members of the Pleasant Garden Lions Club who participated with the Blood Drive would be able to
40 attend.

41

42 **Moved by Mayor Hice to get a table for nine, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Smith.**
43 **APPROVED 5-0**

44

45 **Discussion**

46 *Town policy for newspaper advertising:* Councilman Wyrick said there was a concept that there was
47 a problem having two publications in the area. He noticed that the Town paid for an E-cycling event

1 in *Southeast Lifestyle* but not in the *Pleasant Garden Post*. He questioned why it was done this way.
2 A policy adopted in November 13, 1997 directed that legal notices be published in the *News &*
3 *Record* and the *Pleasant Garden Post*. Placement of advertising should be done in the manner where
4 it will get the best results, The *Post's* distribution numbers appear to more. He asked if the Town
5 was acting responsibly and if a policy was needed.

6
7 Mayor Hice cited the amounts already paid to the *News & Record* and the *Pleasant Garden Post* in
8 the current fiscal year and noted the Town graciously supports the Post with motion tally and
9 meeting notices ads. She supported a new local business by having the ad placed in *Southeast*
10 *Lifestyle*. Mayor Hice noted that the *Pleasant Garden Post* is not a newspaper of record to qualify for
11 the publication of legal notices.

12
13 **MOVED by Mayor Hice that while the Town Council is working on the budget for next year to**
14 **clarify and make an advertising policy for the Town as far as newspapers are concerned,**
15 **seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Smith. APPROVED 5-0**

16
17 **Public Comment**

18 Mayor Hice read the guidelines for the public comment period.

19
20 *Steve Brandt of 6384 Walter Wright Road* said advertising has a direct impact on the Recreation
21 Board publicizing their events. He offered his consulting expertise with 40 years in his career
22 regarding advertising. He requested that the Recreation Board have a separate line item in its budget
23 for advertising.

24
25 *Bill Wright of 6402 Walter Wright Road* encouraged the Town Council to vigorously oppose the
26 Jordan Lake Rules and not settle for a compromise. The retrofitting requirement will break the backs
27 of small towns. The rules were not legislatively driven but were developed by staff of DENR with
28 no concept of the costs. Street sweeping and restrictions on fertilizer application will be required
29 along with other programs that will drive up property tax rates.

30
31 *Martha Jo Jones of 6815 Branson Mill Road* thanked the members of the Recreation Board for their
32 attendance. She felt members of all Town boards should attend Town Council meetings. She asked
33 if the public was aware of the Request for Funding application forms. Mayor Hice responded the
34 forms were publicized at the February 3 budget input meeting.

35
36 *Ron Surgeon of 6806 Rustic Wood Court* said he was a little disturbed about not understanding the
37 importance of including other people and using the resources available to us. He witnessed some
38 finagling with language this evening to allow a volunteer to serve. Networking is very important so
39 get rid of the box and understand the importance of including people. We don't have all the answers
40 here in our Utopia of Pleasant Garden. Show other municipalities that we are willing to include
41 them.

42
43 *Alan Marshall of 2318 Carlford Road* said that the town ordinances specify boards, not committees.
44 This is a goofy policy that should be rescinded immediately. He found it interesting the Town
45 Council was willing to pay \$1,000 for author to read his book, but we can't give money to a
46 councilmember to attend professional development.

47
48 *Marty Heim of 7200 Wade-Hackett Court* said she was speaking for the newspaper *Southeast*

1 *Lifestyle*. They are printing 3,500 copies, but their readership is empowered with over 5000 readers
2 a month online. She thanked the council for the E-cycling ad and said she supported that event.
3

4 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to close the public comment period, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem**
5 **Smith. APPROVED 5-0**

6
7 **Staff Comment**

8 None
9

10 **Council Comment**

11 *Councilman Wallace* thanked everyone for coming and staying. He encouraged everyone to attend
12 the Memorial Day Service. The Town Council just translated “committee members” into
13 “volunteers” and he suggested a discussion about people outside our borders who could benefit us.
14 Councilman Wallace will be talking to members of Congress about HB45 next Wednesday when he
15 is in Washington. It requires the registration of any weapons with a federal agency; the Supreme
16 Court recently ruled that anyone convicted of domestic violence offenders can no longer own any
17 type of firearms. There is no one on this council he dislikes. Councilmembers have political
18 differences but his are not personal. He considers all to be intelligent and has not questioned anyone
19 else’s intelligence or ability.
20

21 *Councilwoman Johnson* thanked everyone for coming and staying so late. The meeting was
22 productive. She welcomed Mr. Hill and noted he was already keeping the council on track. She
23 expressed appreciation for the work performed by Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany and Assistant
24 Clerk Baker.

25 *Councilman Wyrick* welcomed Mr. Hill aboard and said he was looking forward to working with
26 him. He stated he was appalled and ashamed of how Don Vaughan was treated. No one called to let
27 him know he was not the candidate, and that was unprofessional. The town is being run by three
28 people; he didn’t know what their personal agendas are, but it is not a positive thing for the Town. .
29 It is a slap in the face of citizens to ignore open meetings laws and due process and to exclude
30 elected councilmembers from decision-making. At the last retreat said he wanted to build a new
31 bridge, but that deteriorated quickly and there is no communication. He has asked to receive copies
32 of every memo, fax etc. that comes into the Town and has learned new information because of that.
33 His goal is to do the best job he can for the people who elected him.
34

35 *Mayor Pro Tem Smith* said that request for information overburdens the staff. She copies things to
36 Town Administrator/Clerk Carmany that is town business. She came up with information as a result
37 of a public information request showing how council money is spent for councilmembers. The line
38 items attributed to Councilman Wallace for his trip to Charlotte and Ballentine equates to 50% of the
39 total budget in those categories. Mayor Hice went to New Bern; the amount she spent equates to
40 7%. For the upcoming budget work session on March 31, she asked the Finance Officer to combine
41 the continuing education line item with the travel and expense line item to create non-transferable
42 individual councilmember accounts. Everyone would have an account for travel and continuing
43 education under this newly grouped line item. This will allow each councilmember to attend town-
44 related conferences and workshops that he/she chooses. She asked that a draft policy be prepared
45 and include the procedure to be followed if a travel moratorium becomes necessary.
46

1 *Mayor Hice* read shared the 1996 petition for the incorporation of Pleasant Garden. Stated reasons
2 for incorporation included preserving Pleasant Garden as an entity and its rich history, putting in
3 place the Town’s planning and zoning ordinance, giving Pleasant Garden statutory force in Guilford
4 County, and providing increased emergency services for the people of Pleasant Garden.
5

6 **Adjournment**

7 **MOVED by Mayor Hice to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.**

8 **APPROVED 5-0**

9
10 The meeting was adjourned at 10:36pm.
11
12
13
14

15 _____
16 Clerk

_____ Date

17
18
19
20
21 _____
22 Mayor