



Troy R. Bivens
Mayor

Chief Stephen Watkins
Gaston Police Dept.

Jennifer Hoyt
Town Clerk

Town of Gaston
131 North Carlisle St.
P.O. Box 429
Gaston, SC 29053
PH: (803) 796-7725
Fax: (803) 739-5793

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Cook
Carol McCombs
Jimmy Cox
Charles Sharpe

Steve Martin
Building Official

**TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bivens called the meeting to order. Councilman Cox opened the meeting with prayer. Mayor Bivens initiated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman McCombs motioned to accept the December 3, 2024 minutes. Councilman Cox seconded the motion.

III. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Watkins gave an update on the Police Department activities.

IV. BUILDING OFFICIAL'S REPORT

An update on open permits and business licenses were given to Council.

V. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM (Town Citizens can speak up to 3 minutes)

No one signed up to speak.

VI. CLOSE PUBLIC FORUM

Councilwoman McCombs motioned to close the public forum. Councilman Cox seconded the motion.

VII. OPENING STATEMENT (Information from Mayor and Council)

- Agendas and sign up sheets were located at the front door.
- Council discussed Ripple Fiber coming into the town limits. Councilwoman McCombs and Councilman Cox voted against it. Councilman Sharpe and Councilman Cook voted for it. Mayor Bivens will need to check into the legalities on a split vote. A special public meeting was held on January 10, 2025 where Council voted to accept Ripple Fiber into the town limits.

- A new LED Town Sign was discussed by Council. Councilman Cook proposed the purchase of property on Hwy 321 to place the sign. A special public meeting was held on January 10, 2025 where Council voted to the purchase of property at 121 S. Main Street for the amount of \$20,000.
- Discussion of new Planning & Zoning Members was addressed. Council decided to have letters sent to all registered voters in the town limits asking for volunteers for the committees. Letters were sent by the Town Clerk. Received one message about wanting more information. The phone call was returned and no response.
- Councilman Cook is going to look into the price, etc. of a projector and screen for the court room.
- Election for Mayor and Councilmember positions will be held January 21, 2025.
- Financial update reports – Sherry presented financials for November, 2024
- Assignments for Council (Updates):
 - Councilman Cook – Wanted to thank Councilwoman McCombs for hosting the Christmas Party for Employees, Council and P&Z members. Storage closet in the Mayor’s office is complete. Lavern Helms will check the underground electrical wiring from the Town Hall building to the sign by the road. Jennifer called 811 for companies to mark where underground wiring, etc. may be before digging.
 - Councilwoman McCombs – Met with the Gaston Librarian with new ideas for end of school. Grand opening at the Bakery on Meadowfield.
 - Councilman Sharpe – Nothing new to report.
 - Councilman Cox – Wanted to know what could be done with problems going on behind Dollar General. Chief Watkins has posted no trespassing and has been patrolling the area.

VIII. CLOSE STATEMENT

Councilwoman McCombs motioned to close the opening statement. Councilman Cox seconded the motion.

XI. ADJOURN

Councilman Cox motioned to adjourn. Councilwoman McCombs seconded the motion.