



Troy R. Bivens
Mayor

Chief Stephen Watkins
Gaston Police Dept.

Jennifer Hoyt
Town Clerk

Town of Gaston
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COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Cook
Carol McCombs
Jimmy Cox
Charles Sharpe

Steve Martin
Building Official

**TOWN MEETING
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Cox opened the meeting with prayer. Ryan McCabe swore in Troy Bivens as the re-elected Mayor of the Town of Gaston. Mayor Bivens swore in Carol McCombs and Mike Cook as the re-elected Councilmembers for the Town of Gaston. Mayor Bivens initiated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman McCombs motioned to accept the amended January 7, 2025 minutes. (from Mayor Bivens checking on the legalities on a split vote concerning Ripple Fiber to checking on the legalities on refusing Ripple Fiber service.) Councilman Cox seconded the motion.

III. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Watkins gave an update on the Police Department activities. He also thanked Councilman Cook for having Lavern Helms complete the kitchen at the Police Department.

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.
- A request by Efrain Sanchez for rezoning property at 1210 Mack Street from R1 Single Family Residential to GC General Commercial was discussed. He is wanting to build a business

to sell boots, horse supplies, etc. Councilmembers Cook and Sharpe voted in favor for rezoning. Councilmembers McCombs and Cox voted against it. Mayor Bivens broke the tie and voted for rezoning the property.

- Council discussed possibly getting a tv monitor instead of a projector to hang on the wall of the Courtroom.
- A reinspection fee was discussed for Steve Martin (Building Official). The rate after 2nd inspection would be \$50.00 per inspection. Councilwoman McCombs motioned to approve the rate. Councilman Cox seconded the motion.
- Financial update reports – Sherry presented financials for December, 2024
- Assignments for Council (Updates):
 - Councilman Cook – Would like to have the company that the digital sign by the park was purchased from to repair it and possibly have it remounted facing North Carlisle Street. Cameras need to be reinstalled at Town Hall.
 - Councilwoman McCombs – Asked for an update on the letters mailed out to registered voters in the Town of Gaston requesting volunteers to join the Planning and Zoning committees. Had one person call asking about it, but nothing after that. There will be a meeting for the “Friends of the Gaston Library” on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 3pm.
 - Councilman Sharpe – Nothing new to report.
 - Councilman Cox – The side of the roads on Fiddlers Lane and Magnice Avenue are overgrown with trees that need to be cut back. A work order was done by Jennifer with SCDOT. They maintain Magnice, but not Fiddlers.

VIII. CLOSE STATEMENT

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

IX. ADJOURN

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