

**GASTONIA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 3, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**SPINDLE CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL – GASTONIA, NC**

Mayor Richard Franks called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, in the Spindle Conference Room, at City Hall, 181 S. South Street, Gastonia, North Carolina. Ms. Candice Owenby, Deputy City Clerk, recorded the minutes.

PRESENT: Mayor Richard Franks  
Mayor Pro Tem David Kirlin  
Council Members: Demetri Koutsoupas  
James Gallagher  
Cheryl Littlejohn  
Jennifer M. Stepp  
Donyel Barber  
City Manager Michael C. Peoples  
City Attorney Eric Edgerton

ABSENT: None

**CITIZEN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT DISCUSSION**

The Mayor and Council Members discussed the upcoming Citizen Committee appointments with June 30, 2025 expiring terms and voted on the following nominations:

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

Ward I - Octavia Perry  
Ward II - Jimmy Poole

The Council voted to reappoint Ms. Octavia Perry and Mr. Jimmy Poole, which was approved unanimously.

**AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Short-term Tenant - Carl Murphy  
Stanley Aero Club - Michael Harrington  
At-large Member #2 – Richard Gilmore (Mayoral Appointment)

The Council voted to appoint Mr. Richard Gilmore to the At-large Member #2 seat and reappoint Mr. Carl Murphy and Mr. Michael Harrington, which was approved unanimously.

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 3, 2025****ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD**

Keith Tidwell

Melvin Burris

Mayor Franks nominated Mr. James Currence.

The Council voted to reappoint Mr. Keith Tidwell, which was approved 5 – 2 with Councilman Gallagher and Councilwoman Littlejohn opposing.

The Council voted to reappoint Mr. Melvin Burris, which was approved 6 - 1 with Mayor Franks opposing.

**ARTS COMMITTEE**

At Large Seat - Mark Epstein (Mayoral Appointment)

The Council voted to reappoint Dr. Mark Epstein, which was approved unanimously.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

Ward III – TABLED

Ward V – Tracy Watson

Ward VI – Tony Gicobbe

After some discussion, the Council voted to table the Ward III Seat, appoint Mr. Tracy Watson to the Ward V Seat and Mr. Tony Gicobbe to the Ward VI Seat, which was approved unanimously.

**FARMERS MARKET ADVISORY BOARD**

Kaarmel Crowell

Nan Kirlin

The Council voted to reappoint Ms. Kaarmel Crowell and Ms. Nan Kirlin, which was approved unanimously.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Andi Eddlemon, Chair

Joshua Hauser

Brookwood Seat – Stephanie Hartman

The Council voted to appoint Ms. Stephanie Hartman to the Brookwood Seat and reappoint Ms. Andi Eddlemon and Mr. Joshua Hauser, which was approved unanimously.

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Councilwoman Stepp nominated Ms. Caitlyn Peeler as Vice Chairman and keep Ms. Andi Eddleman as Chairman, which was approved unanimously.

**PLANNING COMMISSION, GASTONIA**

Ward II - Glenn Silverman

Ward III - Jeff Howe

At Large #2 – David Wilson (Mayoral Appointment)

The Council voted to appoint Mr. David Wilson to the At-large Member #2 Seat and reappoint Mr. Glenn Silverman and Mr. Jeff Howe, which was approved unanimously.

The Council voted to keep Ms. Kristie Ferguson as Chairperson and Mr. Chad Ghorley as Vice Chairman, which was approved unanimously.

**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Ward III – Harland Hendrix

Ward IV – TABLED

Ward VI – Kendra McKechnie

At Large #1 – Finland Fair (Mayoral Appointment)

Youth Member (1 school year term) – Elizabeth D’Avria

The Council voted to appoint Mr. Harland Hendrix to the Ward III Seat, table the Ward IV Seat, appoint Ms. Kendra McKechnie to the Ward VI Seat, Mr. Finland Fair to the At-large #1 Seat, and Ms. Elizabeth D’Avria to the Youth Member Seat, which was approved unanimously.

**STORMWATER ADVISORY PANEL**

Rusty Bost (Mayoral Appointment)

Bill Hattaway (Koutsoupas)

David Fogarty (Kirlin)

Larry M. Alexander (Gallagher)

Kathy Brown (Littlejohn)

Clark Simon (Stepp)

Ethel Glenn (Barber)

The Council voted to appoint Mr. Rusty Bost and reappoint Mr. Bill Hattaway, Mr. David Fogarty, Mr. Larry M. Alexander, Ms. Kathy Brown, Mr. Clark Simon, and Ms. Ethel Glenn, which was approved unanimously.

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GTDA)**

Lodging Industry Representative - Brandon Black

The Council voted to reappoint Mr. Brandon Black, which was approved unanimously.

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**TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Dr. Don Rhodes

The Council voted to appoint Dr. Don Rhodes, which was approved unanimously.

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Regular Member - William (Bill) Marino, Vice-Chair

Regular Member - J. Lee Taylor, Jr., Chair

Alternate Member – Jenna Jourdet

Alternate Member – Octavius Reid

The Council voted to reappoint Mr. William (Bill) Marino, Mr. J. Lee Taylor, Jr., Ms. Jenna Jourdet, and Mr. Octavius Reid, which was approved unanimously.

The Council voted to keep Mr. J. Lee Taylor, Jr. as Chairman and Mr. William (Bill) Marino as Vice Chairman, which was approved unanimously.

The revised Citizen Committee Appointments will be on the June 17, 2025 Regular Council Agenda to address the tabled items and confirm appointments.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 9 to Minute Book 114 at Page 26).

At 5:00 pm Councilwoman Stepp made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 143-318.11 of the North Carolina General Statutes in order to: (a) instruct City staff concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the City in negotiating the acquisition of real property, and (b) consult with the City Attorney in order to preserve attorney-client privilege and give instructions concerning the handling of potential claims by the City. Councilwoman Barber seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

At 5:35 p.m. Councilwoman Stepp made a motion to return to Open Session with Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin seconding the motion, which was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Closed Session.

Mayor Franks adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 3, 2025**

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Mayor Richard Franks

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Eric Edgerton, City Attorney

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Candice G. Owenby, Deputy City Clerk

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