



**TOWN OF WADESBORO
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WADESBORO TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM
205 EAST MORGAN STREET, WADESBORO, NC 28170**

Monday	June 2, 2025,	5:00 P.M.
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OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Fred Davis called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and presided. Mayor Davis also called for a moment of silence for slain mother Shaneeka Smith on March 28, 2025.

Councilmembers in attendance are as follows: Jo Ann Bennett, Chipper Long Lawrence Parsons, Ida Cason, Garrett Snuggs and Town Attorney Aaron Bates.

Department Heads in attendance are as follows: Fire Chief Scott Martain, Public Works Director Nick Griffin, Maureen Mason, and Interim Police Chief Thedis Spencer.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Chipper Long

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded the approval of the agenda Motion approved by a vote of 5 for and 0 against.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Lawrence Parsons a motion and Councilmember Jo Ann Bennett seconded the approval of minutes from May 5, 2025, approval to accept resignation from Town Attorney Aaron Bates. Motion approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephen Lear from 879 Gatewood Road addressed councilmembers on behalf of the Anson County Tourism Development Authority addressing concerns on the occupancy date in the county. Mr. Lear stated that there is a downward turn in the date with getting feedback from stakeholders and business owners with some reasons are bad publicity and public safety concerns. Mr. Lear wants to make the council aware, and it is affecting our local businesses and asks for assistance in helping to solve this problem.

Sean Ponds from 1123 Morven Road addressed councilmembers and wanted answers on his property being vandalized and having items stolen for a period and had to close his business due to this ongoing issue with no assistance from local authorities.

Lamar Liles from 414 Marshall Street addressed councilmembers on assisting with warehouse space for Anson County Toys for Tots 2025 Campaign Season.

Bobby Usrey from 133 Highland Drive addressed councilmembers on the proposed tax increase and disagreed with the increase to the citizens as well as hiring a full-time grant writer along with a proposed public relations firm for the town.

Terry Helms from 702 Morven Road addressed councilmembers on noise ordinance in the town and staff treatment concerning him.

Donald Sellers from 154 Springfield Lane addressed councilmembers on his concerns for the safety of the community.

Stephen Greene from 620 N Pine Lane addressed councilmembers on his concerns of citizens being overlooked and pushed aside by those in position of leadership.

Tami Newell from 408 W. Wade Street addressed councilmembers as being a member of the Anson County Tourism Development Authority and her concerns from a business owners' perspective with the things happening in the city with safety being the main issue.

John Liles from 1305 Center Street addressed councilmembers on land beside him that needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Liles gave councilmembers a sheet with the address of the landowner.

Leon Gatewood from 207 Wheeler Street addressed councilmembers spoke on the gun violence in communities and is in the process of forming a coalition of churches, schools, community leaders and everyday citizens that care about our town and future.

PUBLIC HEARING

Councilmember Jo Ann Bennett made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded to go into public hearing. Motion was approved by a vote 4 for 0 against.

The purpose of the public hearing is a proposed rezoning request to rezone property on West Street and Harley Street from R-20 to R-6 and the presentation of FY 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget.

Connor Bradley addressed councilmembers on his rezoning request to build additional homes to better fit the neighborhood.

There were no public comments for the proposed rezoning request.

Finance Office Maureen Mason presented the FY 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget to council and the public.

Councilmember Chipper Long expressed his concerns on the need to not have a grant writer in the FY 25-26 budget.

Steven Lear requested that council restore the funding for an Uptown Director in the budget. Tami Newell stated some of the responsibilities of what the Uptown Director does such as keeping a list of all empty properties downtown and working with Economic Development in leasing empty spaces to ensure a vital downtown, and any type of events.

Councilmember Lawrence Parsons expressed his concerns on the need for a grant writer with the county being a Tier 1.

Jerel Miller addressed councilmembers on his concerns on the FY 25-26 budget, but he was stopped due to insults toward councilmembers and Town Manager.

Steven Greene addressed his concerns about public safety and stated that until this issue is addressed no money will come to this town.

Interim Chief Thedis Spencer addressed concerns on public safety stating that law enforcement is needed with councilmembers having to make tough decisions not just for the citizens that voted, but for all citizens.

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Jo Ann Bennett seconded to come out of public hearing. Motion approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Lawrence Parson made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded the approval for professional services contract with Chambers Engineering for Streetscape Grant not to exceed 10,165.00. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons second the approval for contracted services with S&S Electric Company to complete electrical work for Town Hall. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded the approval for Southern Software (FMS) Utility Billing Interface Diamond Maps for Work/Service Orders for Public Works Department. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Garrett Snuggs made a motion and Councilmember Chipper Long seconded the approval for Contracted Services with Clean Harbor for Removal of Hazardous Materials. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded the approval of Resolution for Rezoning Request for Property on West Street and Harley Street. Motion approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Garrett Snuggs made a motion and Councilmember Jo Ann Bennett seconded the approval for Contracted Services for New Town Attorney. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Garrett Snuggs made a motion and Councilmember Ida Cason seconded the approval for Contracted Services with Onyx1 Speaking Public Relations Firm. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 for 1 against. (Chipper Long)

Councilmember Ida Cason made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded the approval for Contracted Services for IT Services. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded the approvals for Contracted Services with Ross Exterior Restoration for Diesel Tank Pressure Washing and Painting Town Shop Break and Restrooms Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Garrett Snuggs made a motion and Councilmember Lawrence Parsons seconded the approval for Amendment to the Personnel Policy Article II Section 4. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 for 0 against.

TOWN STAFF REPORT

FIRE CHIEF SCOTT MARTIN – Thanked councilmembers who came and supported WFD summer camp. At last council meeting spoke on participating in smoke alarm Saturday and will start Thursday with WFD going around canvassing neighborhoods also, gave an update on the Splashpad with contractors coming the middle of the week to finish the beautification of the area and the beginning of next week contractors will come to make sure everything is running efficiently.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR NICK GRIFFIN– Introduced himself as new Public Works Director to councilmembers and spoke on upcoming projects and filling open positions in his departments.

FINANCE OFFICER MAUREEN MASON- Gave financial update as of April 30, 2025. With highlights from the General Fund with a collected 71.7% of budgeted revenue compared to 73.3% at same time last year. Water/Sewer Fund 85.7% of budgeted revenue has been collected which is over projections, expenditures are under budget, with Water Department at 58.3% and Sewer Department at 64.3% resulting in revenue exceeding expenditures by 781.5k and Cash Investments amount to 8.4 million, an increase of 762.3 million from this time last year.

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF THEDIS SPENCER – Gave hiring update of officers that coming to work for WPD and stated that he will be working to move the WPD forward and the goal is to make sure the town hires good people, and we must get the community back.

TOWN MANAGER WILEY ROSS JR. – Expressed his deepest condolences for the loss of Shaneeka Smith whose life was taken protecting her child. Mr. Ross stated that it is going to take community involvement to stop the gun violence. Mr. Ross also spoke about the tax increase which the town has not had in 25 years and with the cost of things going up the town needs to adjust their costs to continue to receive essential services.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS- Mayor Fred Davis thanked everyone who prayed for the recovery of daughter.

Councilmember Ida Cason expressed for a safer community.

Councilmember Jo Ann Bennett stated that as board members Interim Chief Thedis Spencer should be allowed to oversee the WPD.

Councilmember Chipper Long was allowed to address councilmembers on the censorship that all councilmembers voted for last month's council meeting pertaining to him. Councilmember Long statement will be attached to this month's minutes as part of the record.

Councilmember Lawrence Parsons stated that we all need to get on the same page and apologized to Councilmember Long for the censorship.

Councilmember Garrett Snuggs speaking negatively about a place you represent and expect to get different results.

CLOSED SESSION-Councilmember Lawrence Parsons made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded to into closed session to discuss the following – NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. Motion was approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded to come out of closed session. Motion was approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

ADJOURNMENT – Councilmember Chipper Long made a motion and Councilmember Garrett Snuggs seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:01pm. Motion approved by a vote 5 for 0 against.

Debbie A. Cox
Clerk to the Council
Town of Wadesboro