

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
December 9, 2025

THE WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:00pm in the Town Hall Board Room located at 9 South Main Street Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm with the following members present:

Mayor Gary Caldwell
Mayor Pro Tempore Chuck Dickson
Councilmember Jon Feichter
Councilmember Anthony Sutton
Councilmember Julia Freeman

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Jesse Fowler, Deputy Manager
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk/Assistant to the Manager
Martha Bradley, Town Attorney
Luke Kinsland, Recreation Director
Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director
Olga Grooman, Assistant Development Services Director
Fire Chief Chris Mehaffey
Assistant Fire Chief Cody Parton
Ian Barrett, Finance Director
Page McCurry, Human Resources Director

The following members of the media were present:

Paul Nielsen, The Mountaineer

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

All items below are routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered with other items listed in the Regular Agenda.

2. a. Motion to approve the November 18, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

- b. Approve the amended contract for Martin Starnes Auditing
- c. Approve the Budget Amendment for the Downtown Waynesville Commission
- d. Approve staff to apply for the Unified Planning Work Program Grant to the French Broad River MPO.
- e. Motion to appoint Justin Jamison to the Waynesville Recreation Advisory Commission
- f. Motion to approve the revision to the Town of Waynesville Fee Schedule by adopting the proposed Summer Camp additional-child discounted rates, setting the weekly fee at \$90 for each additional resident child and \$100 for each additional non-resident child within the same household, effective for the 2026 summer camp season.
- g. Motion to approve the State Revolving Loan offer of \$5,000,000 with 100% principal forgiveness
- h. Motion to approve the renewal of internal controls
- i. Motion to renew the ERC Contract
- j. Motion to approve the ABC Designation Resolution

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to remove from the consent agenda and place on the regular agenda the Proposed 2026 Council Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COUNCILMEMBERS' OATHS OF OFFICE

- 2. Oath of Office Administered to Councilmember Julia Boyd Freeman and Councilmember Anthony Sutton.
 - Superior Court Judge Roy Wijewickrama

Councilmember Chuck Dickson introduced Superior Court Judge Roy Wijewickrama, who will be administering the oaths of office. Councilmember Dickson said that Judge Wijewickrama is a resident of Waynesville and his mother used to work for the Town. Superior Court Judge Roy Wijewickrama administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Julia Freeman and Anthony Sutton.

D. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to appoint Councilmember Chuck Dickson as the Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to approve the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Caldwell congratulated Councilmembers Sutton and Freeman on being re-elected. He said he appreciated Councilmember Sutton's involvement with the French Broad MPO and Councilmember Freeman's involvement with Public Safety. Councilmember Sutton thanked everyone and said he will take his responsibility as Councilmember very seriously. He promised to be fair, to listen, and to work hard to make sure every voice is heard, with an emphasis on inclusivity. Councilmember Freeman thanked the citizens of Waynesville for their support over the last 14 years. She said there is still much work to be done. She thanked the Town Employees and said her mission is to make sure they are taken care of. Councilmember Dickson said that he was very happy that Councilmembers Sutton and Freeman were re-elected. He said they've been through floods and covid and he appreciates how well Council works together. He expressed appreciation for Town Manager Rob Hites. Councilmember Feichter agreed with the other Councilmembers' sentiments and said they've been through a lot but have also accomplished a lot together. He expressed appreciation for the entire Council and how well they work together.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

H. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF

3. Manager's Report

- Town Manager Rob Hites

Town Manager Rob Hites thanked Council for their support and the holiday bonus for staff. Mr. Hites said the director from the U.S. Rural Development called to congratulate the Town on receiving the \$2.97 million earmarked by Congress. He said the funds were assigned to the USDA, so they will be treating the funds as a grant. Mr. Hites suggested this could provide an opportunity to talk to the USDA about a loan for the balance of the fire station and a new ladder truck. Councilmember Feichter asked what the total cost will be of the new station. Mr. Hites said \$6 million. Councilmember Feichter then asked if there has been thought about what would happen to Station #2. Mr. Hites said Council's long-term plan was to close in the garage bays and move Development Services there. He said they are working on storm proofing the current building, and the new station will have utility hook ups for FEMA trailers in case of future floods.

4. Town Attorney Report

- Town Attorney Martha Bradley

There was nothing to report.

I. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Dickson, to adjourn at 6:23pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Gary Caldwell, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk