

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
April 22, 2025

THE WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 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 6:02 pm with the following members present:

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

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk
Olga Grooman, Assistant Development Services Director
Alex Mumby, Land Use Administrator
Tyler Anderson, Stormwater Management Coordinator

Members of the Media:

Paul Nielson, The Mountaineer

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that the Whole Bloomin Thing Festival is May 10th and the next Council meeting is May 13th.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

C. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to approve the agenda as amended to add item "9. Analysis of Walnut Trail Bridge structure (Bridge to Waste Treatment Plant)". The motion passed unanimously.

D. 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 April 8, 2025 Planning Retreat Meeting Minutes

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

E. PROCLAMATION

3. 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week
 - Mayor Gary Caldwell

Mayor Gary Caldwell read the proclamation for the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week the week of May 4th.

F. RESOLUTION

4. Resolution for “Strive Week”
 - Councilmember Chuck Dickson

Land Use Administrator Alex Mumby reported that the town will be holding several events in town to promote walking, biking, taking transit, and carpooling. He said there will be a social bike ride will be held on May 23rd starting and ending in Frog Level along a user-friendly route to Hazelwood and the Richland Creek greenway, Haywood County Transit will be offering free transit from May 19th to May 23rd for all riders, and the First United Methodist Church is holding a children’s bike drive for those who lost their bikes in Hurricane Helene.

Councilmember Dickson read the resolution for Strive Week May 16th to May 24th to raise awareness of transportation resources other than single occupant automobiles.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to adopt the resolution for “Strive Week”. The motion passed unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

5. Appointment to the Waynesville Housing Authority
 - Councilmembers Freeman and Feichter

A motion was made by Councilmember Feichter, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to appoint Emilee Nidffer to the Waynesville Housing Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

H. NEW BUSINESS

6. Public Presentation on "No Mow May" Initiative to Support Local Pollinators

- Tyler Anderson, Stormwater Management Coordinator

Stormwater Management Coordinator Tyler Anderson presented the “No Mow May” initiative that would encourage Waynesville residents to refrain from mowing their lawns during May. She explained that not mowing during this time would help provide vital habitats and food sources for pollinators and other beneficial insects.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to approve the promotion of the “No Mow May” initiative and suspend grass-related code enforcement activities during the month of May. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Presentation on Stormwater Education Program with Local Elementary Schools

- Tyler Anderson, Stormwater Management Coordinator

Stormwater Management Coordinator Tyler Anderson reported that staff have been providing educational presentations at local elementary schools to raise awareness about the importance of stormwater management. She said that students are encouraged to express their understanding of stormwater through artwork, which will be used on the proposed educational banners on Main Street. Ms. Anderson said this initiative will meet the educational and outreach requirements outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. She said banner brackets could be used for other promotional banners throughout the year as well. She said they will most likely order between ten and twenty banners. Ms. Grooman said that it will cost \$1500 from Stormwater Funds for the banners and brackets.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to allow staff to proceed with the purchase and installation of educational banners along Main Street. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Review and Approval of 2025-26 Capital Improvement Plan

- Rob Hites, Town Manager

Town Manager Rob Hites reported that the Town is applying for a grant that seeks funding for a project that does not appear in the 2023-24 CIP. As a part of the upcoming budget, Mr. Hites said staff have reviewed and updated the plan. He said the grant for which the town is applying involves the conversion to a low-pressure pump station from a gravity fed system to a low-pressure pump station. He said there is an issue at the junction box on the Little Champion property, and there is an open pit that has been periodically overflowing for 30 years. He said that NCDEQ is aware of it as well and said the overflow must cease. Mr. Hites said this grant will provide \$3 million to build a pump station and \$4.5 million to relocate part of the gravity line to connect the new box with the old gravity line. He added that the project would take four years to complete.

Mr. Hites said in order to apply for the grant, staff had to review and update the Capital Improvement Plan for the Sewer Fund. He said that staff went ahead and updated the CIP for all the funds for FY 24-25 for five years. Mr. Hites said that many of the projects have been pushed back a couple of years due to the budgetary impact of the hurricane and the revaluation. He emphasized that this plan is meant to be flexible and is subject to amendments.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to approve Resolution R-9-25 to adopt the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to approve the Resolution R-8-25 authorizing the Town Manager to apply for the loan/grant from the state and arrange financing for the rest of the project as set forth in the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Analysis of Walnut Trail Bridge structure (Bridge to Waste Treatment Plant)
 - Rob Hites, Town Manager

Town Manager Rob Hites reported that Council approved KCA Associates to conduct a study of the strength of the Walnut Trail Bridge and design improvements to increase the bridge's strength to 40 tons. Mr. Hites said the \$40,044.50 proposal involves the testing of the existing bridge under a \$13,500 subcontract and subsequent evaluation of the true strength of the bridge. He said that once KCA has determined the existing condition of the bridge, KCA will determine the scope of design services before proposing a phase II design.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Dickson, to approve KCA's proposal of \$40,044.50. The motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF

10. Manager's Report
 - Town Manager, Rob Hites

Nothing to report.

11. Town Attorney's Report
 - Martha Bradley, Town Attorney

Nothing to report.

J. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Dickson reported that the governor and staff seem to be working as hard as they can on recovery initiatives. He said they are hoping to hand out housing money by this summer. He said that he and four members of the ESB are going to the NC State Energy Conference, and he and Mr. Hites will be speaking.

Councilmember Feichter said he will be attending the NCLM CityVision is Greenville next week. He presented the updated paving schedule and emphasized that Boyd and Brown Avenues are problematic.

A motion was made by Councilmember Feichter, seconded by Councilmember Dickson, to adopt the updated paving list for the paving schedule for next fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Caldwell reminded everyone that the Smoky Mountain Nine Ball Shootout starts Friday at the Armory.

Councilmember Feichter reminded everyone that the Town-wide litter pick up is May 3rd.

K. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to adjourn at 7:03pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Gary Caldwell, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk