

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 22, 2025**

**THE WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL** held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 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 6:03 pm with the following members present:

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

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager  
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk  
Martha Bradley, Town Attorney  
Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director  
Alex Mumby, Land Use Administrator  
Police Chief David Adams  
Assistant Chief of Police Josh Schick  
Fire Chief Chris Mehaffey  
Assistant Fire Chief Cody Parton  
Page McCurry, Human Resources Director

Members of the Media:

Paul Nielsen, The Mountaineer

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone and announced that there is a Mountain Street Dance on August 18<sup>th</sup> and the next Council meeting is August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marti Bowman- Ms. Bowman said she represents the Kiwanis Club of Waynesville. She said there is a partnership between the Rec Center and Kiwanis to sell engraved bricks that will form the path between the park and the All Abilities Playground. She said the goal is to have the bricks installed before the Rec Center 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

***A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to purchase 15 bricks. The motion passed unanimously.***

**C. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

***A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to add "Resolution in Support in Haywood Water Interconnect" to the agenda. 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 July 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - b. Motion to appoint James Yacobi to the Waynesville Housing Authority.
  - c. Motion to appoint D. Jane Jenkins to the Historic Preservation Commission.
  - d. Motion to approve and sign audit contract amendment.
  - e. Motion to approve the Rock for Relief Special Event Permit
  - f. Motion to approve the Apple Harvest Festival Special Event Permit

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

**E. PRESENTATIONS**

3. Recognition of Public Works Employees
  - Police Chief David Adams

Police Chief David Adams reported that on May 22, 2025, Aaleiah Cagle and Myles Chandler witnessed one of their co-workers fall forward onto the cement floor inside of the Public Works Garage. Chief Adams said they sprang into action and called 911 and stayed with the employee until medical help arrived. He attributed their efforts and quick thinking to saving his life. He presented Myles the Live Saving Award and will be presenting the award to Aaleiah at the next meeting.

4. Presentation on the Town of Waynesville's America 250 NC Grant Update
  - Alex Mumby, Land Use Administrator

Land Use Administrator Alex Mumby reported that the Town of Waynesville applied and was awarded a grant of \$27,000 to paint a mural of the Town's history and its namesake General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, which will be painted on the back of the Strand Theater facing Wall Street. He said the grant requires a match of just

\$4,050 dollars and they have received approval from Rodney Conard to paint the mural on the back of the Strand Theater facing Wall Street. Mr. Mumby said the Historic Preservation Commission has formed a mural subcommittee which includes Alex McKay, Leisa Denti, Anna Whitmire, Anthony Sutton, Rodney Conard, and Patrick McDowell. After the subcommittee reviewed the six qualifying applications, Mr. Mumby said they selected Rafael Blanco as the artist.

Mayor Caldwell asked what the life span of the mural would be. Ms. Poolton said research done for the Pigeon Community Center mural suggested 30 years with a protective coating applied every five to ten years.

Councilmember Dickson noted that there are blanks on the easement for the length of time. He asked Mr. Mumby how long the term would be. Mr. Mumby said Council could decide, and Councilmember Dickson and Ms. Teague suggested 30-years, roughly the life of the mural.

Councilmember Sutton suggested that Council should have final approval in the proposed mural. Councilmember Dickson said he trusts the subcommittee to make the final decision. Council agreed.

***A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to approve the contract with Rafeal Blanco to install a mural. The motion passed unanimously.***

***A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to approve the easement contract with Rodney Conard and with Rafeal Blanco for a period of 30 years. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **F. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5. SRF Loan/Grant application for Little Champion Pump Station**

- Town Manager Rob Hites

Town Manager Rob Hites reported that the State has been awarded \$209 million in funds to provide “State Revolving Loans” at “0 %” interest” to local governments to fund projects that would enhance storm mitigation efforts. Mr. Hites said McGill and Associates employs two former employees of the NC Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) who analyzed these types of grants for the State. He said with their experience and services, the application should score very highly in the State’s process. Mr. Hites said the proposal is a lump sum \$12,500 which will be paid out of professional services in the wastewater collection and maintenance division. He added that the research done for this grant application will be useful for many other grant applications in the future. Mr. Hites said the grant funds will be used to build a new pump station and that Phase I includes rebuilding, and Phase II would be relocating siphon and gravity lines.

Councilmember Freeman asked how confident Mr. Hites is about getting principal relief. He said he has little confidence given that they have never received any principal forgiveness in the past. Councilmember Dickson asked what the total cost is for the project. Mr. Hites said \$7 million, and they are asking for \$8.3 million.

***A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to approve McGill’s proposal. The motion passed unanimously.***

6. Resolution of Support in Haywood County Water Interconnect

- Town Manager Rob Hites

Town Manager Rob Hites reported that several years ago, Waynesville, Canton and Clyde jointly participated in a State funded study to determine the feasibility of constructing a water interconnect between the Towns. Mr. Hites said that Helene provided further proof that connecting Clyde, Canton and Waynesville through a water interconnect would be extremely important moving forward. He stated that an interconnect would not be constructed until all parties agree to a joint use agreement that will outline the terms of use for the interconnect and staff expects the interconnect to be provided through grants to the Towns. Mr. Hites added that the interconnect would be designed to provide emergency water from Waynesville to Clyde and Canton and from Canton back to Waynesville and the cost of the water and maintenance of the line will be set through the agreement. He explained the difference between keeping the line wet or dry. Mr. Hites said that Haywood County would be the responsible party to administer the grant and they will proceed only if fully funded.

Councilmember Freeman asked if the town could set their own fees for the water and Mr. Hites said that the town can.

***A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Dickson, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.***

Mayor Caldwell introduced Ken Brown. Mr. Brown said he is running in the Republican primary against Mark Pless for State Representative.

**G. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF**

7. Manager's Report

- Town Manager, Rob Hites

Nothing to report.

8. Town Attorney's Report

- Town Attorney, Martha Bradley

Nothing to report.

**H. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilmember Sutton reported that the American Flood Coalition will be getting together in October to discuss resiliency and working at the state and federal level. He said the MPO public input session for the 2050 transportation plan had one of the highest turnouts. He added that they are still accepting public comment online. Mayor Caldwell asked about the construction on Walnut Street. Mr. Hites said they are closing one of the accesses to Boundary Street that goes to Haywood Builders, which would be a safety improvement.

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

9. Annual Review for the Town Attorney and Town Manager
- Mayor and Town Council

*A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to go into closed session at 6:40pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to go adjourn the closed session at 7:50pm. The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to go return to open session at 7:51pm. The motion passed unanimously.*

**J. ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to adjourn at 7:52pm. The motion passed unanimously.*

ATTEST:

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Gary Caldwell, Mayor

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Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

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Candace Poolton, Town Clerk