

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
May 13, 2025

THE WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 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

The following Councilmembers were absent:

Councilmember Anthony Sutton
Councilmember Julia Freeman

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk
Martha Bradley, Town Attorney
Page McCurry, Human Resources Director
Ian Barrett, Finance Director
Elizabeth Teague, Development Services Director

Members of the Media:

Becky Johnson, The Mountaineer

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that Town Offices are closed for Memorial Day on the 26th and the next Council meeting is May 27th.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

C. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Feichter, seconded by Councilmember Dickson, to approve the agenda as presented. 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 22, 2025 Planning Retreat Meeting Minutes
 - b. Motion to appoint Jerry Jackson to the Downtown Waynesville Commission
 - c. Motion to appoint Sam Kearny to the Downtown Waynesville Commission
 - d. Motion to approve the Power of Pink 5K Special Event Permit

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

E. PROCLAMATION

3. 65th Annual Professional National Public Works Week
 - Mayor Gary Caldwell

Mayor Gary Caldwell read the proclamation for the 65th Annual Professional National Public Works Week the week of May 18th.

F. NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolution for Town to continue participation in the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization.
 - Elizabeth Teague, Planning Director

Planning Director Elizabeth Teague reported that the Town of Waynesville is a participating local government in the MPO and the MPO is updating its Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) among its participants in accordance with federal and state requirements and is requesting each local government to adopt an updated resolution approving the MOU.

Councilmember Dickson requested clarification on how town MOU members are appointed to the MPO. Ms. Teague said that the Mayor appoints the Council’s representative, and the staff their representative. She said that Alex Mumby is shadowing her while she serves on the MPO.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to adopt the attached resolution to continue in the participation of the French Broad River MPO. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation of the 2025-2026 Budget

- Rob Hites, Town Manager

Town Manager Rob Hites read verbatim the 2025-2026 Budget Message and presented the proposed 2025-2026 Annual Budget. He said that staff are not recommending an increase in ad valorem taxes, electric rates or water rates. He said that staff do recommend an increase in sewer rates as we face our first payment of the \$29 million dollar State Revolving Loan (SRF). He said that staff recommend a 2.5% Career Track and a 1% COLA and that there will be very little General Fund Capital spending, all coming from the fund balance.

Finance Director Ian Barrett presented a brief overview of the General Fund's, Electric Fund's, Water Fund's, Sewer Fund's, and Stormwater Fund's Revenues and Expenditures.

Councilmember Feichter asked that if staff have job duties that would cross funds, are their salaries spread across all of the funds. Mr. Barrett said yes, their salary would be an equal expenditure across all funds.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to accept the budget proposal for information and set a public hearing on the proposed budget for May 27, 2025 at 6:00pm at the regular scheduled Town Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

G. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF

6. Manager's Report

- Town Manager, Rob Hites

Nothing to report.

7. Town Attorney's Report

- Martha Bradley, Town Attorney

Nothing to report.

H. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Feichter reported that CityVision went well. He suggested that Council gets certified in Commitment to Civility by the NC League of Municipalities.

Mayor Caldwell thanked Councilmember Feichter for organizing the Waynesville clean up. Councilmember Feichter said they did a lot of cleaning up around Walmart and they had extensive amounts of trash. Town Attorney Bradley said there may be some ordinances the Town can use to enforce Walmart to keep their trash picked up.

Councilmember Dickson said the NC Energy Conference went well. He announced that Andrew Jones of Climate Interactive, will speak on Thursday May 15 at 6:30pm at the Lake Junaluska Terrace Hotel Auditorium as part of the Town of Waynesville's Communities Local Energy Action Program grant.

I. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Councilmember Feichter, seconded by Councilmember Dickson, to adjourn at 6:45pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Gary Caldwell, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk