

Town of Mount Olive  
August 4, 2025  
Regular Board Meeting  
Minutes

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those in attendance per roll call were Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay, Commissioner Delreese Simmons, Commissioner Tommy Brown, Commissioner Vicky Darden, Town Attorney Carroll Turner, Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis.

Mayor Jerome Newton delivered the invocation and Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Danny Keel was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve an excused absence. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement; there were no conflicts.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the published agenda with the addition of 08-19 – Consider Surplus of a 20024 Freightliner M2 106 Medium Duty Grapple Truck and Authorizing Sale of the Truck Per an Offer of \$164,000.00. This Offer Will Be Advertised Pursuant to the Upset Bid Procedure. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

June 27, 2025, Special Called Board Meeting.  
June 30, 2025, Recessed Board Meeting.  
July 7, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve all the minutes listed above. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum. He reminded everyone of the three- minute time limit and to be respectful. You can request more time, but it may not be granted. There will be no attacking the Board of Commissioners or staff and no outbursts from the audience. The same goes for the Board of Commissioners if you have an issue with one another address it outside the meeting. No one is allowed to speak until recognized by the mayor. Anyone failing to adhere to these rules will be asked once to refrain, the second time you may be asked to leave.

Ms. Annette Kirby of 112 Ramblewood Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365. 919-922-3410. She wanted to discuss the July article in the Duplin Times regarding an interview with Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland. A copy of the article is below:

MOUNT OLIVE — When Glenn Holland took on the role of interim town manager for Mount Olive in January, he was immediately confronted with a significant challenge that has lingered for over a decade: the town's wastewater treatment issues. The handling and discharge of sewage through the town's wastewater treatment facility have been sources of concern for years, and Holland is determined to tackle this pressing problem head-on. Recently, he sat down with the Duplin Journal to shed light on the situation's history and discuss potential solutions.

The treatment and discharge of wastewater in towns and cities like Mt. Olive are heavily regulated, with many guidelines established by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and enforced by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. This regulatory framework is designed to ensure that communities manage wastewater safely and effectively.

The nightmare for Mt. Olive came to a head when the town received a critical notice from DEQ's Division of Water Resources. This notice indicated that Mt. Olive was not compliant with its operating permit for the wastewater treatment plant. The issues highlighted were serious: the town's wastewater system was struggling to treat wastewater adequately, and the reclaimed water system was not functioning at its designed capacity.

The notice did not simply inform the town of the issue; it placed a sewer moratorium on the town, meaning no new sewer taps, extensions, or additional flow would be allowed through the wastewater treatment plant until the problems were resolved. No additional flow through the wastewater treatment facility means that the ability to issue new building permits for homes and businesses is becoming difficult to approve if it means more wastewater would have to be treated at the plant.

"We are handicapped. We cannot do anything. We're standing still," Holland said, referring to the moratorium.

With this backdrop, Holland is focused on finding viable solutions to restore compliance.

Ms. Tatelia Robinson of 102 Dora Lane, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-920-3853 stated in front of her house, the roadside has not been attended to the whole summer. She contacted NCDOT Roadside and within two hours a gentleman came out and sprayed the area and assured her the work would be completed. She advised she was not pointing fingers; she just wants everyone to know that sometimes you have to take matters into your own hands. It took one phone call. She knows the moratorium is important but is not going to discuss the things we are doing enough. She commented she lives in Mount Olive, not the south side.

Mayor J. Jerome Newton thanked everyone for their comments and closed the public forum.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non- Action Memo -- 08-12 - Presentation of Appreciation by Commissioner Vicky Darden to U.S. Representative Don Davis, Pastor Andrew Price and Apostle Norbert Simmons. Commissioner Vicky Darden said she wanted to recognize people while they are still here. She used former Town Manager Jammie Royall as an example. He sadly passed away in July of this year and she never got the chance to give him the award she had for him.

Commissioner Vicky Darden presented Apostle Norbert Simmons with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service and dedication to our community. He thanked her for being the best that she can be. He stated he had received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, but this means more to him because it is coming from the Town of Mount Olive.

Commissioner Vicky Darden then presented U.S. Representative Don Davis with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service and dedication to our town, county and country. U.S. Representative Don Davis advised everyone to always let God go first. He said to the council and the community it is very refreshing to see residents come to the board meeting and democracy. He commented that Mount Olive is a special place to him, and he has always been a mayor at heart. Mount Olive has Unity for the Community, the University of Mount Olive and Mount Olive Pickle Company. He remembers when he and former Mayor Kenny Talton's children played together. He stated thanks for all you do. He closed with God Bless Mount Olive and America.

Commissioner Vicky Darden stated she did not see Pastor Andrew Price here tonight, but she wanted to thank him for his service to the community. There were some representatives present to accept Pastor Andrew Price's certificate. She thanked them for coming. She talked about a friend of hers named Renauldo. He was former military, and his health had deteriorated to the point he had to crawl to get around. She was finally able to get him a motorized wheelchair and Pastor Andrew Price, and his church built a ramp and it meant the world to Renauldo. The representatives thanked her for the recognition but said they do it for God and showing love for one another.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked everyone for coming and thanked Commissioner Vicky Darden for what she does. He said it is an honor to have you guys in our presence.

Commissioner Vicky Darden advised she had one more for N.C. Representative John Bell but he was unable to be here tonight so she will present it another time.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action Memo - 08-13 -- North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure Presentation. Caroline Bari with the NC Division of Water Infrastructure had a power point presentation. She advised everyone she works with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality/Division of Water Infrastructure funding agency. She is an engineer in the Viable Utilities Unit. She became involved about eighteen months ago with the Town of Mount Olive. Viable Utilities gives assistance to distressed systems. She discussed the agenda which includes background, flow rates, violations and proposed corrective action issued by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Caroline Bari informed everyone this was started due to the special order of consent. The Town of Mount Olive is not allowed to add any additional flow to their system. The 2T rules gives flow rates for each type of business. This will be posted on the Town's website. Any rezoning has to be evaluated due to these changes. The Town must immediately report to the Division of Water Resources in person or via letter. The Division of Environmental Quality, she and Town staff met in July 2025. At the meeting Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland proposed some solutions. Good for him as this will help maintain a positive relationship. She stated additional violations could result in additional fines up to criminal charges.

Caroline Bari stated the proposed corrective issue regards the Town reinstating the inspections department. Employees have trained and are implementing new policies. She said everyone's concept is like for like exchanges of wastewater. However, the disconnecting party may not be able to reconnect. She commented that abandoned properties need a cutoff point. Certain conditions do allow septic tanks. Mayor Jerome Newton asked if she could explain the 2T rule. Caroline Bari responded there are residential, commercial and industrial customers. Churches are based on the number of seats not the number of people. This is in writing and needs to be applied consistently.

Mayor Jerome Newton said since you asked if anyone had any questions, he asked the citizens if they had any. Ms. Annette Kirby asked if the Town is now working to calculate. Mayor Jerome Newton asked Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland how long he has known about the 2T rule. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland replied, he has known for quite some time. Ms. Annette Kirby thinks in the future this will be a huge benefit. Mayor Jerome Newton said yes and gives us the knowledge. We have to be very concerned and increase these rules. Criminal charges against the mayor could be filed. Caroline Bari said they will help the Town be consistent. Mrs. Gerilynn Lee commented on June 30, 2025, the Town of Mount Olive became aware, she asked if there is a time limit. Ms. Angela Williams said good evening to everyone. She asked Caroline Bari if she was a part of this board. Caroline Bari answered, I work with the North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure. Ms. Angela Williams asked how soon Caroline Bari could back to everyone. Ms. Angela Williams then stated we are dealing with this because people where not persecuted as they should have been. Ms. Angela Williams is tired of her house not being corrected, so we can fully understand that the damage will not continue. Caroline Bari stated she could not answer that. Mayor Jerome Newton called down Ms. Angela Williams and said it ends now. Ms. Angela Williams responded

that some of these things are health related. Caroline Bari responded that she hopes before the end of the year, if she can get permission. Ms. Angela Williams thanked her.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 08-14 – Consider Approval of S. Preston Douglas Audit Contract. Mayor Jerome Newton advised that in order for us to move forward with the audit the Board of Commissioners must approve this. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve the S. Preston Douglas Audit Contract. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo -08-15 - Consider Approval of Ordinance for Updated Inspection Fees. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill stated this is based off fees close to Wayne County. We are mirroring their fees because we were far behind, he feels this is fair. Mayor Jerome Newton commented that these are the same fees you pay now but they are back in the hands of the Town. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve the Ordinance of Updated Inspection Fees. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action Memo – 08-16– Consider Recommendation of TRC for CDBG-I 24-I-4203 & 19-I-4203 Grant Engineer. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised that we have had the same engineers for years and we want fresh faces and new ideas in order to move the Town forward. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve TRC for CDBG-I 24-I-4203 & 19-I-4203 Grant Engineer. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 08-17 - Consider Recommendation of TRC for CDBG-I 24-I-4203 & 19-I-4203 Grant Administrator. Mayor Jerome Newton asked if there were any questions, there were none. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve TRC for CDBG-I 24-I-4203 & 19-I-4203 Grant Administrator. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 08-18 – Consider Approval of Upset Bid Process Sale of Vacant Lot Located at 106 S. Johnson Street in the Amount of \$8,500.00. Wayne County Must Also Approve confirmation of the Sale. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised the bidding started out at two thousand dollars and has been raised quite a few times. The last offer was July 8, 2025, and the bid was not raised. He is asking Mayor Jerome Newton to execute the deed then he will take it to Wayne County and split the amount. The bidder covered all advertising costs. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve the Upset Bid Process Sale of Vacant Lot Located at 106 S. Johnson Street in the Amount of \$8,500.00. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo – 08-19 – Consider Surplus of a 20024 Freightliner M2 106 Medium Duty Grapple Truck and Authorizing Sale of the Truck Per an Offer of \$164,000.00. This Offer Will Be Advertised Pursuant to the Upset Bid Procedure. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised the truck was advertised on Gov Deals but did not meet the reserve. We had someone present an offer. Mayor Jerome Newton stated \$150,000.00 to \$170,000.00 would be a good offer per appraisal. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve. Surplus of a 20024 Freightliner M2 106 Medium Duty Grapple Truck and Authorizing Sale of the Truck Per an Offer of \$164,000.00. This Offer Will Be Advertised Pursuant to the Upset Bid Procedure. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Interim Town Manager Report: Presented as follows:

#### **HOUSEHOLD TRASH COLLECTION**

The Town will be contracting out household trash collection on August 11, 2025. The household garbage collection will remain on the same schedule it is now. The Town will continue yard waste and roadside collections.

#### **IRON AND DISCOLORED WATER REPAIRS**

Iron levels continue to trend downward at the Gordon Street Plant. A new filter has been installed at the Boling Plant. We are awaiting a final inspection and approval to put it back into service. The Town had a meeting with NC Division of Water Resources to address our needs. The sand has been removed from the filter and sent for testing.

Any resident still experiencing discolored water, please contact our offices at 919-658-9539.

#### **PAVING OF ROADS**

Phase One Street Resurfacing work is still expected to begin in August 2025.

200 Block of Hillsboro Street - Church Street to Connor Street  
West James Street & Robert Street Patches  
Michael Martin Boulevard – North Breazeale up to Second Davita Driveway  
Patton Street to Oliver Street  
SW Center Street from Kornegay Street to Short Street  
SW Center Street – Maple Street to Kornegay Street  
Elizabeth Street – Center Street to Church Street  
East College Street – Center Street to Church Street

#### **POTHOLE REPAIRS**

A total of 21 potholes have been repaired this month. We continue to make progress as part of our ongoing street maintenance program to improve driving conditions and extend road life.

#### LOT MAINTENANCE AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Our equipment has been placed back in service and mowed a total of 58 vacant lots this month. We are also focused on clearing overgrown ditches but due to hydraulic system issues with tractor this work has been paused. We are currently exploring repair options and will provide an update as soon as possible.

#### ADDITION STREET LIGHTING PROJECT

The second phase of our additional lighting needs has begun. We continue to work with Duke Energy and will continue to identify areas in need.

#### SPECIAL ORDER OF CONSENT/MORATORIUM

The Town continues making progress with inspections of high priority lines, inflow and infiltration testing, manhole rehabilitation and lift station maintenance. In addition, the Town continues to hold regular meetings with staff from the Division of Water Quality and the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Our quarterly status report for April, the Division of Environmental Quality has received May & June of 2025. The due date was August 1, 2025. This report has been placed on the Town's website.

#### FIND AND FIX SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Town has received and reviewed the Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services regarding this project. We are currently working with the state to execute all necessary documentation for this project.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT/INSPECTIONS

Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill has communicated with Wayne County to bring our inspection and permit fees up to date. This will allow the Town of Mount Olive to bring in additional revenues. An agreement has been prepared for him to begin Level 1 building inspections up to 20,000 square feet.

#### Mayor & Commissioner Reports:

##### Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She asked if we could have a moment of silence for former Town Manager Jammie Royall. Mayor Jerome Newton replied we have that planned for the end of the meeting.

##### Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He thanked everyone for coming out, wished everyone safe travels and said to enjoy the weather.

##### Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay

- She thanked the Department Head for the reports. She stated Parks & Recreation have been really busy. Keep up the good work.

##### Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He wanted to know what happened to the pipe on Silver Street that was purchased with Powell Aid funds from Robert's Machine Shop. And why are there holes still there?
- He asked if we are waiting for someone to sue.
- He said when it rains it pours. Cars were getting stuck and people were unable to flush their toilets. His son asked him why does the water stank.
- He then started talking about Interim Town Manager at which point Interim Town Manager advised the mayor to get Commissioner Delreese Simmons in order. Mayor Jerome Newton asked Commissioner Simmons to stop, there is no attacking of the public, elected officials or staff.
- Commissioner Delreese Simmons stated Public Works has been putting up street signs everywhere, but Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland wouldn't let the public know because it made former Town Manager Jammie Royall look bad. He said he would keep on fighting for us and asked when it was going to stop on the south side.
- Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked why he was not advised of the July meeting with DEQ and asked if it was a secret. Mayor Jerome Newton stated that some meetings do not require the entire Board of Commissioners.
- Caroline Bari responded, she did not agree with his comment. She began emailing the Mayor, Town Manager and the entire Board in July of 2024 when there is a meeting. She also sends the minutes of those meetings to the Mayor, Town Manager and the entire Board. She has also offered to meet with the board individually via Teams if they would like and offered to do the presentation at an alternate time. She stated we are not trying to hide anything from anyone. We have been very inclusive and are trying to help.

- Mayor Jerome Newton clarified the meeting is monthly and all commissioners can not be there due to open meetings laws. Commissioner Delreese Simmons said next time he would like to be in the meeting.

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised he would like to respond to Commissioner Delreese Simmons' comments.

- 1) Pipe on Silver Street – The pipe was sent back because there was no pavement for the pipe. Commissioner Delreese Simmons said you told them not to do it. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland responded, he did not shut down the project, we did not have the funds, and he repeatedly told public works to patch the holes. Capital Projects had to be delayed not halted until we all could get a handle on the funds.
- 2) Flooding – Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated, it was not just the south side. It was town wide. We received 2.9" of rain in under one hour. The end total was 3 to 3 1/2". Fire calls were received trying to get people out of their cars on highway 55. We are fighting to relieve inflow and infiltration.
- 3) Smelly Water – Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised he received a letter from the state acknowledging former staff were not doing their jobs efficiently. Secondly the well puts in two different chemicals for the additional pumps. One chemical coats the inside of the pump. We cannot find any records of flushing or the chemicals. He commented, people got accustomed to doing the things they wanted to. He is fighting for the entire town – our one town.
- 4) Signs – Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland informed everyone our savings cost of doing the signs ourselves is eight dollars per sign. Right now, we are using old signs. We have an employee with a two-year degree running the sign machines. We wanted to make sure it was going to work out long-term before announcing him.

Mayor Jerome Newton

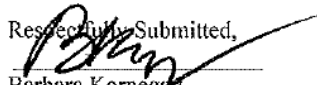
- He said the concerns Commissioner Delreese Simmons is speaking of should be addressed in a meeting between the three. We need to sit down and meet. We are one Town, one community and one Mount Olive. To get past what we are dealing with, we need to communicate.
- He stated all of what we do should be discussed before we come into this boardroom. If we are going to fight amongst ourselves, it should not be in here. He said we discuss solutions here.
- Commissioner Vicky Darden stated she would like to be in the meeting with Mayor Jerome Newton, Commissioner Delreese Simmons and Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland.

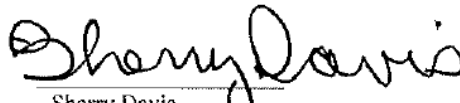
Mayor Jerome Newton requested a moment of silence in memory of former Town Manager Jammie Royall. A moment of silence was observed.

Our next regular board meeting is Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

With there being no further business, Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Barbara Kornegay  
Mayor Pro-Tempore

  
Sherry Davis  
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk