

Town of Mount Olive
March 3, 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 Danny Keel, 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 Commissioner Danny Keel led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the published agenda. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve the published agenda. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the February 3, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the February 6, 2025 Recessed Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum. He advised everyone to remember there is a three minute time limit. There will be no attacking of the Board of Commissioners or staff and no outburst from the audience. He asked the Board of Commissioners to refrain from attacking other board members. Any one who does not abide by these rules may be asked to leave. Please govern yourselves accordingly this is a board meeting not a circus.

Mr. Lewayne McCullen of 435 Old Grantham School Road, Mount Olive, NC, 28365 919-921-5095 stated he was driving on 12/24/24 around 11:30 P.M. travelling on Center Street between Kelly & Slocumb Streets when he hit a pot hole and damaged the rim on his vehicle. The Town's insurance denied the claim. The pothole was filled in January after he submitted his claim. He said the pothole had been fixed over and over on James, Breazeale, Pollock and Church but they are saying they can't fix his car. He is out \$800.00 and wants to know what the Town is going to do about it. He was advised to set up a meeting with Mayor Jerome Newton and Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland.

Ms. Janet Blount advised that she did not mean to sign up for the Public Forum.

Mr. Billy Wilkins of 102 Overbrook Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530, 919-273-3285. He wanted to discuss the Sewer Collections Rehabilitation Project in the amount of eight million dollars. His concerns are attached as part of these meeting minutes.

Ms. Brenda Artis of 439 Franklin Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-738-0317. She stated the first item she would like to mention is the Carver Cemetery Road. It need repairs and a lot of monuments are gone or the lids are cracked or not there. The second item was her water bill keeps going up every month by two or three dollars. She is not home that much. The third item was regarding water connections People are unable to sell deceased family members houses because the water has been off a certain length of time. Then there are other houses that are vacant but people are allowed to move in. Her final item was to thank Police Chief Jason Hughes for his help.

Ms. Tatetia Robinson of 102 Dora Lane, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-3853. She apologized and stated she read the manager's report after she signed up and the item she wanted to discuss is addressed in the report. She has no further comments.

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

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action-Memo 03-17 – Recognition of Special Citizens by Commissioner Vicky Darden. Commissioner Vicky Darden presented Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation with a certificate. She stated they do so much for our community. General Manager/CEO Mr. Mike Davis is always giving back to our citizens. She then presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Harlie Carmichael and Mrs. Della Carmichael. She said they are the two people she can always count on, they are always there to help and they have her back.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo 03-18 – Consider Approval of a Two Year Reappointment of the following Planning Board Members. Their new term will expire on January 1, 2027. Julie Beck, Sondra Russell, Steve Martin and Nydia Lopez. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill stated they are all currently serving and asking for reappointment.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve Action Memo-03-18. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo 02-13- Consider Approval of Facility Encroachment Agreement Between the Town of Mount Olive and CSX Transportation Inc. for the Sewer Collections Rehabilitation Project. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated he has not reviewed

this document. Mayor Jerome Newton suggested we table this item as well until the recessed board meeting. He requested a motion to table. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to table. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo 03-19 – Consider Approval of Upset Bid in the Amount \$3,200.00 For Sale of Lot on Gordon & Oliver. Town Attorney Carroll Turner explained there are two lots at the intersection of Gordon and Oliver Street directly across from the Town's water plant. The person chose to go to Wayne County and bid \$3,200.00 for both lots, which is \$1,600.00 each. He contacted Former Town Manager Jammie Royall to see if the Town should maintain ownership for future use. Town Clerk Sherry Davis was instructed to and did place the information on the Town's Website. Wayne County approved and confirmed the sale. The Town will receive \$1,600.00 total. Mayor Jerome Newton stated he recalls something similar a few months ago, did it come before the Board of Commissioners. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay responded it did. Town Attorney Carroll Turner commented, Wayne County mailed a notification to all adjoining property owners. Mayor Jerome Newton asked if there were any questions and requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discusses Action-Memo 03-20- Consider Approval of Police Chief Jason Hughes as secondary check signer, according to NCGS 159-25(b)

Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve Action- Memo 03-20. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Interim Town Manager Report:Presented as follows:

STREET SIGNS

Street signs for Breazeale Avenue (West Side) and Church Street (East Side) have been ordered. The idea is to create a grid across the entire town and work out from there to complete Street identification.

IRON AND DISCOLORED WATER REPAIRS

Some residents have been experiencing discolored water. This is due to the cleaning and flushing out of the Boling Water tank. It should resolve within a couple of days. If you are still having issues please contact our offices at 919-658-9539.

SECURITY CAMERAS INSTALLATION

Two cameras are currently in operation the progress was delayed due to the inclement weather we have experienced. Spectrum has started the internet supply connection to the poles where the cameras will be installed.

PAVING OF ROADS

We have received one quote and are awaiting additional quotes from two other contractors for the following areas:

200 Block of Hillsboro	100 Block of East College Street
Dora Lane	Robert Street
Jefferson Street	Michael Martin Road
Patton Street	Meredith/Hillcrest
SW Center Street from West Kornegay to West Kelly Street	

SIGN MACHINE STATUS

The Town has reached out to two local sign shops and the software company for assistance in training. Quotes from the sign shops for training have been requested.

LIGHTING PROJECT STATUS

A full list of Street lighting needs have been identified. I met with the engineers and discussed the priority areas for additional lighting. They are currently working on a quote for the following areas:

400 Block South Church Street.
Connor Street and Kornegay Street
Elmore Street between James and Main Street
Gordon Street at Water Plant
Pollock Street between Elmore and Beems Street
Please note Department Of Transportation streets will take longer because of paperwork.

Mayor & Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She thanked everyone who came out to the Black History Parade.
- She stated there was a fire on County Road last Thursday and she has the clothes sizes for the family for anyone who would like to help.
- She commented that Rand King is always talking bad about the parade. She told him to come to her if he has any issues. She has been doing this for seventeen years.

Mayor Jerom Newton asked Commissioner Vicky Darden to please refrain from any further comment.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He thanked everyone for coming out.
- He said that Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland hit the ground running and is an asset to the citizens and the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Danny Keel

- He advised that Commissioner Tommy Brown stole his thunder.
- Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland knows the ins and outs of all this.
- There are so many things he is trying to accomplish and he is doing a great job.
- He thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He wished everyone a good evening and thanked them for coming out.
- He said when he says it, it is a joke but when Representative John Bell says it people believe it. He was referring to an article written by Representative John Bell stating the Town has been misappropriating funds for years and it is time for them to get off the moratorium.
- He stated the airport has made no money in over a decade and the Town keeps pushing money into it. It is draining this town.
- He commented the DEQ said for over twenty years all this town has done is mis-managed money. He clarified not all members just some.
- He said this didn't start under this Mayor, it all started before with a previous Mayor. He was not as great as they said.
- He advised that we have the lowest airport fuel prices around here. We need to up the rates. He said if you are going to write a story then write this.
- He thanked Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and appreciates him for what he is trying to do for the south side.
- He then discussed that we need a contract with the North Carolina Pickle Festival Committee. We spend forty thousand dollars and make nothing. Mrs. Gena Knode replied hundreds of thousands of people come to our town.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked them both to refrain from any further comments.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay

- She thanked Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and everyone for coming tonight..

Mayor Jerome Newton

- He stated that Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland is very diligent and tenacious. He stays up until midnight and is up at 5:30 A.M. riding around. He may be the Interim Town Manager but he doesn't think like that. He working hard on the grants and knows what the engineers are supposed to be doing. He holds them accountable and is doing a good job. His thirty plus years of experience has given him the knowledge.
- He thanked all the citizens for coming out tonight. He plans to ensure funds are monitored. We need more citizens like Mr. Billy Wilkins.

Mayor Jerome Newton stated our next Regular Board meeting is schedule for Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Meeting Room.

With there being no further business, Commissioner Vicky Darden made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk

Mr Mayor and board members, I implore you to have a special called board meeting concerning the \$6,000,000 WWTP and the \$8,000,000 I & I grants. Bring forth the engineering firm and have them explain why we are so delayed in these projects. Do they have too much on their plates to give us the service we so desperately need? Did the engineering firm write this contract which has no time table and we just signed it? Or did the town write it and left out the crucial time tables we need? In none of the new documents I have received has there been any mention of I & I. None, just talk of linear feet of lines to be replaced. We want to see studies showing the increase of flows when it rains and where this is taking place and the map showing repairs to fix the problem. What percentage of our I & I will be reduced by this work?

I received 4 monthly progress meeting reports. July24, November24,December24 and January25. Keep in mind this contract was signed in December 2022. In these reports I found these comments(July24). "All ARPA-funded projects are behind schedule; are at risk of losing funding and/or not being completed prior to the statutory end date". "DWI has contacted the engineer on multiple occasions regarding late submittals". "The cost of any unfinished work becomes the town's responsibility on January 1 2027". An Engineering report was due in September 2023 and wasn't approved till May of 2024(ERAL).

To date the engineer has been paid \$393,000. That is over a third of their contract

Why would the town go on private property and replace the sewer lines for an entire trailer park?

I was recently very sorry to hear that there may be another \$7,000,000 coming Mt.Olive's way because of your lack of fiduciary responsibility.

Something is very wrong with the picture I have painted. The people of this town deserve better than this. To date I have spoken to you on three other occasions. I have not had one single question ~~I have~~ ~~ask~~ answered. I guess you think if you just ignore me I'll just go away.