

Town of Mount Olive
December 1, 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, Commissioner Danny Keel, Town Attorney Carroll Turner, Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis, Commissioner Elect Harlie Carmichael, Commissioner Elect Gena Knod and Commissioner Elect C.J. Weaver.

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation and Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay 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 the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum. He stated no one signed up and closed the public forum.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo – 12-44 - Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland to Execute the Settlement Agreement with Terra Nova in the Amount of \$50,000.00. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated the original contract was for cleaning three tanks at the wastewater treatment plant, but they only cleaned one. The initial price was \$151,408.00 and they wanted to add an additional \$116,048.00. Through negotiations a settlement was reached of \$50,000.00.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons wanted to know what line-item the settlement was coming from and how much reserve. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised the water/sewer reserve, and he will have to go back and look but there is more than enough. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve Action Memo 12-44. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 12-45 – Consider Approval of Pyro Shows Southeast Application for Stand Alone Fire Permit for Fireworks at the Mount Olive Pickle Drop. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve Action Memo – 12-45. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton advised we will now swear in our new and re-elected board members. Town Clerk Sherry Davis swore in Commissioner Delreese Simmons, Commissioner Gena Knod, Commissioner C.J. Weaver, Commissioner Harlie Carmichael and Commissioner Vicky Darden. Mayor Jerome Newton was sworn in by North Carolina House of Representative John Bell.

Mayor Jerome Newton then presented a plaque to outgoing Commissioner Tommy Brown, Commissioner Danny Keel and Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay for there years of service and dedication to the town.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked the outgoing commissioners if they had any comments. Commissioner Tommy Brown thanked everyone for their support. Commissioner Danny Keel said it has been an up and down ride, but he feels like they have accomplished a lot. He thanked the new board for their service. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay thanked everyone for their support, she was happy to serve our town.

The new board was seated. Mayor Jerome Newton stated it is time to select a Mayor Pro-Tempore. He advised the board has the option of doing this from the floor or nominate and vote via secret ballot. He asked if any of the board members have made a decision and if there were any recommendations. He commented if we go by experience or passion, we may consider Commissioner Delreese Simmons, but he doesn't do motions. Commissioner Vicky Darden nominated Commissioner Delreese Simmons as Mayor Pro-Tempore. Commissioner C.J. Weaver seconded the motion and Mayor Jerome Newton requested a vote. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden – yes
Commissioner C.J. Weaver – yes
Commissioner Delreese Simmons – yes
Commissioner Harlie Carmichael – yes
Commissioner Gena Knod – no

The motion was passed 4-1. Commissioner Delreese Simmons was sworn in as Mayor Pro-Tempore by North Carolina House of Representative John Bell.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked if the new board had any comments. Commissioner Vicky Darden thanked everyone for coming out tonight in this cold. She thanks God for all his blessings. Commissioner C.J. Weaver thanked Tommy Brown, Danny Keel and Barbara Kornegay for their years of service to the town. He thanked everyone for being here tonight and appreciates the support of his family and Larry Pierce. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael thanked everyone and stated his purpose is to serve as best he can. He is here for the future and our children. We need your support too. Bring it to our attention and please don't go behind our backs. Share the love. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons said being a commissioner is hard. We deal with attitude and late-night phone calls. This town is in trouble and we need help. Representatives, please help us with the moratorium. He thanked everyone who voted. This board needs to work together. Commissioner Vicky Darden and I used to bump heads, but we don't now. He apologized to anyone he offended. He appreciates the golden girls, Linda Boykin and his mom. He says things his way. But he fights for transparency and coming together. Commissioner Gena Knodle thanked everyone who voted for her. She looks forward to the next two years and thanked the outgoing board for their service.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked his family. He then discussed commissioner assignments for advisory boards as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons – Airport Commission & Fire Department Committee
Commissioner C.J. Weaver – Moratorium & Ordinances
Commissioner Vicky Darden – Housing
Commissioner Gena Knodle – Finance & Human Resources
Commissioner Harlie Carmichael – Public Works

He asked Annette Kirby to serve on the moratorium committee, Gerald Bell on the Airport Commission and Jerilynn Lee on the Finance & Human Resources committee. He thanked the new commissioners for their willingness to serve. He said fair winds and fallen tears, change the attitudes and put our best foot forward. Let's assess where we are and where we want to be. He thanked everyone for coming out this evening and coming together as one. He commented, one town, one community and one Mount Olive. One day we can say we made a difference.

Our next regular board meeting is Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

With there being no further business, Commissioner C.J. Weaver made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gena Knodle seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk