

Town of Mount Olive  
July 7, 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 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. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

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

May 20, 2025, Special Called Board Meeting.  
June 2, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve all the minutes listed above. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum. He reminded everyone of the three- minute time limit. 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. Kathy Turner of 622 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-920-6053 stated her water bill has increased from \$64.72 per month to \$150.00 per month. She has been to the water department, Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and even a commissioner. Nothing has been done, she has resided at this address since 2008. The highest water bill has ever been up until this point is \$89.30. She commented, it is not her fault the water meters are not working properly. She showed photos of the grass grown over the water meter. She is requesting an adjustment.

Mrs. McKale Barfield Best of 209 Lee's Country Club Road, Mount Olive, NC 28365. 919-658-2186. She wanted to comment in reference to some Facebook posts regarding the cemetery grass. She wanted to clarify the grass was cut on June 12 & June 13, 2025. After that we had ten days of rain which is why the grass was high. She said a current commissioner responded to someone's post about the grass being high in the cemeteries, the comment said the current contractor is probably not going to cut it because his contract was not renewed. She wanted everyone to know the contract was fulfilled and their grass is cut every week. She commented in December of 2023 an oath was made by this same commissioner to fulfill all districts request and she hasn't seen the at-large since. To her that was a contract and was unfulfilled for eighteen months.

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

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo – 07-01 - Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Police Officers by Commissioner Vicky Darden.

Commissioner Vicky Darden thanked all of our officers for their dedication to our town and citizens. She knows they have a hard job and risk their lives every day. She presented the certificates of appreciation and stated she was very thankful for them. Mayor J. Jerome Newton stated this group is always present and works with children. They are a good example, and it shows the children not to be afraid of the police. What you do is important and the relationship you establish are priceless. He knows things have happened in the past, but he is counting on this group to fix this.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 07-02 – Consider Approval of Resolution Accepting Grant Portion Only Funding for Sewer Collections Find & Fix Grant Project in the Amount of \$3,203,060 Pending State Funding Agency Approval. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve Action-Memo -07-02. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo -07-03 – Consider Monday July 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM. for a Public Hearing and Closeout of Grant Projects 20-I-3610 & 15-I-3161. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve Action – Memo 07-03 but changing the time to 3:00 P.M. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action Memo – 07-04 – Consider Approval of Purchase of Schwarze 2020 A4 Storm for \$225,000.17. Public Works Director Jordan Conley advised this machine does not require CDL's and it only requires one employee. It can be used all over the whole town. He showed a power point presentation on the machine so everyone could see how it operates. He advised that the sweeper we have now is over twenty years old and it cost \$80,000.00 to get it back in working order. The stainless-steel bed is important because of water, debris, chipping and rust. Stainless steel was a lot higher years ago than it is now. This machine can be used all year long. He showed the machine on

Washington Avenue near Morning Drive where there are no curb and gutters but there are ditch tiles. It pulls grass out of the pavement and the key to this is the several heads. This is a simple solution for getting the standing water out of the ditches. This machine is also very quiet, unlike the one we have now. It is much faster, and it does have its pros and cons. It is not a fix all but helps all.

Mayor J. Jerome Newton commented you have talked about cleaning the streets, the citizens are concerned about the paving, ditching and potholes. Public Works Director Jordan Conley replied, it has a pipe that sucks the water out of the ditch, and they can identify and fix when they get to them. This machine reveals the potholes while they are still small. This allows us to fix them before they become large. Mayor J. Jerome Newton asked what the pipe would do? Public Works Director Jordan Conley responded, it is a flexible hose approximately 15 to 20 feet in length and will suck all the debris out of a culvert.

Mayor J. Jerome Newton advised the citizens don't want a street sweeper. They want potholes repaired. He asked what impact this will have on that. Public Works Director Jordan Conley explained this machine is made to do all of that without the use of a vac/sewer truck. Mayor J. Jerome Newton commented, so the ditch is closed but you can still get the debris out. Public Works Director Jordan Conley answered, yes it pulls all of this up before it get into the ditch. It will cover about 80% but not 100%. We will have to use excavation for the remainder. He can do all of this with one person.

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated this is a stormwater maintenance machine. It shows all cracks in the road, cracks that expand during cold weather and result in frozen pipes. It gets debris off the curb and gutters and stops the pine straw and debris from going into the storm drains. We could see lots of debris from only 1 ½ inches of rain. Commissioner Delreese Simmons stated they have dummy drains but asked if this could help identify them. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland said, Powell Aid replenishes every year, and this could help with inflow and infiltration. He explained that trees near an open ditch shed leaves cause them to clog. This machine can be used for this; it can also be used for leaf collection. He admitted he was against the old street sweeper at first, but it turned out to be a good piece of equipment. Public Works Director Jordan Conley stated this program allows for more points when you are applying for funding. Mayor J. Jerome Newton said he has a dummy drain at his house. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland asked if he was at the bottom of the drain. We need funding to put the drains in. Mayor J. Jerome Newton said he is concerned about the ditches at Franklin and Oliver Streets. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland replied this will help reduce the amount of debris that goes into these ditches. Mrs. Pernell Brickney asked if we have received other estimates. Mayor J. Jerome Newton answered, yes. Mr. Don Fairman asked if there was a warranty. Public Works Director Jordan Conley responded, it has three different warranties. Mrs. Linda Boykin commented in 40 years she has never seen the street sweeper. Ms. Cindy Bell wanted to know if there was training. Public Works Director Jordan Conley responded, yes.

Mayor J. Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action Memo 07-04 – Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve Action Memo – 07-04. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 4-1. The votes are as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay – Yes  
Commissioner Tommy Brown – Yes  
Commissioner Vicky Darden– Yes  
Commissioner Danny Keel – Yes  
Commissioner Delreese Simmons - No

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 07-05 – Consider Approval of Proclamation Recognizing Danny King for His Contributions and Dedication to Our Community. Town Clerk Sherry Davis read the proclamation. Commissioner Danny Keel made a motion to approve the Proclamation Recognizing Danny King for his Contributions and Dedication to Our Community. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Interim Town Manager Report: Presented as follows:

## **HOUSEHOLD TRASH COLLECTION**

The Town will be contracting out household trash collection this fiscal year. The Town will continue yard waste and roadside collections. We are currently awaiting one fine quote before awarding the contract.

## **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 the 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 should 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

## **LOT MAINTENANCE AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Due to equipment breakdowns our staff have experienced delays in actively mowing and maintaining as many vacant lots as possible. The equipment has been repaired. We are also focused on clearing overgrown ditches.

## **ADDITION STREET LIGHTING PROJECT**

The Town continues to work with Duke Energy regarding our second phase to identify and install the areas needing additional lighting. The Town is waiting for an update on this work to begin.

## **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 met with staff from the Division of Water Quality and the Division of Water Infrastructure.

The purpose was to receive clarification on flow allocations moving forward. No flow will be allowed until the state clarifies what can be done. The Town is hoping to have a public information release by September of 2025.

## **MAPLE AND NELSON STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT**

An update was received last week stating we are awaiting final determination regarding the amount of funding that will be provided.

## **FIND AND FIX SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT**

The Town has received the finalized letter of intent to fund from the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality. The project purpose is for Find and Fix Sewer Rehabilitation. **The total funding amount is \$3,206,060.00.** Viable Utilities Reserve Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 (one hundred percent of all eligible costs). The State Reserve Project Grant is \$2,203,060 (one hundred percent of all eligible costs). The Town has requested Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services regarding this project.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT/INSPECTIONS**

I would like to congratulate Code Enforce Officer Justi Hill on obtaining his Building Level 1 Certification, he also holds electrical 1, mechanical 1 & plumbing 1 certifications. He can now perform building inspections up to 20,000 square feet. This will allow the Town of Mount Olive to perform our own inspections and bring in additional revenues.

Mayor & Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She wanted to know if we are still going to plan a dedication for the unknown people buried at Carver Cemetery. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised there were a total of 128, some have been identified, he said we would work on putting some things together.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone safe travels.

Commissioner Danny Keel

- He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.
- He commented the street sweeper will not help his side of town.
- He said the increase is not 8% so when the water rate is fixed, it will go up higher because it was not put in the system correctly.
- He advised he received two phone calls today from employees stating they don't have health insurance. One needs to go to the doctor. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland responded due to the unforeseen deadlines with getting the budget passed, everything was delayed ten days.
- Commissioner Delreese Simmons stated McKale was right, there were Facebook posts stating that. Maybe the commissioner should have spoken with McKale before posting.
- He stated Pastor Dwight Merritt wants a building on his church not a bathroom, but he is not allowed. However, the old driver's license office was allowed. We don't have to give them water. He loves to read and investigate things, that his why he is smart.
- He asked about the SBI Investigation, is there one. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland replied, yes there is but it is in conjunction with another agency.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay

- She advised the Exchange Club worked hard on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event at Westbrook Park. They did a great job.
- Mayor J. Jerome Newton
  - He addressed the comments made by Commissioner Delreese Simmons and Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland regarding additional flow. He stated he is the one who signed the Special Order of Consent, and he could go to jail if any additional flow is added.
  - He is putting something together with Wayne County to require a five-day review when other people want to do the same. We can't set a precedence. If we do for one, we have to do for all.
  - He thanked everyone for coming. Some may be upset, disregarded or disrespected. Some may not even want to come to the meetings anymore. He is asking these people not to quit. He said we need this pressure that makes us uncomfortable in our seats. We need your support and ideas. You keep us on the straight and narrow and sometimes our eyes don't see what you see.
- He stated the Carver High School Alumni and Friends had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jerome Newton  
Mayor

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Sherry Davis  
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk