

Town of Mount Olive
September 8, 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, 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 Danny Keel 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:
August 4, 2025, Regular Board Meeting –

Due to a revision that needs to be made Commissioner made the motion to table until the September 22, 2025, Special Called Board meeting. 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 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 another commissioner, 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.

Mr. Dan McPhail of 411 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. 919-658-5619. He wanted to discuss the funding that had been received for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements received from legislators totaling twenty million dollars over the past few years. He is concerned that we are still under a moratorium, and no new businesses are allowed to come. He asked if the contractors had a performance bond. He commented, how do you misspend that much funding. Mayor Jerome Newton stated he would be in contact with Mr. McPhail.

Mr. Billy Wilkins of 102 Overbrook Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534, 919-273-3783. He discussed the thirteen million dollars that was funded for the Wastewater Treatment Plant tree farm and the current Wastewater Improvements Project. He advised everyone to look at the next board member they choose.

Ms. Cindy Bell of 109 Ramblewood Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-5491. Her comments are attached with these meeting minutes.

Mr. Gary Whaley of 135 Windyfield Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27530, 919-658-1902. He stated he wanted to speak positively about the airport. Six years ago, the University of Mount Olive started the flight school. He is the flight school instructor and this year they have thirty-four students. UMO purchases fuel for their planes from the airport, and this brings positive fuel sales. The Town receives revenue from the airport. He invited any Board of Commissioner to come out and see what goes on at the airport instead of all the negative comments.

Mr. Joe Hatch of 501 West Tarheel Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365. 919-252-8631. He wanted to know why some people do not have good water quality. The east side has complained several times. He wanted to know what was being done other than the iron. He then asked why the Town was getting rid of a 2024 truck already, He feels that is a waste of money. Why were the trash carts the town purchased given to NC Waste & Recycling.

Mayor J. Jerome Newton thanked everyone for their comments and closed the public forum. Leadership needs to be transparent.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo – 09-20 - Consider Approval of Resolution Allowing TRC to Prepare a DWI Funding Application for Water Treatment System Renovations. Mayor Jerome Newton asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Danny Keel asked if this is the filter replacement on Gordon Street. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland replied, we are looking for both water plants. Hopefully depending on points, we may be able to replace. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked where? Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland responded, Gordon Street containment walls, this is structural, and we are still working on the application. Commissioner Delreese Simmons wanted to know who will watch and make sure the work is done, TRC? What about employees. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised there will be a town employee to oversee, we are just short-staffed right now.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked approving this does what? Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland responded, it approves them to go forward with submitting the application for the grant. We just found out about it thirty days okay. Mayor Jerome Newton clarified, this is an application only and no funds have been received. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland answered yes and he said there will be a performance bond. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve Action Memo 09-20. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 09-21 – Consider Approval of Contract for CPA Beverly Stroud to Reconcile our Bank Statements and Bring Our Financial Records Current from July 2024 through June 2025. Commissioner Delreese Simmons stated he had not been briefed on this matter. Mayor Jerome Newton said he would brief him later. Commissioner Danny Keel made a motion to approve Action Memo 09-21. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded, and the motion passed 4-1 as follows:

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

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 09-22 – Consider Approval of Proclamation to Greg Wiggins for His Years of Service to the Town of Mount Olive. Mayor Jerome Newton commented that Greg Wiggins was very valuable in many things while serving this community. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve Action Memo – 09-22. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo -09-23 - Consider Moving the November 3, 2025, Meeting to November 10, 2025, Due to Elections. Commissioner Danny Keel stated that it is a good idea and made the motion to approve Action Memo 09-23. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action Memo – 09-24- Consider Confirming the Sale of the of a 2024 Freightliner M2 106 Medium Duty Grapple Truck For \$164,000.00. Commissioner Delreese Simmons wanted to know how much we paid for the truck when it was purchased. He is concerned we will lose thirty to fifty thousand dollars. Commissioner Tommy Brown commented this truck should never have been purchased, it is a worker's compensation claim waiting to happen. Mayor Jerome Newton stated based on the usage of the truck, it is better to get rid of it than keep it. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland responded, the employees have stated they have to make several trips back and forth to the landfill with this truck. He said the truck was appraised and \$164,000.00 was on the high end. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve Action Memo – 09-24. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 09-25 - Consider Scheduling a Special Called Board Meeting on September 18, 2025, at 4:00 P.M. The Purpose of the Meeting is to Consider Approval of the TRC Grant Administration & Engineering Agreements for 19-I-4203 & 24-I-4203 and the Project Ordinances for 19-I-4203 & 24-I-4203. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay asked if these are the CDBG Infrastructure grants. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland answered, yes. Commissioner Danny Keel and Commissioner Delreese Simmons both advised they are unable to attend on that date due to scheduling conflicts. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to determine another date and advertise and place on the town's website. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Interim Town Manager Report: Presented as follows:

HOUSEHOLD TRASH COLLECTION

The Town began contracting out household trash collection on August 11, 2025. The contractor is NC Waste & Recycling. Your household garbage cart should be placed at the curb the night before. Additional details can be found on our website. The contractor is paid to pick up one cart per household unless the household is paying for two or more carts. The Contractor's truck is fully automated which does not allow collecting any household garbage located outside or around the cart, which would be unfair to citizens who are paying for two or more carts. The Town will continue yard waste and roadside collections.

IRON AND DISCOLORED WATER REPAIRS

Iron levels averaged less than 0.10 at both wells' fast month, 0.30 is the state limit. The Town is still working to flush iron out of the system. Any resident still experiencing discolored water, please contact our offices at 919-658-9539.

POTHOLE REPAIRS

A total of 16 potholes have been repaired and filled with cold patch this month. The new street maintenance machine is scheduled to be delivered in September 2025.

LOT MAINTENANCE AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

The ditch located on Dail Street is scheduled to be repaired in September 2025. Is the equipment back in service? The tractor used for cutting needs repair and the estimated costs are \$8,000 to \$10,000. We have obtained a per hour quote to have the following ditches cut at Franklin Street from Church to Oliver, Elizabeth Street, Williamson Street and Norbert Wilson Road as funds allow.

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR REPORT

The report of findings from the Office of the State Auditor Report has been posted on our website. A media release of our responses to their suggestions has also been posted on our website.

Mayor & Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She stated she has been receiving phone calls regarding the conditions of the streets. The staff puts dirt in the potholes but it doesn't stay.
- Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised there have been thirty water leaks in the past month. This has created more problem areas.
- She said she went to the food bank today and they had extra food, she asked anyone who needs it to pick it up after the meeting.
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Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He wanted to clarify the trash carts owned by the town were sold, not given to NC Waste and Recycling.
- Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland responded, yes.
- He stated who has spoke with two former employees who can clear up a lot of the misinformation being spread around. All you have to do is ask them.

Commissioner Danny Keel

- He commented that he feels your pain regarding the moratorium. He doesn't know what happened. He thought we had things moving forward but it has slowed down.
- He said it breaks his heart that David Kornegay has told him there are ten or more businesses that can't come to town.
- He can't do this by himself.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He stated people are calling his home and Commissioner Vicky Darden's home at 3:00 A.M. in the morning. He said this is very disrespectful and you are also waking up my son.
- He said he doesn't know anything about the trash contracts all over town. All races are complaining they are leaving boxes. Today they drug a pumper back into the people's yard. When he spoke to the driver and was told it wasn't his problem. He believes the contract should have come before the board.
- He called Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland last week and he didn't call back. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland was on vacation.
- He said he is seeing his district and other districts going down. He said some people have complained about the tax increase and he has received complaints about the cemeteries.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay

- She thanked Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland for the positive report and all he does.

Mayor Jerome Newton

- He thanked everyone for coming out and would like to think all citizens are concerned. He explained this board should also be concerned even if it happened prior to our watch.
- He stated we can't attack the issue if we don't know what it is and we need to know all of it. He thinks it is a good idea to get a full forensic audit. We are moving in the dark to get to the light. However, we can't address certain issues at this time.
- He feels TRC's Contract will make a difference. We now have others we can reach out to.
- He said the Audit has given him some clarity and we can move forward. The current board has to take responsibility because trust is low. The citizens need to keep our feet to the fire. That's what you are supposed to do, move forward as a team.

Our next regular board meeting is Monday, October 6, 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 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk