

Town of Mount Olive
October 21, 2025
Special Called 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 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 Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve an excused absence for Commissioner Tommy Brown. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Danny Keel 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. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to approve. Commissioner Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo – 10-35 – Consider Approval of the Resolution of Tentative Award to Ralph Hodge Construction for the VUR-W-ARP-0069 Sewer Collections Rehabilitation Project Pending Approval of Bid Documents by the NC DWI.

McGill Engineer David Honeycutt stated this project was bid twice because not enough bids were received the first time. The lowest bidder on the second round was Ralph Hodge Construction, but their bid came in over budget. He advised that McGill, the Town, the NC Division of Water Infrastructure and the contractor have worked together to get the project within budget. However, this all depends on approval from the NC Division of Water Infrastructure.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked what was removed from the project because almost three million dollars was taken out of the project. Mr. David Honeycutt responded that the Sewer Collections Department has already completed and addition CCTV work. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated there is another dead end that needs to be capped on Church Street near Tyndall Funeral Home. David Honeycutt stated Jordan Conley did some of the camera work identified in the Asset and Inventory Assessment. Some pipes had burst and replaced. HDT pipe pulls through the old pipe.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons wanted to know who would oversee the project. Is anyone from the town going to be there? Is there a surety bond and warranty. David Honeycutt responded we have construction staff and field staff who will oversee and verify all work has been completed to the satisfaction of the town. There will be a town staff member there according to conversations with Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland. There is a surety bond and warranty once the project is in usable service. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated that he, Caroline Bari, Donald Dewitt and Sorome Applins would be overseeing the project as well.

Mayor Jerome Newton stated we are a year behind on this project now. David Honeycutt responded, yes for several reasons. Mayor Jerome Newton advised this was due to the change in the scope of work. The cost is much more now than it was a year ago and now there are not enough funds to complete everything we need. We are at a critical stage and need oversight from both sides. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised the surety bond protects the town if the engineers drop the ball. David Honeycutt responded they assist with oversight but ultimately the contractor is responsible for the construction. Mayor Jerome Newton wanted to know what happens if the engineer does not complete the plan on time. David Honeycutt replied we work through that during the process and have been corresponding with the funding agency. We started with an original scope, and the town requested changes and we completed additional survey work. He feels they will meet this design date, but we all must work together. David Honeycutt said you also must factor in the Council of Government charges.

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland asked David Honeycutt if he could advise the board of our next steps before the groundbreaking. David Honeycutt stated it will take two weeks to submit the notice of award and authorization to construct to Caroline Bari. He expects construction to begin in January 2026 and hopes to have state approval by early November. David Honeycutt stated he has everything he needs to submit everything to the state except of the resolution we are here to get passed today. Mayor Jerome Newton replied it is almost necessary for approval because we don't have time. He requested a motion to approve Action-Memo – 10-35. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve Action-Memo – 10-35. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo – 10-36 – Consider approval Authorizing McGill Associates Engineering to Negotiate the Scope and Costs with the Contractor regarding the VUR-W-ARP-0088 Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project.

David Honeycutt stated the project was bid in late September. We did not receive any bids on the first round and only one on the rebid. The bidder was Bowen Engineering. We have already begun negotiations because time is of the essence. Last week he met with Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland, Mayor Jerome Newton and Caroline Bari, Division of Water Infrastructure Project Manager. The original project included the Head Works, screen, adding a third clarifier and building a new travelling bridge. The clarifier does not work without the pump station and filter. The costs are too high, and the funding is not enough. The contractor could have the new scope of work completed by December 31, 2026. All disbursements requests must be received by September or October 2026.

David Honeycutt advised the request today is additional services, change of scope and to move the process forward in the interest of time. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay asked how short are we? David Honeycutt responded, fourteen million dollars. Commissioner Danny Keel said basically we are approving McGill to negotiate, at what point will negotiations move forward? David Honeycutt replied they can have it completed by September of 2026. Does the town want clarifier and a new filter. Mayor Jerome Newton commented so we have to decide between the filter or clarifier due to time and cost. It is already a year behind and the filter appears to be the only one we can have completed by the deadline.

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated we have two hundred and seventy calendar days taking out weekends. The filter could be completed by September, but the clarifier can't be completed until December. But that would require a lot of concrete and does not account for cold days or other delays. It would require a twenty-foot excavation, but the sand filter would only require ten feet. He stated he favors the clarifier but due to costs and limitations, he suggests we go forward with the sand filter.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked what is the maximum amount we can be billed per hour and what is the maximum amount for this project? David Honeycutt replied \$245.00 per hour and \$25,000.00 for the project. Town Attorney Carroll Turner asked if there is any possibility this deadline could be extended. David Honeycutt answered, there is a possibility, but it would have to be approved by the federal level and we don't have time. All construction deadlines across the state are the same.

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised a lot of times dealing with the state requires hard deadlines. They usually do not approve them because if they do it for one, they have to do the same for everyone. Mayor Jerome Newton commented we don't have time. Based on the timeline the filters are all we can complete. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked if there is a warranty on the filters. David Honeycutt replied, yes.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo- 10-36. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to approve Action-Memo – 10-36. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked everyone for coming.

Our next regular board meeting is Monday, November 10, 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,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk