

Town of Mount Olive
February 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 Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January 6, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Vicky Darden made the motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the January 13, 2025 Special Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the January 21, 2025 Special Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened 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. He advised that on December 13, 2022 McGill Associates, PA went through the bid process. He wanted to know if any direction has been given to the engineer. He stated he made a public records request regarding this project and he received only six documents. He asked if there has been any contact with McGill Associates, PA in two years. This means the owner has not given any direction to the engineer in two years. He has lots of questions for the engineer, he feels the town has failed their job. He is very disappointed.

Mr. Gary Scott of 1920 Tram Road, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-738-5905. He wanted to revisit to see where we are on the sewer moratorium. He was promised it would be lifted by 2024. He owns property on Highway 55 and is paying each taxes for something he can't develop. He wanted to know if additional flow is granted, who gets it? Former Town Manager Jammie Royall told him there was no list when additional flow became available.

Mr. David Kornegay of 147 Crest Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-738-3982 advised he is a life-long resident of Mount Olive. He is also concerned about the sewer moratorium. He has received numerous inquiries from national franchise companies who would like to come to Mount Olive but he has to turn them away. He advises them they have the option of installing a septic tank but that takes up more land and creates more expenses. He commented in relation to the new Town Manager search, please find someone with experience. He has spoken with Urgent Care, Tire companies and restaurants that would provide great jobs, opportunities and revenues. He stated we are heading in the right direction with the replacement.

Ms. Annette Kirby of 112 Ramblewood Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-922-3410. She stated that two years ago she was a select group of ten people who were invited to tour the Waste Water Treatment Plant. When the tour was finished, they realized what a tremendous job the Board of Commissioners were facing. They asked what they could do to help, several of them have human resources experience but the doors were shut and they were not allowed to help. She advised she could speak on every single item but she will focus on the Town Manager search. There was list that was made available to one board member and was not furnished to anyone else. She commended Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland in the work he is doing. She urged him to share his work with others. The Board of Commissioners need to work together instead of being divisive. She said they were labeled a the Golden Girls. They actually did their homework for both white and black people, they don't care about color. She advised that she would advise against hiring a Forensic accountant and especially one who has a conflict of interest.

She said the town is under another investigation by the state auditor's office. They are carefully monitoring you and you know who you are. She then discussed the rooming house policy and updating it. The remainder of her comments are attached as part of the official minutes.

Mrs. Linda Boykin of 600 East Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-922-9364. She stated for five years she has asked for additional lighting in her neighborhood. She wanted to know what it is going to take to get lighting on the south side of town. She would like some feedback and results.

Mr. Michael Herring of 204 South Southerland Street, Mount Olive, NC 2836, 919-738-6784. He said he was not here to condemn anyone. He wanted to commend instead. He did advise there were holes forming under the sidewalks in his neighborhood. He said there are forty-one cracked pieces. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for their time and hopes they will address the issue.

Mr. James Carlton of 1108 South Church Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 252-347-6009. He commented look at you are representing, look at who you represent. Lead in water affects all of us. Put your agendas down and come together of one accord.

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

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action-Memo 02-11 – Update by Town Attorney Carroll Turner Regarding the Minimum Housing Code/Boarding Rooms Ordinance. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill has now completed all areas except one to be fully certified as an inspector. Only twenty percent of people who took the test passed. He stated he and Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill have worked hard on this and they have come up with something they feel is feasible. He has literally just presented it to the Board of Commissioners for comments. He stated after the Board of Commissioners review, it will be presented to the citizens in a public hearing. After that changes can be made and it will be presented in a second public hearing for adoption consideration. It will also be placed on the Town's website.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked Town Attorney Carroll Turner about the land that was sent in an email. Town Attorney Carroll Turner responded the property is jointly owned by the Town of Mount Olive and Wayne County. He stated if the Wayne County Attorney receives an offer on the property by state statute it must advertised. These two vacant lots will have to come before our Board of Commissioners for the upset bid process. Mayor Jerome Newton commented, make sure the Mount Olive citizens know.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo 02-12 - Consider Approval of the Manager Search Consulting Agreement with Eastern Carolina Council. Commissioner Danny Keel stated he took the lead on this and asked Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone to assist the Town of Mount Olive in the search.

Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone advised they are a regional entity and serve nine counties and sixty-two municipalities in our region. They offer transportation planning, aging services and administrative searches. They partner with both federal and state agencies. He has nineteen years combined experience as a city and county manager. He said Commissioner Danny Keel represents the Town on the Eastern Carolina Council. He stated the proposal is turn-key, the template to discuss applicants come directly to him. Any additional expenses not in the contract requires prior approval from the Board of Commissioners. He will assist with a project timeline, development of who receives the applications and he will be here to guide the Board of Commissioners during the interview process. He will make all applications available to the Board of Commissioners. This is a very important issue.

Commissioner Danny Keel commented you heard one of our main issues is someone with moratorium experience. This is very important to us. Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone responded the ideal candidate may not have all of the qualities you want.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay confirmed that Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone gathers the applications and presents them to the Board of Commissioners. She then asked if there was a place we could provide the information to the public. Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone advised that in North Carolina the public is not typically involved in this process.

Mrs. Pernell Brickey stated she may be completely out of line but the Town of Mount Olive needs to hire a Human Resources Manager and she is the one for the job.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons said he has still not received the list. We want the same treatment as the rest of the board. Commissioner Tommy Brown asked can I speak on that. Mayor Jerome Newton asked Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone if the posting of the vacancy should have been posted and if this will go through him. Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone responded he is not normally involved in discussions or list but the applications will come through him. It speeds up the process as various applicants are not just applying for one job. However, he can do whatever the Board of Commissioners wants. Commissioner Tommy Brown commented, let me assure you that no one on this board has been involved in a search for an interim town manager or permanent one.

Mayor Jerome Newton spoke with Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and it switched from a search to an interim to permanent. Maybe the Board of Commissioners should review and come together as a whole before making a decision. Commissioner Delreese Simmons responded he just wanted every commissioner to be included.

Mayor Jerome Newton suggested we table this item to make sure we are all of one accord. Commissioner Delreese Simmons made a motion to table this item. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a show of hands for those in favor of tabling. Commissioner Delreese Simmons and Commissioner Vicky Darden raised their hands. Commissioner Tommy Brown said we need to this moving instead of putting it off for another two to three months. Mayor Jerome Newton stated we could have another meeting this week. We need to work together if we are ever going to become one town, one community, one Mount Olive.

Mayor Jerome Newton then asked for a vote to table this item. Commissioner Tommy Brown, Commissioner Delreese Simmons and Commissioner Vicky Darden voted to table. Commissioner Danny Keel and Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay voted no. Commissioner Tommy Brown wanted to make it clear that his vote was contingent on another meeting this week. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised the Board of Commissioners they recess this meeting until Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Mayor Jerome Newton advised he will request a motion to recess toward the end of this meeting. Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone thanked the board for their time.

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 02-14 -. Consider Approval of Black History Month Proclamation. Town Clerk Sherry Davis read the proclamation. Mayor Jerome Newton 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 discussed Action- Memo 02-15 - Consider Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #6 Moving Powell Aid Funds to General Fund & #7 Water/Sewer Fund Balance Appropriation to 30-8100 for Drinking Water Improvements.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 06

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

A. Revenue

Water Sewer-Fund Balance	30-3990-0001	(\$160,000.00)
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B. Expenditure

Repair and Maintenance-Equipment	30-8100-1600	\$160,000.00
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Section II. Explanation

1. This amendment increases the Mount Olive Water and Sewer revenue by (\$160,000.00). This revenue is an appropriation of fund balance. Expenses will be increased for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$160,000.00 in Water Repair and Maintenance of Equipment.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment # 06. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0. advised he would not be able to attend, Commissioner Vicky Darden said that was her birthday, Mayor Jerome Newton stated he would be able to attend.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 07

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

A. Revenue

Powell Aid Revenue	12-3430-0000	(\$20,000.00)
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B. Expenditure

Public Works Salaries	10-4150-0200	\$20,000.00
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Section II. Explanation

1. This amendment decreases the Mount Olive Powell Aid Receipts revenue by (\$20,000.00). Expenses will be increased for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$20,000.00 in Public Works salaries for repayment of time spent mowing, street drain clean-up and ditching, all approved as per Powell Aid guidelines.

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised Budget Ordinance Amendment #06 relates to the Gordon Street Chemical pump and the Boling well which affects West Mount Olive and industry. Commissioner Delreese Simmons stated he has received several complaints about brown water then we have \$160,000.00 to use for West Mount Olive. Can we find \$160,000.00 for the south-side. Get the monies instead of the hotel and the businesses. Commissioner Delreese Simmons said he is tired of his water being brown. When were the pumps fixed over there. Why is there such a rush when the hotel complains, which is owned by Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay.

Commissioner Vicky Darden asked if someone could explain to the people about the lead.

Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment 07. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 4-1 as follows:

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

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland explained with regards to the lead in the water, the Town has been continuously updating the lead pipes. It doesn't mean there is lead in the water. This is a Federal Mandate. Our current water meter replacement project will identify any remaining lead pipes. We have until 2027 to have this completed. This should have started in 2022. More letter will be mailed out. Please contact his office with any remaining questions.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discusses Action-Memo 02-16. Consider Authorizing Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and Town Attorney Carroll Turner to Seek a Forensic Auditor to Assist in the Investigation as Recommended by the State Bureau of Investigation. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised if the Board of Commissioners would like to wait until the recessed board meeting to discuss this further, that will be fine.

Commissioner Danny Keel made a motion to recess until Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. in the board meeting room. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Interim Town Manager Report:

- He advised the updated Special Order of Consent will pertain to the collections system only.
- He said the only way to correct the water going to the public has to be done at Gordon Street. There has to be a town wide flushing system. We need to rework three types of media but we only have two. He assured everyone there would be no disruption in services from the Town.
- He Mrs. Linda Boykin to come his office and he will discuss the lighting issue with her.
- He appreciates everyone's support.

Mayor & Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She thanked everyone for coming out.
- She reminded everyone of the annual Black History Parade on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. The rain date is Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. She advised that Mayor Jerome Newton will be this year's Grand Marshall.
- She feels all pastors should support the Black History Parade. We don't have a newspaper so we need to get the word out.
- She said she works hard and sometimes she doesn't feel like she is doing anything.
- She got a birthday present in the mail from her son Ransky that made her cry. She showed everyone the plaque that resembled a star on the walk of fame.
- She stated she still works with the Widows group. They have a great group but no men.

Commissioner Danny Keel

- He thanked everyone for their support and coming out.
- He advised we want to fill the Town Manager position with a trained qualified person. Allowing Eastern Carolina Council Executive Director David Bone to take care of the proposals would take the leg work off of us.
- He said there is no north or south, just one Mount Olive. That is not on his agenda, he is focused on the moratorium.
- He wants to do what is best for the whole town.
- He then discussed the list about the Interim Town Manager. He explained a list never came to light because the Board of Commissioners decided to leave Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland in this position until a permanent replacement is found.
- He stated that Commissioner Delreese Simmons works hard for his district.
- He did not realize that serving on the Board of Commissioners was such a headache.
- He recognized Sam Jones regarding in upcoming award.
- He asked everyone to please pray for this board.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He thanked everyone for coming out.
- He commented ditto to Commissioner Danny Keel.
- He encouraged everyone to come to the recessed board meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
- He said he can see through all the smoke and mirrors being thrown out and he will continue to fight for the Town.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He thanked Commissioner Danny Keel for his great words
- He noticed the lights going up on Highway 55. He has already asked Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland about the lights. Maybe this week we can sit down and discuss.

- He stated Mr. Billy Wilkins who has been helping with sign machine said it doesn't work. It only costs \$80 to \$90 to buy the signs and costs around the same to make them ourselves.
- He asked why is the Town paying someone at the airport to pump fuel and there is no contract, he can state what he wants. He is renting the huge hangar for \$900.00
- He asked why Town Clerk Sherry Davis goes to the Airport to take meeting minutes, who pays her and what does the Town have to do with the Airport. Town Clerk Sherry Davis responded the meetings are not held at the airport, they are held at the Train Depot at 11:00 A.M. and she works through her lunch. She answered the Town pays her for the one hour and she has been doing this since Louis Pate was Mayor and the Town of Mount Olive owns the airport. Commissioner Delreese Simmons replied "it is a rich boy playground".
- He then discussed his Censure in 2024. He said sixty percent voted for the Censure but they needed eighty percent. He stated he is no censured because there were not enough votes to censure him.
- He advised a few months ago something was leaked regarding his information and there should be an investigation. His account was on auto draft and he owed about eight or nine hundred dollars. He is asking the Mayor to do an investigation into who leaked his information.
- He thanked everyone and gave a shout out to his mom whose birthday is this month.
- He said he can work with any one of these commissioners but one stated he would never work with him.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay

- She thanked Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland for stepping up.
- She thanked the Department Heads for their reports.
- She would like for everyone to work together and move forward with the Town Manager search.

Mayor Jerome Newton

- He said some of the things said were good and some were bad. He would like to make Mount Olive one. Our town has had a dark cover over it. Some decisions have been made without the his insight or input. When the Mayor is left out, the citizens are left out. He knows we are a Council/Manager form of government and the vote of three commissioners is the majority. The Mayor does not have a vote. People thought the Mayor had more power. The Mayor is not being disrespected, it is the people. Complaints are received but no answers. Sometimes this is because the citizens do not hold the Board of Commissioners accountable. The Mayor can only vote when there is a tie and that will not happen. We have received a lot of undue press. Certain decisions were made that could have been handled differently. What happens when these statements go viral. It puts a black eye on Mount Olive. Sometimes we need to look at the timing of decisions being made without the Mayor's input. We don't need Mount Olive to be considered a place of racism. What happens if businesses decide not to come. We need to make decisions for the Town that reflect the positive not the negative. The doesn't just affect the Town but also those around us. He advise he does not agree with Boycotting the North Carolina Pickle Festival. How do we bring this board together? He thinks we should have a retreat and come together. We need a neutral place because he doesn't feel like it will happen here. We need to voice our concerns and our challenges. We need to work as one and are not doing that. How do we get all of the Board of Commissioners together? We all want what is best for the Town.
- He advised that Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and all the Department Heads are doing a good job.
- He stated this is not about north, south, east or west. We don't need these kinds of statements in this climate. Citizens you need to hold the Town accountable, we work for you. We need to be transparent and ready to serve you. You elected us and can vote us out. If you need to answer the same question twice the Board of Commissioners needs to be held accountable. We need to stop attacking each other about issues. We don't need outsiders talking about our Town when there are things we can avoid.
- He commented that Commissioner Danny Keel mentioned Sam Jones. On Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at Southern Wayne High School she is to receive the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Congratulations to her.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked everyone for coming. We will see you at the recessed Board meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. in the Board Meeting Room.

Commissioner Danny Keel made a motion to recess until Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk