

Town of Mount Olive
February 6, 2025
Recessed Board Meeting
Minutes

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 Tommy Brown 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 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.

Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to accept Action Memo 02-12. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded the motion. Commissioner Delreese Simmons doesn't think Commissioner Danny Keel should be allowed to vote since he serves on the Eastern Carolina Council. Commissioner Danny Keel responded he will let Town Attorney Carroll Turner address this. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised that Commissioner Keel would have to be receiving a financial benefit. He is not, therefore it is not a conflict of interest. Just because someone thinks it is a conflict doesn't mean it is. Town Attorney Carroll Turner used Realtor David Kornegay as an example for a conflict of interest. If Mr. Kornegay was on the board and we were voting on rezoning a piece of property that Mr. Kornegay wants to develop. This would be a conflict of interest because it could be a financial benefit to him.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay called to question the motion and second already on the floor and called for a vote. Mayor Jerome Newton asked who was for approving this motion. The motion passed 4-1. The votes were as follows:

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

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 explained this had been reviewed by himself and Town Attorney Carroll Turner. The language is standard and it must be signed in order to proceed with the Sewer Collections Rehabilitation Project. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked how much this was going to cost the Town. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland responded \$5,100.00 but it is reimbursable through the grant. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked where? Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated North Center Street, Park Avenue, Tillman Street and Jurney Street.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve action memo 02-13. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed 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. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked how the newspaper got the name of the girls and is this the first SBI investigation. Town Attorney Carroll Turner asked how far back? He advised that initially he refused to give their names but the Goldsboro News Argus provided a statute General Statute 160A-168B that

states employee information like names, age, current position, and salary from being disclosed, because it is a public record. The Goldsboro News Argus was almost threatening to sue the Town if we didn't. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated he was afraid it might interfere with SBI Investigation but was advised it would not. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked what employee was investigated in the past and why was their name never in the paper. Town Attorney Carroll Turner responded, do you want me to answer the question or do you want to? Mayor Jerome Newton advised we would not be acting like this tonight. Town Attorney Carroll Turner continued, he was aware of this investigation. He was not aware of the Linda Tyson investigation at the time it was ongoing. He stated her name was not released because the SBI and District Attorney declined to prosecute.

Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve action-memo 02-16. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay called to question the motion and the second. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked everyone for coming. He advised that he had been asked a couple of questions this week. The first question was regarding the Facebook post from Commissioner Simmons asking citizens to boycott businesses in Town. He stated what is happening on our Board of Commissioners should not affect our businesses.

The second question is why hasn't anyone said anything to Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay for the comment she made to Commissioner Delreese Simmons. Mayor Jerome Newton said he condemns them both.

He advised the citizens they need to use their voice.

Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Our next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk