

Town of Mount Olive
February 5, 2026
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was moved from the original date of February 2, 2026, due to winter weather. Those in attendance per roll call were Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons, Commissioner Vicky Darden, Commissioner CJ Weaver, Commissioner Harlie Carmichael, Commissioner Gena Knode, Town Attorney Carroll Turner, Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis.

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation and Commissioner Gena Knode 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 Harlie Carmichael made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner C.J. Weaver seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to approve the following meeting minutes:
Monday, January 5, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Commissioner C.J. Weaver made a motion to approve Monday January 5, 2026, Regular Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum. He stated the rules for the public forum and advised it is our intent to have a productive meeting. Please limit your comments to three minutes. You may request more time from the mayor, but it may or may not be granted. There will be no attacking of the staff or board members. Any complaints can be sent to Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and copied to Town Clerk Sherry Davis. Please allow the speaker on the floor to finish and address the mayor first to be recognized. There will be no outbursts from the audience. We need focus to ensure one town, one community, one Mount Olive.

Ms. Annette Kirby of 112 Ramblewood Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-922-3410 asked the mayor if she could have five minutes instead of three and he agreed. She wanted to discuss old business that is not on the agenda. The first item was the progress in line of the human resources policies. The second item is the hiring of a forensic audit progress. The third item is an update for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Lease agreement. She wanted to know if the issue between them and ADLA, Inc. has been resolved. The fourth item was the HUD violations from the article in the newspaper. Where do we stand, has citizenship been confirmed? The fifth item was regarding the additional streetlights installed. She said thank you but wanted to know where they were located. The sixth item was a follow-up on the thirty-five-thousand-dollar grant approved for the police radios. She wanted to know how many radios and if the town has received them. The seventh item was regarding the advisory committees; have they been put in place yet. The eight items were the Downtown Revitalization Grant, the estimated date of completion and the amount and the Council of Government still the grant administrator. The ninth item was regarding the status of the small vac truck; has it been repaired? The tenth item was the wastewater treatment plant; she wanted an update on the project where the crane will have to be used. She stated she was proud of the public works department for getting the fire hydrant incident under control.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked her for her comments and stated some of these questions may be answered later in the meeting.

Mr. Robert King of 238 Franklin Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-920-4853 stated he was here on behalf of the Concerned Citizens Organization. He serves as President and in 2012 they were making progress and some work was completed. There is still work to be done and he hopes we can continue to work together. He has seen slow improvements.

Mayor Jerome Newton commented to Annette Kirby; he will clarify the HUD article and make sure all vacancies are filled. He then closed the public forum. Annette Kirby stated she would like to follow-up on the 2T rules.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action Memo 01-05 – Discussion to Consider Naming the Town Hall Office Building after the Late Jammie K. Royall, former Town Manager. He advised the citizens will have the opportunity to speak about this at a later meeting where a public hearing will be held. However, he will allow two citizens from the audience to comment briefly. He clarified that Arlene Talton's name will not be removed from the water utilities building. He then opened the discussion for the board of commissioners to determine whether to move forward with this item.

Commissioner Vicky Darden said she has always tried to recognize people while they are living but she didn't get that chance with Jammie Royall. She stated he worked so hard and was doing his job. Some nights he stayed until 9:00 P.M. and a lot of people do not know what went on behind the scenes. She misses him so much. She and Commissioner Harlie Carmichael fought hard for Jammie Royall to get the Town Manager's seat. She knows she has Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland to pick up the slack. She referred to the parking lot situation and said we all have the same

blood. She will get to the people she has not recognized yet. Mayor Jerome Newton said this is a discussion for the board of commissioners to voice why the building should be named after Jammie Royall.

Commissioner Harlie Carmichael said he felt new to the town for a while after moving back. Jammie Royall was under former Town Manager Charles Brown at the time. However, he was doing the job and did not get paid for his hard work. He would be happy to see Jammie Royall's name on the Town Hall Office Building.

Commissioner CJ Weaver commented, weights and measures not emotion. Are we motivated to recognize someone because we thought they were wronged? There are other names we could choose, Louis Pate, Moses King, Danny King, Ralph Schroeder and even John Bell. He said he thought a lot of Jammie Royall. Mayor Jerome Newton responded, make sure we maintain professionalism. Commissioner Vicky Darden responded, we are not trying to overlook anyone. Jammie Royall was our first black Town Manager and he deserves this.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons advised only three of the current board members worked with Jammie Royall. He spoke with him every morning and night. He was his neighbor. Even when Jammie Royall was on vacation, he would answer his phone and would even come back if needed. He paid bills for people and gave them money for lunch. Jammie Royall was aware of the certificate Commissioner Vicky Darden was talking about. Jammie Royall has always been a part of this town. Louis Pate, do you really want to talk about that. He is already in the process of naming the police department building after retired Police Chief Ralph Schroeder. Jammie Royall told the previous board to give him until July 2025. Sadly, he passed away in July of 2025. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons asked Commissioner CJ Weaver whose name he would like on the building. Commissioner CJ Weaver replied he is not a big name on the building person. Commissioner Gena Knode advised she only knew Jammie Royall as a citizen and an employee, and he was very passionate about the Town of Mount Olive. She asked, "is naming the building after him the best way to honor him?" She suggested possibly establishing a scholarship in his name. Commissioner Vicky Darden responded, there were a few things she had thought about as well, but she would really like his name on the building. Mayor Jerome Newton stated this is a non-action memo for discussion only, but public comment will be allowed at the March 2, 2026, meeting. Town Attorney Carroll Turner commented those actions are appropriate if the board so chooses. Mayor Jerome Newton stated we can vote on this at our next meeting if that is what the Board of Commissioners would like to do.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action Memo 01-06 - -- Discussion Regarding Consideration of Amending the Town Charter to Four Year Non-Staggered Terms for Elected Officials. He advised should the Board of Commissioners choose to act on this at a future meeting, it will not take effect until the November 2027 election. He stated with non-staggered terms all members of the Board of Commissioners would run out at the same time.

Commissioner Vicky Darden said she would like four years terms because two-year terms are not long enough to learn. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons agrees with Commissioner Darden. With two-year terms, we are only serving for nineteen months. It takes at least a year to even understand. He commented if you don't have Jammie Royall or a group of women to guide you, he knows.

Commissioner CJ Weaver agrees the terms should be four years. However, he is concerned about the non-staggered. This time we had three new board members. The 2027 election staggered terms would allow the three with the highest number of votes to serve four-year terms. The two with the lowest number of votes would serve another two-year term in 2027/ It would be that way every couple of years.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons stated he would be okay with staggered terms. He thinks it should be that way too. Mayor Jerome Newton feels four-year terms would be more beneficial. There is so much to learn and the first three months newly elected officials are trying to feel things out and two years really isn't enough time. He likes the idea of staggered terms because it allows for some continuity. We will discuss this as an action item at the March 2, 2026, meeting. There is a process to follow so a public hearing will likely be held at the April 6, 2026, meeting.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised if the Board of Commissioners want to comment, the next step would be a resolution of intent, a public notice of that intent, hold a public hearing and then adoption of the ordinance. The Board of Commissioners will have to decide the effective date either with or without a public referendum. If the board decides against the public referendum, the public can sign a petition and force one. He stated he was serving on the Board of Commissioner when the terms were changed to four years. At that time, it had to be requested through the general assembly but was extremely unpopular. The board changed it back to two-year terms before the first four-year term was up. He commented other changes can be made if the board chooses. He stated districts could be eliminated and go back to all at-large seats. Mayor Jerome Newton wanted a general time frame for this process. Town Attorney Carroll Turner replied, usually around three months.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action Item 02-13 - Discussion Regarding Removal of the Reversionary Clause from ADLA Inc., and Carver Alumni High School & Friends Association Deeds Located 612 South Breazeale Avenue. Commissioner CJ Weaver made a motion to remove this item since Town Attorney Carroll Turner has advised us, we can't legally remove that clause. Therefore, it is a moot point. Mayor Jerome Newton advised there is a motion on the floor and requested a second. Commissioner Gena Knode seconded. Mayor Jerome Newton stated this is a discussion and people want to talk. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons agrees. Town Clerk Sherry Davis reminded everyone that this is a non-action item, so no motion is needed. Mayor Jerome Newton thanked her and moved forward with the discussion. He stated he would allow Town Attorney Carroll Turner to speak.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated he sent a memorandum to the Board of Commissioners regarding the reversionary clause. The following notes were from the memo. He discussed WAGES, the board of education deeded the Carver Cultural Center to the Town, and we must honor those leases.

North Carolina requires consideration for the deed, most cases are monetary, but they are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. North Carolina General Statute – Sec. 160A-279(a), The law requires this clause if fair market value is not paid. That is why the reversionary clause is in the deed description. Mayor Jerome Newton commented, had there been a purchase this clause would not have been an issue.

Ms. Irvina Wentworth introduced herself as the attorney for ADLA, Inc. She stated at the time it was new to everyone and at the time ADLA, Inc. signed, they did not have an attorney. She would like to request a release of the deed. ADLA Inc. provides community service; the bylaws ensure assets would dissolve to another non-profit organization. ADLA, Inc. would like to continue the work they have done in the expansion. ADLA, Inc. has contributed \$147,000.00 in paving and landscaping. These restrictions are not allowing them to expand. Mr. Danny King with ADLA, Inc. explained when you apply for any funding and don't own the property it disqualifies you for the funding. He is currently trying to get a \$213,000,000.00 Rural Transportation Grant. Ms. Irvina Wentworth reminded everyone there was fire there too and funding was significant. Mr. Danny King with ADLA, Inc. advised the work they do is for the good of the community and he would like to discuss this further with the Town.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked if past grants were obtained based on the assumption you owned the building. Ms. Irvina Wentworth responded, I don't believe we could have. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael stated the Town of Mount Olive no longer wanted the responsibility of upkeeping the property but that is no reason to punish ADLA, Inc. Commissioner CJ Weaver wanted to know how it was rebuilt after the fire. Mr. Danny King answered with private donations. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons said Jammie Royall could not force the insurance company to pay. From what he knows private funding was obtained. ADLA, Inc. temporarily moved into the old Friendly Mart Store. He has repaved the parking lot and part of the road going to Carver Cultural Center and he doesn't even own that property. Jammie Royall did try. Mayor Jerome Newton most licensed insurance agents require a two-year probationary period. It is the same with the building and having insurance. If the property is sold it is up to the new owner to purchase insurance. Town Clerk Sherry Davis advised the deed had transferred shortly before the fire and the Town's insurance company would not cover it. Mayor Jerome Newton suggested the attorneys get together and discuss this. ADLA, Inc. pushed for the deed in order to obtain funding. He asked if any members of the board had any questions. Commissioner CJ Weaver stated for clarification, why don't we let the attorneys speak first then place it on our next agenda. Ms. Irvina Wentworth replied that she travels frequently and to please place this item on the March 2026 agenda.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo 02-14 - Consider Approval of the Town Wide Storm Water Master Plan with Suggested Revisions from the November 10, 2025, Public Hearing. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons made a motion to table this item until the March 2, 2026, meeting. Due to the rescheduling of the February 2026 because of wintery weather McGill engineers David Honeycutt and Cameron Long were unable to attend tonight. Commissioner CJ Weaver seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action Memo- 02-15 - Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons stated this issue came up last month regarding the land at Carver Cemetery. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised verbal contracts should never be done, now we are stuck. Any verbal contracts need to come forward now. Commissioner CJ Weaver agrees, verbal contracts are of another generation. Mayor Jerome Newton commented to place this on the March 2, 2026, meeting agenda.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action Memo - 02-16 - Presentation of Check by the Wayne County ABC Board General Manager, Darnae Barefoot. Mr. Darnae Barefoot with the Wayne County ABC Board stated they contribute every year to state; they are not funded by North Carolina. We earn, pay bills and distribute. Going forward you will probably see me every quarter if I'm welcome. Mr. Barefoot advised they are currently upgrading the Mount Olive ABC Store and are building a new one in Rosewood. He said to call anytime with questions, he will even give the Mayor, Board of Commissioners and the Town Attorney a tour. Mayor Jerome Newton said he looks forward to it. Mr. Darnae Barefoot presented the Town of Mount Olive with a check in the amount of \$18,954.00. He stated they help Wayne County and the Town of Mount Olive. He said approximately \$18,000.00 four times a year is approximately \$72,000.00 annually. He commended the Mount Olive Police Department for their quick response to a recent incident at the Mount Olive store. We have our own law enforcement, but Mount Olive is great for providing mutual aid. He wanted to make the public more aware. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons wanted to know what line-item the ABC board revenues go in to. Commissioner CJ Weaver stated it should go to Law Enforcement Officers. Mayor Jerome Newton said we will discuss this later.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action – Memo – 02-17 - Consider Approval of CDBG-NR 19-C-3131 Budget Transfer in the Amount of \$13,500.00 from Rehabilitation Line Item to the Planning Line Item to undertake the Subsurface Utility Easement evaluation to complete the Small Town Mainstreet Master Plan. Mr. David Harris of RSM Harris and Associates stated he has worked with the Town on CDBG Projects for many years. The state did not allocate all the funding needed for the engineering of the Small-Town Main Street Master Plan. The state added an additional \$200,000.00 to the CDBG 19-C-3131 Grant Project. We have been working on this since May of 2025. Very detailed information is required. There is a discrepancy between what utilities are in the ground versus what the outdated maps show. We must verify all water locations and interconnections. The only way to bridge that gap is to perform a Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE). A special engineering firm will come with specialized equipment. They can determine the size and material; this is the cheapest way because it prevents the town from having to dig in the downtown area. We have existing funds we want to transfer from one line item to another. The funding agency has already approved this in writing. If the board of commissioners approves, the SUE can take place quickly. This is the last piece of the puzzle for this grant project.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked the board if they have any questions for Mr. David Harris. Commissioner Gena Knode asked Mr. Harris if he is the engineer for this project. Mr. Harris answered, "No I am the grant administrator. Regeneration by Design is an engineering firm." Commissioner Gena Knode wanted to clarify from the beginning. Mr. Harris responded, "Yes."

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo – 02-17. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael made the motion to approve. Commissioner CJ Weaver seconded. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons asked who represents the town? Mr. Harris replied, the Town Manager. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised they will provide us with shape files but asked if they would be electronic. Mr. Harris stated he was sure they would be. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland said this could be valuable to put into our diamond maps system, it is money well spent. Town Clerk Sherry Davis confirmed Regeneration by Design will be providing an electronic copy. Commissioner CJ Weaver wanted to know if the town would receive blueprints. Mr. Harris commented we need this information to qualify for construction. Commissioner Gena Knode asked if this was just for downtown. Town Clerk Sherry Davis explained this planning grant is just for downtown, but we have to provide a master plan before we are eligible for construction grants. Mayor Jerome Newton stated we spend more time planning than we have nothing left for construction. Town Clerk Sherry Davis advised each funding agency sets aside grant funding for specific purposes. Some are planning only, some are construction only and some are combined. However, most require a planning grant before being eligible for a construction grant. These funds are drawn down only, what we do not spend stays with the funding agency. If we do not complete the planning grant, we will have to pay back the money we have already spent as well. Commissioner CJ Weaver commented on the architect part before construction. Mayor Jerome Newton called a point of order. He advised we have a motion and a proper seconded on the floor and then requested a vote. The motion passed 4-1 as follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden – Yes
Commissioner CJ Weaver – Yes
Commissioner Gena Knode – Yes
Commissioner Harlie Carmichael – Yes
Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons - No

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-18 - Consider Approval Authorizing Allison Platt with Regeneration by Design to Conduct the Subsurface Utility Easement Evaluation for CDBG- NR 19-C-3131. Mr. David Harris explained this is for the engineers to carry out this work via the contract amendment. Commissioner CJ Weaver made a motion to approve Action-Memo 02-18. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 4-1 as follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden – Yes
Commissioner CJ Weaver – Yes
Commissioner Gena Knode – Yes
Commissioner Harlie Carmichael – Yes
Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons - No

Mayor Jerome Newton asked if the board had any questions. He then discussed Action- Memo 02-19 - Consider Approval of the Neuse River Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2024 Resolution. Commissioner CJ Weaver made a motion to approve Action – Memo 02-19. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-20 - Consider Approval of the 2026 Black History Month Proclamation. Commissioner CJ Weaver made the motion to approve Action-Memo 02-20. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-21 - Consider Approval of Tatetia Robinson to Replace Linda Boykin on the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments Commissioner Vicky Darden made the motion to approve Action-Memo 02-21. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager’s Report:

SEWER COLLECTIONS

The Town submitted our mandatory quarterly report for the Special Order of Consent. The report covered October, November and December 2025 and is available on our website. The sewer collections department completed 1,734 feet of CCTV work required by our Special Order of Consent due January 31, 2026. The deadline was met.

A community informational meeting was held by Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland and Project Manager Caroline Bari with the Division of Water Infrastructure on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. at the board meeting room at 114 East James Street. We had a great turnout and are exploring the possibility of holding these meetings on a quarterly basis.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

In the month of January there were a total of 20 water leaks. The water-main replacement on Elmore Street was delayed due to the frequent water leaks, but work began on January 29, 2026. The next water-main replacement is scheduled for Smith Chapel Road. A fire hydrant was hit on Highway 55 West that left a large portion of the town with low water pressure for several hours. The widespread water pressure problems were due to a lack of valves to isolate lines. Town staff did their best to contact those businesses and residents that we knew would be affected when we were first notified of incident.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

As of January 27, 2026, Influent Flow average is 0.994 MGD and Effluent Flow average is 0.763 MGD. We have received 1.81 inches of rain so far this month at the WWTP. December spray DMR monthly report and NPDES EDMR monthly report were

submitted and were in compliance with permit requirements. Notice of Violations with intent to fine were responded to with help of TRC engineering.

We ordered and replaced the expansion joint on Blower #3, and it was put into service, 2 other expansion joints were ordered to replace the ones on Blower #1 and #2. We are currently requesting estimates to replace the bad bearing in the electric motor in Blower # 2. The sand filter for the #4 backwash pump was replaced. We sprayed 5 days this month on the spray fields. This was a total of 2,129,804 gallons with an average of 425,961 gallons a day. Bowen Construction is on site getting site ready for the Wastewater Improvements Project to begin.

STREET SIGNS INSTALLED:

Ten Stop Signs were replaced.

STREET REPAIRS & DITCH WORK

Approximately thirteen potholes were repaired and filled with cold patch. Two storm drain boxes were repaired and one was replaced. Ditches were contracted out to be cut on Canal Street, East Pollock Street, Church Street, Center Street, Davis Street and Norbert Wilson Road.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT

Vanguard Utilities has obtained the FCC License to program the meters and has completed this process. On Friday, January 30, 2026, one thousand three hundred meters were received. The remaining meters are scheduled to be delivered Thursday, February 5, 2026. Notification of service disruption will be posted the day before customer meters will be replaced. The contractor will start installing on Monday, February 9, 2026.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

The contractor has set up an office and is moving in equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026, for the purpose of removal of the water from the clarifier to be demolished.

SEWER COLLECTIONS REHABILITATION PROJECT

A total of 250 ft of 8-inch sewer line and 1 manhole was replaced on McPhail Blvd. DWQ was notified that the project has been completed. McPhail Blvd was completed to meet the SOC requirements which ended the fines for this project deadline. Crews are expected to return but the end of February 2026. They were delayed due to the winter weather and temperatures.

The town requested additional funds for the collections system project and was awarded \$1.4 million. The guidelines require the total funds to be used by the end dates of the current contract. The contractor has stated the work cannot be completed under the current contract. The town has requested the funds be transferred to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The town has not received approval for the transfer of funds. DWI was contacted today for an update.

Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated the Notice of Violations and fines for exceeding limits is not the fault of the Town. He requested help from the state in July 2025 to get something in place to prevent this.

We will be starting the fiscal year 2026-2027 soon. The 2025/2026 audit is expected to be completed by mid to late February.

The water department will be reinstating our disconnect policy which will take effect on the bills that are due by February 16th, 2026. All accounts with a past due balance will need to be paid in full or have an approved payment arrangement with the water department by February 27th, 2026. Failure to pay or obtain an arrangement will result in disconnection of water service. Once services have been disconnected the balance must be paid in full along with a \$100 re-connect fee.

Mayor & Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She thanked everyone for coming out.
- She reminded everyone of the annual Black History Parade on February 28, 2026. The rain date will be March 7, 2026. The Grand Marshall this year is Ama Darden.

Commissioner CJ Weaver

- He thanked everyone for coming tonight.
- He stated taxes go to the Law Enforcement Officials; he apologized to Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons.
- He appreciates the financial reports.
- He is now waiting on the census of communications, transparency and better stewards of tax monies.
- He stated Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland, Town Clerk Sherry Davis & Mayor Jerome Newton worked hard to get communications to and from the county during our wintery weather.

Commissioner Gena Knode

- She stated she did lose power briefly
- She enjoyed the Chamber of Commerce Awards and Police Chief Jason Hughes.
- She attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Celebration and had a very nice time.
- She was able to make it to both informational meetings and they were very informative.
- She asked Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland if he could answer the questions from Ms. Kirby.

Commissioner Harlie Carmichael

- He stated the Town's forklift is down which is why the Christmas Decorations are still up.
- He is thankful for the Fire and Public Works Departments. They work hard taking care of ditches, replacing stop signs and cleaning storm drains.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons

- He thanked everyone for coming out.
- He stated the work on Elmore Street has begun but Moming Drive needs work as soon as possible. There is no drainage, the water backs up so high the residents must keep boots by their door. He thinks this should be the next project instead of Smith Chapel Road. Those residents need help; they pay taxes too.
- He said Happy Birthday to all the February babies.

Mayor Jerome Newton

- He thanked everyone for coming.

Our next regular board meeting is Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. He advised the audience we are getting ready to go into closed session and asked everyone to please step out. He stated that anyone wishing to come back after the closed session to wait outside and someone would come to get them.

Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner CJ Weaver made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The purpose of the closed session was CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS SEC. 143-318.11 (*Motion/Second-Roll Call)

- (a) 6: To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting. G.S. 143-318.11

The Mayor and Town Board of Commissioners reviewed the contracts of the Town Clerk, Town Attorney and Town Manager. The meeting lasted approximately one hour.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to come out of closed session and back to open session. Commissioner Gena Knode made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action- Memo -02-22 – Consider Approval of Any Action Deemed Necessary by the Board from the Closed Session. No action was taken.

With there being no further business, Commissioner CJ Weaver 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