

Town of Mount Olive  
March 2, 2026  
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 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 CJ Weaver 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 CJ Weaver made a motion to remove item 03-38 Consider Approval of the Police Department's Resolution to Sell Surplus Equipment to Purchase New Body Shields at the request of Police Chief Jason Hughes. Commissioner Gena Knode seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

February 5, 2026, Regular Board Meeting  
February 9, 2026- Non-Action Meeting

Commissioner Vicky Darden made the motion to approve the February 5, 2026 & the February 9, 2026, meeting minutes. CJ Weaver seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton advised no one signed up for the public forum and he closed the public forum.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed 03-24 - Consider Approval of the Town Wide Storm Water Master Plan with Suggested Revisions from the November 10, 2025, Public Hearing.

Commissioner Harlie Carmichael made the motion to approve Action Memo - 03-24. Commissioner C.J. Weaver seconded. Mayor Jerome Newton asked if anyone had any questions for McGill Engineer David Honeycutt.

McGill Engineer David Honeycutt advised the requested adjustments were made to the Town Wide Storm Water Master Plan per the Board of Commissioners and citizen requests. However, noted areas of concern from the mapping report does not include a full address for the project.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked McGill Engineer David Honeycutt to explain. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt replied, there is a wide variety provided in a format to interphase with Diamond Maps. There is a study providing pictures of areas dealing with storm water issues. The developing project details three primary areas. Those areas are the Piggly Wiggly, Family Medicine Center. West John Street, South Breazeale and the 100 block of North Church Street. We must look at pipe size to move water out.

Mayor Jerome Newton confirmed this model is to identify mapping. He asked McGill Engineer David Honeycutt to explain stormwater and the challenges to everyone. McGill engineer explained stormwater is water generated from storm events. It collects in ditches drains and other areas. Stormwater is what remains for an extended period, impeding travel, over roadways, standing in parking lots and homes. The mapping looks at predictions and solutions to move the stormwater out. Saturation is also a factor. This plan is based off ten years of statistical data.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked what the solution is. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt responded, the area we did are detailed in the evaluation and the mapping. The solution is costly and challenging. Alternative A and Alternative B required additional storage possibly underground, and the estimated cost is twenty million dollars.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked if there were any further questions from the board of commissioners. Commissioner Gena Knode asked if she heard correctly when he stated there are twenty-five additional areas of concern. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt commented that some were in there already. He added approximately fifteen additional areas. Commissioner Gena Knode asked if this is a planning level grant and what is the purpose of the plan. She said to sell her on it. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt answered yes, it is often unfunded or underfunded. From an engineering standpoint, solutions must be added. There are also smaller areas, but it does not address the larger areas. It identifies a culvert that would help alleviate some of the flooding.

Mayor Jerome Newton wanted to know if this planning grant is a prerequisite for obtaining additional funds. He asked what happens if we don't adopt this. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt commented, he didn't think there was anything in the grant funding that requires the town to adopt.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons asked if this was anywhere close to getting us off the moratorium. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt explained this is storm water not waste water. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons asked if it was in the plan for a twenty-million-dollar fix. Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk Sherry Davis stated to McGill Engineer David Honeycutt, he is asking if the revised areas addressed at the public hearing are in the revised version.

Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk reminded everyone that Commissioner Harlie Carmichael had made a motion to approve this item and Commissioner CJ Weaver had seconded. So, we have a motion on the floor and a second and need to take a vote. Mayor Jerome Newton asked if there were any additional areas. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt responded that the revised version includes Morning Drive, Maple Street, Nelson Street, Pollock Street, Hillsboro Street and Mount Gilead Road. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland clarified Mount Gilead Road is referring to the apartments. Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk explained typically a completed planning grant is needed in order to apply for and receive a construction grant.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons asked about assistance from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland advised we have reached out to the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Corps of Engineers, and no one had the funding or staffing to help us. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland stated the engineering report will be received in an electronic format and can be integrated into Diamond Maps. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt said the town needs the full engineering report, but adoption is not required.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a vote. He stated we have a motion to approve the Town Wide Storm Water Master Plan from Commissioner Harlie Carmichael and second by Commissioner CJ Weaver. The motion passed as follows 4-1.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Non-Action Memo 03-25 – Discussion regarding water utility policies such as disconnect and reconnect fees. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons explained our reconnect fee is one hundred dollars and our late fee is ten dollars. There is also a three dollar fee for auto draft. He stated the one hundred dollars reconnect fee makes it harder to get water back on when they don't have it. He feels this fee amount should be reduced to fifty dollars. Commissioner CJ Weaver reminded the board of Caroline Bari's email regarding what collection policies should be. He advised that he has had to pay the one hundred dollars reconnect fee one time and one time only.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons feels that some businesses are allowed an exception. Commissioner CJ Weaver responded the water meters at businesses spread it out. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons stated there have not been any cutoffs since certain people left. Commissioner CJ Weaver replied, why didn't you do anything about that. Mayor Jerome Newton called a point of order. He said do not interrupt or attack each other. The discussion is whether or not we need to reduce the fees. Ask to speak and be identified. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons commented he has been here for four to five years. We have sat in meetings discussing rates for additional revenues but have not discussed the high cost of the reconnect fees after cutoffs. He can pay for his cutoff fee, but a lot of people can't. He advised it is up to the entire board of commissioners not just one.

Commissioner Gena Knode explained we have known for months and discussed the rates. The cut off or reconnect fees have not been charged for the last two years but everyone has known for months, she has emails to corroborate this Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons advised it was just added to the agenda, and he doesn't remember a meeting. He just wants to lower the cutoff fee not stop it. Commissioner Gena Knode asked Interim Town Manager Glenn, did he not just send out an email to them about a month ago. Interim Town Manager Glenn Holland answered yes. Mayor Jerome Newton reminded everyone there is an ordinance review meeting scheduled for March 11, 2026, at 1:00 P.M., we can continue this discussion then.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to into Public Hearing to Consider Naming the Town Hall Annex Building After the Late Former Town Manager Jammie K. Royall. Commissioner Vicky Darden made the motion. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Annette Kirby of 112 Ramblewood Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365 – 919-922-3410 stated there will be many generations to come and we are the immediate. She feels we recognize people when there are multiple names such as plaques on a wall or set up scholarships in their name. She wants us to remember our history and those who came before us. She commented that putting a name on a building is an outstanding way to honor only one person. Mayor Jerome Newton asked her to expand on history. She stated she is not fond of removing names from the past. We have a lot of mayors and town managers to come. She suggested developing a wall where name plaques can be added.

Mrs. Pernell Brickey of 603 East Hillsboro Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 – 919-394-0007 said she would love to have this done in honor of the late former Town Manager Jammie K. Royall.

Mrs. Linda Boykin of 600 East Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 – 919-922-9384 advised she has known Jammie Royall for a long time. He was the first African American Town Manager for the Town of Mount Olive. She stated we owe him that.

Mr. Will Best of 213 Marion Drive #1, Goldsboro, NC 27530 – 919-273-2588 introduced himself as Jammie’s son-in-law. He said Jammie Royall works twenty-four/seven for the Town of Mount Olive, He answered calls even on vacation, he loved this town and he thinks it would be a great way to honor him.

Mr. Ben Highsmith of 360 Nelson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 – 919-273-6666 commented that Jammie Royall and Mitchell Davis gave him his first job with the Town fifteen years ago. He said Jammie Royall was doing the Town Manager’s job long before he was getting paid for it. He faced a lot of adversity, and he thinks this would be a great honor.

Mrs. Ha’Neefa Best of 213 Marion Drive #1, Goldsboro, NC 27530 – stated she is Jammie Royall’s daughter, and he gave the Town, blood, sweat and tears. He spent time away from family and he deserves this whether people like it or not.

Commissioner Vicky Darden said she thanked for God for Jammie Royall and thanked is family for letting the Town borrow him. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons advised that he spoke with Jammie Royall every night including the weekends. He said Jammie told him three commissioners can fire you at any time, so people can’t know we talk or they will fire me. He was a good dude; I would contact him when he was on vacation and when he was at church. He commented, should there be a plaque Ms. Annette, yes, it is a great idea and he wants his name on it. Jammie Royall worked everywhere throughout town.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to come out of public hearing. Commissioner Gena Knode made the motion and Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo - 03-26 – Consider Approval of Naming the Town Hall Office Building After the Late Former Town Manager Jammie K. Royall. Mayor Jerome Newton said there is a lot of passion in this, separate judgement when making your decision. Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to approve Action-Memo – 03-26. Commissioner Vicky Darden made the motion to approve. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed as follows: 4-1

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

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo – 03-27 – Consider Approval of the Resolution of Intent to Amend the Town Charter to Four Year Staggered Terms for Elected Officials. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons made the motion to approve. Commissioner CJ Weaver seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo – 03-39 (Action- Memo – 03-38 was removed per the request of Chief Jason Hughes) - Consider Approval to Require Any Future Contracts with the Town to be Written Only. Pursuant to NCGS 160A-16 Article 3. Commissioner CJ Weaver made the motion to approve. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

**Town Manager’s Report:**

**SEWER COLLECTION**

The sewer collections department is continuously getting CCTV footage of the sewer mains and storm drains to find infiltration and breaks in the system. They have repair points, they are actively working to meet the July 31, 2026, deadline.

Lift Station# 11, located on Highway 55, had a new pump installed and now there are two new pumps at this station.

Lift Station# 15, located at Wal-Mart, had a new Intergrinex Controller installed.

**WATER DISTRIBUTION**

In the month of February there were a total of 37 water leaks due to old, galvanized steel pipes and the cold temperatures. This is the largest amount of water leaks we have ever had in one month's time. The water meter replacement project has begun, and new meters are being installed. This can cause water leaks due to old line connections.

**For the safety of Vanguard Utilities staff and citizens, please do not enter the work area during meter installations. Please stay within twenty feet of the perimeter.**

The two-inch water main replacement on Elmore that was delayed due to water leaks has now been installed. We are currently awaiting water sample results before connecting the ten effected homes to the new water main.

#### **WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Several Notice of Violations have been issued this month due to the system not operating correctly. Some of the NOVs are due to illegal discharges to the sewer collection system. The town is working with TRC Engineering and DWQ to have a program put in place to control illegal discharges to the sewer collection system. This will require 12 months of testing outlined by DWQ. Notice of Violations for not operating within the reclaim permit is due to problems with the design and installation of the system. The town is working with DWQ to determine corrective actions.

#### **STREET SIGNS INSTALLED**

Fourteen Street Signs were installed/replaced

#### **STREET REPAIRS & DITCH WORK**

Approximately twenty-six potholes were repaired and filled with cold patch material.

The ditch on Nellie Street was cut on each side. We are in the process of clearing water flow restrictions concerning ditches and storm drains in all districts and are currently working on County Road and Franklin Street.

The Christmas lights and banners were removed and the one-hundred-year banners for Southern Bank are now up. Due to the centennial celebration, NC Pickle Festival banners will not be displayed this year.

#### **SEWER COLLECTIONS PROJECT**

The sewer cleaning and lining group were scheduled to be back in Mount Olive today. The construction crews plan to video on Pollock Street (between Breazeale and Chestnut) and Cobb Street and Oliver Street (near Franklin Street). They will also be starting the sewer line cured in place pipe (CIPP) installation.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE OF DISCONNECT FEES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS**

Disconnect Fees for non-payment are back in effect as of February 2026, water billing. All past due accounts will be disconnected for non-payment on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**. To avoid disruption of services the balance must be **PAID IN FULL** or have a current payment arrangement in place with the Town of Mount Olive Water Department before February 27, 2026, at 12:00 P.M. Failure to do either one of these options will result in disconnection.

#### Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 8:30am - 5:30pm

Friday - 8:30am to 12:00pm

#### **Mayor & Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She thanked God for everyone who attended the Black History Parade and for Jammie Royall's children
- 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 Caroline Bari for the emails
- He enjoyed the Black History Parade.

Commissioner Gena Knode

- She stated Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk Sherry Davis has signed everyone up for Ethics Training.
- She said February was spent on nonsense and she hopes March is better
- She has been working on updating the University of Mount Olive's policies
- 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 he wished the Town could pay public works and the fire department what they are worth.
- He read the Fire Department and Public Works Reports and they work hard. He worked with those guys, and it is a job.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons

- He thanked everyone for coming out.
- He hopes this board can find a way to work together and get things accomplished. Those residents need help; they pay taxes
- He apologized to the mayor for speaking out of turn. He was wrong and needed to respect the mayor's seat because he can put us out if he wants to.
- He sees things moving along on the south side and all over town. We must help move this town forward.

Mayor Jerome Newton

- He said please call the Town and do not intimidate contractors trying to do their jobs.
- He stated he accepts Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons' apology.
- He complimented Commissioner Vicky Darden on the Black History Parade, it was seen in Costa Rico
- He commented, please let employees do their work.
- He agrees with what Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons said, we need to work together. His job is to mediate but we need to communicate.
- He advised we need citizen involvement because you have knowledge we don't.
- He said, one town, one community, one Mount Olive. Stay focused and move forward. He thanked everyone for coming.

Our next regular board meeting is Monday, April 6, 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 Vicky Darden 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 contract of the Town Clerk, offering the Town Manager position to the candidate and sending out Request for Proposals for Legal Services. The meeting lasted approximately one hour.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to come out of closed session and back to open session. Commissioner CJ Weaver 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 –03-30 – Consider Approval of Any Action Deemed Necessary by the Board from the Closed Session. He requested a motion to approve sending out Request for Proposals for Legal Services due March 31, 2026. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael made the motion to approve. Commissioner CJ Weaver seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve offering the Town Manager position to the candidate. Commissioner Vicky Darden made a motion to approve. Commissioner Gena Knode seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve retaining Town Clerk Sherry Davis with a salary of \$15,002.00 annually. Commissioner Gena Knode made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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