

Town of Mount Olive
March 12, 2026
Special Called Board
Meeting Minutes

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Those in attendance per roll call were Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons, Commissioner C.J. Weaver, Commissioner Vicky Darden, 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 delivered the invocation and Commissioner CJ Weaver led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerome Newton read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement; Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons asked Mayor Jerome Newton to recuse himself as he feels this is a conflict of interest. Mayor Jerome Newton advised that he would not recuse himself. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael made a motion to remove Mayor Jerome Newton from presiding over this meeting. Commissioner CJ Weaver seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked Town Attorney Carroll Turner if the board had the authority to remove him. Town Attorney Carroll Turner responded, yes they do have that authority and may appoint a temporary chair. Mayor Jerome Newton excused himself from the meeting. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons as the temporary chair for this meeting. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner CJ Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a closed session to this meeting **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

Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons requested a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Gena Knode made the motion and Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded.

The closed session lasted approximately one hour and thirty minutes and discussed personnel issues that had been brought to the board's attention.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons requested a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael made the motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Gena Knode seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons then discussed Action-Memo – 03-31 – Review the Duties and Responsibilities of the Mayor in a Manager/Council Form of Government. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons stated Mayor Jerome Newton has overstepped his authority to the detriment of the town and asked Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk Sherry Davis to read the following resolution.

NORTH CAROLINA WAYNE COUNTY

Resolution of Mount Olive Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive has, pursuant to NCGS Sec. 160A-67, the authority over the general management of the town, including management of all municipal buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, pursuant to NCGS Sec. 160A-69, has limited authority, to wit: to preside at council meetings, perform -ceremonial functions and perform other duties, if any, assigned by the board; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Olive Board of Commissioners is aware of several matters where the mayor has exceeded his authority to the detriment of the town.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive does hereby adopt this Resolution limiting the powers and authority of Mayor J. Jerome Newton as follows.

It is further Ordered as follows:

1. Effective immediately, Mayor Newton is no longer authorized to sign checks or make disbursements on behalf of the Town. The mayor is to be removed from bank signatory cards.
2. Effective immediately, Mayor Newton is not to direct town employees regarding their duties or redirect their work as such conduct unduly interferes with the orderly operation of the town and interferes with the duties of the Town Manager.
3. Effective immediately, Mayor Newton is not authorized to make appointments to any committees, advisory or otherwise.
4. Effective immediately, Mayor Newton is not authorized to negotiate agreements on behalf of the town, unless specifically authorized by the Board of Commissioners to do so.

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1. Effective immediately, Mayor Newton is not authorized to set the board's meeting agenda.
2. Effective immediately, Mayor Newton is no longer authorized to sign contracts, deeds, leases or grant documents unless specifically authorized to do so by the Board of Commissioners.
3. Effective immediately, Mayor Newton is denied access to Town Hall Annex, except Monday - Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. (Noon).

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2026.

Delreese Simons
Mayor Pro Tempore

Attest:

Sherry Davis
Town Clerk

Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons then discussed Action-Memo – 03-32 Consider Approval of Any Action the Board Deems Necessary. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons requested a motion to approve the Resolution Limiting the Authority of Mayor Jerome Newton. Commissioner CJ Weaver made the motion to approve the Resolution Limiting Mayor Jerome Newton's Authority. Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

With there being no further business, Mayor Pro-Tempore Delreese Simmons requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner CJ Weaver made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gena Knode seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk