

Town of Taylorsville



**Town Council Regular Meeting
Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 5:30 p.m.**

Present: Mayor George Holleman
Councilwoman Tamara Odom
Councilwoman Kim Brown
Councilman Jack Simms

Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner was absent from the Town Council Meeting; proper advance notice was given, and his absence was excused.

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

George B. Holleman, Mayor

The regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order by Mayor George Holleman on October 7, 2025, at 5:30 PM. Mayor Holleman welcomed the nine citizens in attendance at Town Hall and announced the upcoming National Night Out event taking place at Courthouse Park. Mayor Holleman then delivered a reading from Psalms 91 in place of an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Councilmember Kim Brown.

Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda:

George B. Holleman, Mayor

Mayor Holleman asked for any adjustments to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval for Minutes:

George B. Holleman, Mayor

Mayor George Holleman presented the minutes from the following meetings for Council consideration:

- September 2, 2025, Regular Meeting

- September 2, 2025, Closed Session
- September 16, 2025, Special Called Meeting
- September 16, 2025, Work Session

Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Tamara Odom, and approved unanimously.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

One citizen from the community signed up to address the Council during the public comment period. Mayor Holleman opened the public comment period by reminding everyone that this was an opportunity for citizens to express items of interest to the Mayor and Town Council. He clarified that this is not a time for the Council to respond or take action, as any necessary follow-up would be taken under advisement. The mayor also asked speakers to maintain proper decorum and to limit their comments to no more than three minutes. (See [attachment A](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

Sandra Hawkins of Northwood Park addressed the Council to express both appreciation and concern regarding transparency and participation. Ms. Hawkins began by referencing a comment she made at the previous meeting regarding the difficulty in locating agendas and minutes on the Town's website. She thanked the Council for recently updating the website with recent agendas and minutes, noting that this information was available the day after the last meeting. However, Ms. Hawkins immediately raised a concern regarding the advance availability of the current meeting agenda, stating she was unable to find it posted beforehand. She asked how residents can adequately prepare and conduct necessary research to participate meaningfully in town meetings if the agenda is unknown until arrival. Ms. Hawkins concluded by referencing information she saw on the website stating that the Mayor leads meetings, while the Council seeks input from the Town Manager and residents to make informed decisions. Acknowledging that the public comment period is not a time for dialogue or questions, and recognizing that the regular Council meeting is for observation only, she requested clarification on when residents are welcome to participate in dialogue and act as a "partner with town leadership."

Business Items

1. Public Hearing

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

The Town Council held a public hearing regarding the voluntary annexation of 0.50 acres of property located at 26 Eagle Dr., Taylorsville, NC 28681 (Alexander County tax parcel 0010352), as requested by Jason and Leah Noble.

Motion to enter into a public hearing was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Tamara Odom, and approved unanimously.

Mayor George Holleman opened the floor for comments and requested Town Manager Nathan Hester to explain the application. Town Manager Hester stated the Nobles submitted their annexation application for their property at 26 Eagle Drive a few months prior. He confirmed that Town Clerk Nicole Mayes had provided the Council with the Certificate of Sufficiency, confirming the application was complete and the Nobles were requesting annexation into the Town limits. Mr. Hester recommended approval of the application.

With no further comments from the council or the public, Mayor Holleman closed the public hearing.

2. Annexation Ordinance

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

The Town Council considered adopting the ordinance for the voluntary annexation of 0.50 acres of land located at 26 Eagle Dr., Taylorsville, NC 28681 (Alexander County tax parcel 0010352).

Motion to approve the voluntary annexation request of 26 Eagle Drive was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously. (See [attachment B](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

3. Public Hearing

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

The Town Council held a public hearing to consider several amendments to the Town of Taylorsville Code of Ordinances.

Motion to enter into a public hearing was made by Councilmember Tamara Odom, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.

Town Manager Nathan Hester provided an explanation of the proposed amendments:

Chapter 92: Nuisances (Amendment)

The staff requested an amendment to Chapter 92. The title of Section 92.01 will be renamed from "Weeds to Be Removed" to "Maintenance of Premises; Duty of Occupant."

- Key Changes: New language was added to allow the Town to enforce violations related to the accumulation of junk and litter on private property. This includes, but is not limited to, garbage, rubbish, appliances, discarded household items, tires, construction materials, broken toys, upholstered furniture not manufactured for outdoor use, and open wells.
- Penalty Section: Amendments were made to the penalty section to clarify the enforcement process in compliance with state statutes. This includes details on communicating the violation to the citizen via mail, the timeframe provided to remedy the situation, and the legal process for appeals.

Chapter 96: Cemeteries (Amendment)

This amendment focuses on the administrative setting of fees.

- Key Change: Language was added to specify that cemetery plot costs are set by the Town Council and can be found in the Town's Fee Schedule. This allows the Council to adjust associated fees annually through the budget process without needing to amend the ordinance each time.

Chapter 99: Abandoned, Junked, and Nuisance Motor Vehicles (New Chapter)

A new chapter is proposed to address vehicle nuisances.

- Purpose: The new chapter defines and regulates Abandoned, Junked, and Nuisance Motor Vehicles, outlining the processes for identification, pre-towing removal procedures, exceptions to prior notice, post-towing notice, and the sale and disposition of unclaimed vehicles.
- Town Manager Hester confirmed that he and Attorney Monroe Pannell have reviewed the ordinance, which is in compliance with the North Carolina General Statutes.

A citizen asked who would be responsible for making decisions and enforcing these nuisances, inquiring whether the Town would hire new staff or continue to work with the County.

Town Manager Hester responded that the Town will continue to contract with the County for code enforcement. However, Town staff will also conduct investigations and handle notification procedures in some instances, with a plan to hire a dedicated staff member in the future.

With no further comments from the Council or the public, Mayor George Holleman closed the public hearing.

4. Ordinance

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

The Town Council considered adopting the ordinance amending Chapter 92: Nuisances in the Town of Taylorsville Code of Ordinances.

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Councilmember Tamara Odom, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously. (See [attachment C](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

5. Ordinance

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

The Town Council considered adopting the ordinance amending Chapter 96: Cemeteries in the Town of Taylorsville Code of Ordinances.

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Tamara Odom, and approved unanimously. (See [attachment D](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

6. Ordinance

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

The Town Council considered adopting the ordinance adding Chapter 99: Abandoned, Junked, and Nuisance Motor Vehicles to the Town of Taylorsville Code of Ordinances.

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously. (See [attachment E](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

7. Charter Ordinance

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

The Town Council considered adopting an ordinance to amend the Town of Taylorsville Charter to establish staggered terms for all councilmembers (excluding the Mayor). Mayor Holleman opened the floor for discussion.

Councilmember Jack Simms presented a prepared statement to the board and attendees. Mr. Simms stated that he has desired a staggered election for approximately five years, ideally aligning with Presidential and mid-term elections to reduce election costs and prevent the entire Council and Mayor from being replaced in a single election. He noted that other councilmembers support staggered terms but wish to remain on the odd-year election cycle. Therefore, due to the additional cost associated with holding a separate election, Councilmember Simms stated his current vote and position was to keep the Town of Taylorsville election cycle as is to avoid burdening taxpayers with the additional cost. (See [Attachment F](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

Councilmember Kim Brown asked if moving the election cycle to even years was legally permissible, referencing an earlier discussion. Town Attorney Monroe Pannell clarified that transitioning to an even-year election cycle would require an act of the General Assembly.

Councilmember Brown then commented that while she understood the additional cost to the Town, the ordinance was necessary to ensure institutional continuity. She cited instances over the past six years where essential municipal issues, begun in one term, were only resolved in the subsequent term. She asserted that had the board been completely replaced, the critical knowledge required to address those tasks would have been lost. Therefore, she stressed the importance of having sitting board members with prior information and knowledge to guarantee the effective continuation of Town business.

Councilmember Simms replied that any citizen interested in serving on the Town Council should attend the monthly meetings (noting he had personally attended for two years prior to serving). He

maintained that the likelihood of the entire board being replaced is low and reiterated that for him, the decision was about "dollars and cents," adding that combining the municipal election with the presidential/midterm election would increase voter turnout and reduce the per-vote cost.

Motion was made by Councilmember Tamara Odom, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown. Voting in favor included Councilmember Tamara Odom, Councilmember Kim Brown, and Mayor George Holleman. Voting opposed included Councilmember Jack Simms.

Town Attorney Monroe Pannell advised the Council that, pursuant to NC General Statute, the ordinance failed to achieve the required two-thirds vote for immediate adoption. Therefore, a second reading will be necessary, and the ordinance will be placed on the next month's agenda for reconsideration.

8. Audit Contract

Zachary Greene, Finance Director

The Town Council considered approving the audit contract with Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A. for the completion of the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit.

The contract and engagement letter were presented to the Council, listing a base price of \$43,880.00. The projected submission date to the Local Government Commission (LGC) is December 31, 2025, which is the statutory deadline.

Motion to approve the contract was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.

9. Surplus Property

Nathan Hester, Town Manager

Town Manager Nathan Hester presented a resolution to surplus several items of the Town's personal property within the Public Works Department, recommending they be sold "as-is" on GovDeals.

The items recommended for surplus include:

- 1992 Generator (Model MEP007B): The motor is functional, but the unit does not generate power and is irreparable.
- LS Tractor: The tractor runs but has significant transmission issues. Public Works has been awaiting a required, non-domestic part for over a year, and the repair timeline remains undetermined.
- Finish Mower: The mower is usable but has been unused for several years.
- Bush Hog: The bush hog is usable but has been unused for several years.

Motion to approve the resolution for surplus property was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously. (See [attachment G](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

10. Staff Reports:

Staff Department Heads

Police Department Report

Chief Mike Millsaps offered his apologies for his late arrival, explaining that he and Chasity Hamby have been attending training at the Police Law Institute for the past few weeks. The training focused on new information to enhance operational efficiency and maintain compliance with current laws and statutes. The Chief expressed his intent to increase officer participation in this training, as it provides a "lawyer-type understanding" of changing legal issues.

September Calls for Service:

- 934 Calls for Service
- 18 Alarms
- 67 Incident Reports written
- 211 Vehicles stopped

Upcoming Events and Outreach:

- National Night Out: Scheduled for tonight at Courthouse Park.
- Apple Festival: On Saturday, October 18th, the Police Department will host a special event featuring a car.
- Hometown Halloween: Scheduled for October 31st.
- The department will continue to utilize Facebook to post information about Police Department operations.

Finance Department Report

There were no further reports from Finance Director Zachary Greene.

Public Works Report

Public Utility Manager Aaron Wike was absent from the meeting. No further staff or department reports were provided.

Town Managers Report

N. Hester, Town Manager

Town Manager Nathan Hester provided the following updates to the Council:

- The contract with Country Boy Landscaping has been finalized. Per FEMA guidelines, the contractor has 160 days to complete the project. Country Boy Landscaping was also awarded the contract for the Sidewalk Project. Now that both contracts are signed, we expect them to mobilize pretty quickly. The Town has requested the exact construction schedule and will forward that information to the Council upon receipt.

- The first phase of the software transition has been completed, with payroll and accounts payable now operating on the Black Mountain Software system. The Town will begin utilizing this system for utility payments starting November 1st.
- The Certificate of Existence Request for the new Town non-profit was received today, and the necessary payment has been submitted.
- Town Manager Hester addressed the public comment concerning the advance posting of meeting agendas. He confirmed that this had been his responsibility and committed to ensuring that all future agendas will be posted promptly on both the Town's Facebook page and the Town website prior to meetings. He also committed to following up with the citizen to discuss opportunities for their further engagement with town leadership.

Council General Discussion

Hometown Halloween

Councilmember Tamara Odom expressed her hope for a large turnout. Councilmember Kim Brown provided the following updates:

- Activities: Food trucks and Blue Grass music will be located on the ballfield.
- Hayrides: She is awaiting confirmation from the FFA regarding hayrides.
- Health Department: The Health Department requested to be positioned in front of Town Hall, alongside the Town Council, rather than on the ballfield.
- Concerns: Councilmember Brown expressed concern that the current supply of candy may be insufficient given the expected attendance.

Hometown Christmas

Councilmember Kim Brown reported progress on the event planning:

- Vendors: She has been contacted by an individual interested in being a vendor.
- Nativity: The local church is working with the bank next door to organize a live nativity scene at the gazebo.
- Entertainment: The elementary school is scheduled to sing for the tree lighting ceremony.
- Food: Several food trucks have expressed interest in participating.
- Councilmember Brown will present a more detailed report at the next meeting.

Before closing, Councilmember Jack Simms thanked Chief Mike Millsaps and the Police Department for their assistance and support at the Remembrance of Charlie Kirk event held at Courthouse Park on Sunday.

Next Meeting:

Mayor Holleman reminded attendees of the upcoming meetings:

- **Work Session** – Tuesday October 21st, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers.

- **Regular Meeting** – Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn by Councilmember Tamara Odom, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Mayor

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Attest: _____
Nicole Mayes, Town Clerk