

Town of Taylorsville



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Town Council Chambers

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Nicole Mayes

**Present:** Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner  
Councilwoman Kim Brown  
Councilman Jack Simms

**Absent:** Mayor George Holleman  
Councilwoman Tamara Odom

## Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

**Eric Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tem**

The regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner on March 3, 2026, at 5:30 pm. Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Kim Brown.

## Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda:

**Eric Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Pro Tem Bumgarner requested any necessary adjustments to the agenda. The following modifications were requested:

- **Item 6.b.:** Added a Budget Amendment to transfer **\$625.00** from the Sale of Fixed Assets to Capital Outlay.
- **Item 7:** Removed the "Blue Voice" item.
- **Item 7:** Added a resolution directing the Town Clerk to investigate a voluntary non-contiguous annexation petition.

*A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.*

## Consent Agenda

### Approval for Minutes:

**Eric Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tem**

- a. February 3, 2026, Regular Meeting

*A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

## **Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment**

Mayor Pro Tem Bumgarner 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.

**Sandra Hawkins** (Northwood Park): Ms. Hawkins expressed her appreciation for the Public Works Department's performance during the recent winter storm. She noted that crews worked at night and the following day to clear the streets and thanked the Town for making the meeting agenda available online in advance. (See [attachment A](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

Mayor Pro Tem Bumgarner thanked Ms. Hawkins for her comments, noting that it is a pleasure to receive positive feedback regarding Town operations. He commended the Public Works Department for their "fantastic job" during the weather event.

### **1. Public Hearing**

**N. Hester, Town Manager**

Mayor Pro Tem Bumgarner called for a motion to enter into a public hearing regarding the adoption of a new sign ordinance for the Town of Taylorsville.

*A motion to open the public hearing concerning the sign ordinance was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.*

Town Manager Nathan Hester recommended postponing the hearing. He explained that the ordinance requires further refinement and is scheduled for review by the Planning Board later this month. Following a Council work session, a finalized version will be ready for consideration at the next regular meeting.

*A motion to postpone the public hearing regarding the sign ordinance to April 7, 2026 at 5:30 pm was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

### **2. Public Hearing**

**N. Hester, Town Manager**

Town Manager Nathan Hester explained that the Town is seeking funding through the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The primary goal is to secure demolition funds to remove the old hospital building, which he identified as a significant community eyesore. This hearing is the first of two required meetings to demonstrate council and community support for the application.

*A motion to open the public hearing the Town's intent to apply for the CBDG funding was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

**Town Attorney Monroe Pannell** spoke in favor of the grant, noting his 42 years of experience with municipal projects. He explained that North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds can be used for infrastructure (water, sewer, paving), housing rehabilitation, or demolition. He encouraged the Town to be aggressive in pursuing these and other grant opportunities to improve the community.

During the public comment period, resident **Ed Elliot** expressed concerns regarding the transparency of the Town's economic plans and questioned whether the project would lead to a city tax increase. Town Manager Hester clarified that the specific purpose of the CDBG grant is to utilize state funds for demolition and explicitly stated that the grant would not result in a tax increase. In response to Mr. Elliot's request for written documentation, Mr. Hester confirmed that a copy of the Town's Economic Strategic Plan would be provided to him for review.

*A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

*A motion to apply for the CDBG funding was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

*A motion to establish a second public hearing for the CDBG Grant on April 7, 2026 at 5:30 pm was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.*

### **3. Establish a Public Hearing**

**N. Hester, Town Manager**

Town Manager Nathan Hester proposed creating a program to allow the Town to negotiate incentives with industrial companies. This program would target businesses looking to relocate to Taylorsville or existing local companies planning significant expansions and workforce investments.

Mayor Pro Tem Bumgarner noted that the program would serve as a vital recruitment tool for new industry.

*A motion to establish a public hearing on Tuesday April 7, 2026 at 5:30 pm was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

### **4. Alexander County Partnership for Children**

**N. Hester, Town Manager**

The Town Council considered the appointment of a Council representative to the Board of Directors for the Alexander County Partnership for Children.

*A motion to appoint Councilmember Tamara Odom to the Board of Directors to the Alexander County Partnership for Children was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.*

### **5. Street Closure Request**

**N. Hester, Town Manager**

The Council reviewed a request from the Alexander County Partnership for Children to close one block of First Street SW (between Main Avenue and Main Avenue Drive) for an event on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a rain date of April 23.

Discussion Highlights:

- Court Coordination: Councilmember Jack Simms raised concerns regarding Superior Court and jury trials scheduled for that day. He noted that the Clerk of Superior Court had expressed a need for the street to remain open until 3:00 p.m. to accommodate court parking and operations.
- Safety & Setup: Councilmember Kim Brown noted the importance of a closed street for the safety of children attending the event. Manager Hester explained that the early closure was requested to allow the organization's small staff sufficient time to set up equipment and emergency vehicles; the event begins at 4:00 pm.
- Logistics: Councilmembers and staff discussed a compromise to keep portions of the street available for court staff and inmate transport until court adjourns.

Resolution: Town Manager Hester committed to meeting with the Clerk of Court and the County Manager to coordinate a specific setup schedule that balances court needs with event safety. He also noted he would seek a long-term communication process to prevent future scheduling conflicts between the various county and town entities.

*A motion to approve the street closure with conversation from Town Manager Nathan Hester to the clerk of courts and the county manager was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.*

## 6. Budget Amendments

### A. Wagoner, Finance

The Town Council reviewed two budget amendments regarding insurance recoveries and the sale of assets:

#### a. Police Department – Insurance Recovery

Interim Finance Director Angela Wagoner explained that this amendment records an insurance reimbursement for damages sustained by a 2019 Dodge Charger patrol vehicle. The amendment transfers \$6,468.40 from line-item Insurance Recovery to Maintenance & Repairs – Police Vehicles. (See [attachment B](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

*A motion to approve the budget amendment was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

#### b. Water & Sewer Department- Sale of Fixed Assets

(Added to the Agenda) Director Wagoner presented an amendment to record the sale of a Woods RM 306-3 Finish Mower via GovDeals. The amendment transfers \$625.00 from Sale of Fixed Assets to Capital Outlay. (See [attachment C](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

*A motion to approve the budget amendment was made by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.*

## 7. ~~Blue Voice~~

### ~~M. Millsaps, Chief of Police~~

~~The Town Council will consider a service contract with Blue Voice, a specialized AI platform developed exclusively for Law Enforcement. This tool provides officers with immediate, real time access to the North Carolina General Statutes and Department Policy Manuals. There is no annual cost for the first year of service, while the second year carries an annual fee of \$3,500.00. [Removed for the Agenda]~~

## 7. Resolution Directing the Clerk to Investigate a Petition of Annexation

*(Added to the Agenda)* Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner presented a new annexation request to the Council. He noted that the next formal step in the process is to direct the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition. *(See [attachment D](#), which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)*

*A motion to direct the clerk to investigate the annexation petition was made by Councilmember Kim Brown, seconded by Councilmember Jack Simms, and approved unanimously.*

## 8. Staff Reports:

## Staff Department Heads

### *Police Department Reports*

Chief Michael Millsaps presented the Police Department's activity report for February 2026:

- Calls for Service: 660
- Incident Reports: 53
- Vehicles Stops: 89

Chief Millsaps noted that the total calls for service showed a slight decrease compared to the previous month.

### *Finance Department Report*

Interim Finance Director Angela Wagoner provided an update on the status of the annual audit. Key points included:

- Current Progress: Staff is finalizing journal entries and updating financial statements.
- Reconciliation: Efforts are ongoing to reconcile several accounts to ensure all figures align accurately.
- Timeline: The audit is currently projected for completion by the end of March 2026.

### *Public Works Report*

Public Works Manager Aaron Wike provided an update on department maintenance and upcoming projects:

- Infrastructure Maintenance: Continued meter replacements and have several water and sewer taps scheduled for the current month.
- Main Street Sewer Project: A new sewer tap is scheduled at former Democratic Headquarters location on Main Street. This project will require a temporary road closure (one full day) for excavation across both lanes. The Town will advertise the specific closure date on social media to encourage residents to use alternate routes.
- Training & Safety: Department staff successfully completed "Flagger" and "Trench & Shoring" training sessions to ensure continued safety and professional development.
- Seasonal Maintenance: Staff is preparing for the upcoming mowing season, which is expected to begin in the next few weeks.

Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner requested that Manager Wike share with his staff a positive comment received during the public comment session, noting that the community appreciates the department's hard work.

## **Town Managers Report**

**N. Hester, Town Manager**

Town Manager Nathan Hester provided updates on several ongoing strategic initiatives:

- **Budget and Strategic Planning:** Mr. Hester reported that the recent budget retreat was successful. He noted that staff will begin the budgeting process with a focus on economic and strategic goals to advance the Town.
- **Downtown Parking:** The Town is currently in discussions with downtown property owners to explore options for increasing public parking availability.
- **Economic Development:** Mr. Hester is working with the non-profit, Taylorsville Development Alliance, to identify and prioritize partnership projects. A formal strategy will be presented once project details are finalized.
- **Hospital CDBG Project:** Work continues on the hospital property redevelopment. The nonprofit has approved the performance agreement, which is currently under legal review by the property owner.
- **Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings:**
  - **The Rustic Boutique:** A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
  - **Not Too Deep:** A grand re-opening ceremony is scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at their West Main Street location.

## **Council General Discussion**

Councilmember Jack Simms noted that with the March 20, 2026, completion deadline approaching, residents have been inquiring about the progress of the sidewalk project and recent street markings.

Councilmember Kim Brown announced that the Rotary Club, in partnership with the Town, will begin a beautification project on April 8, 2026. The initiative involves replanting the flower pots along Main Street to ensure they are established in time for the Apple Blossom Festival on May 2.

Councilmember Brown, serving as the alternate to the WPCOG Policy Board, presented two reports on behalf of Mayor George Holleman regarding regional data and the value of Town membership.

- **Regional Student Enrollment & Workforce Study:** A study conducted by WPCOG Director Anthony Starr highlighted a direct link between school enrollment, housing, and the regional economy.
  - **Enrollment Trends:** Alexander County has seen a decrease of 591 students since the 2019-2020 school year. While home, private, and charter school enrollments have risen, they do not fully account for the public-school decline.

- Economic Impact: The decrease is largely attributed a lack of new housing. The report noted that 2,364 new homes would be needed county-wide to restore enrollment to pre-2019 levels.
- Conclusion: Economic growth and a stable workforce depend on attracting young families through expanded housing opportunities, as current employment levels are being maintained by relocation rather than natural birth rates.
- FY 2027 Local Government Assessment: Councilmember Brown reviewed how WPCOG utilizes municipal dues to benefit the region:
  - Resource Allocation: Dues support economic development, transportation planning, and data research.
  - Interbasin Transfer (IBT) Protection: A significant portion of the budget (44%) is dedicated to the Interbasin Transfer Coalition.
  - Return on Investment: WPCOG brought about \$51M in federal/state funding and grants this year to the region; that results in a return on investment of \$47.00 for every dollar invested in the WPCOG. When including the average of \$307 M in annual transportation funding; that results in a return on investment of \$331.00 per dollar invested.

**Next Meeting:**

**Work Session** – Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 2:00 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers.

**Regular Meeting** – Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

*Motion was made to adjourn by Councilmember Jack Simms, seconded by Councilmember Kim Brown, and approved unanimously.*

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

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Mayor

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Councilmember

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Councilmember

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Councilmember

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Councilmember

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Nicole Mayes, Town Clerk