
NOVEMBER 2025

Attendees: Mayor Benita England; Council Members: Harry Baughn, Joe Slaton, Lauren Tiger; Planning & Zoning Administrator: April England; Town Clerk: Suzanne Hedden. Others: Lorraine Bennett (Clay County Progress), Sandy Zimmerman (HHI), Ron Wallace, Wendy A. Slaton, Stu Jenner, Anita Solesbee, Mike Solesbee, Seth Solesbee, Paul Hedden, Bill England, Brett England, Alex England, Ray England.

Mayor Slaton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Mrs. Benita England made a motion to approve the agenda (pending deletion of Item 'b' New Business; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved.

MINUTES

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the October 2025 Town Council minutes as written; Mrs. Benita England seconded the motion; motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

September 2025 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement – reports are attached.

- Mrs. Hedden presented financial information and provided information for the Powell Bill reporting system (PBRs) and History Report. Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the reports as written; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion, motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Fat Dog owner (Anthony McDonald) requested a withdrawal of his request for a Memorandum of Understanding, but, then requested to sign the form with Mayor Slaton.
- Mayor Slaton stated that he wants to pass the hiring of a new attorney for Town of Hayesville to our new Mayor, Benita England. Mr. Baughn suggested Ellen Davis of Andrews for the position.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Benita England requested that the December Council meeting be changed from December 9th to December 15th. She then made a motion to complete the change as requested; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

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- Mayor Slaton explained a needed change to our budget. Line Item #54940 (Beautification) should have a name change to Town Maintenance Services; also, an increase to \$20,000.00 is necessary. Mrs. Benita England clarified the monetary change is due to we now have more places to maintain (i.e., Mayor's Park, Whitney Park). Mr. Baughn asked if expenses can be paid by the Powell Bill. Mayor Slaton replied that we should leave street expenses to the Powell Bill. Ms. Tiger made a motion to accept these changes; Mrs. Benita England seconded the motion; motion approved.
 - Due to Lynn Meyers' recent resignation from the Planning & Zoning Board, a replacement is required. She was an alternate on the Board (town appointment). Her replacement will be determined in a few weeks.

Mayor Slaton addressed the Council with a few things that have been accomplished during his tenure: installation of EV stations, development of Mayor's Park complete with a bridge, coordination of land transfer (gifted to Town of Hayesville) and development of Whitney Trail/Whitney Walk, development of Chatuge Family Practice Trail, installation of new roof on Town Hall. He contributed much time and effort to a piece of property near city limits that needed clean-up attention. Unfortunately, this project could not be completed because it is not within city limits and was out of our legal reach. Complimentary thoughts were shared by Council members and the Town Clerk commending Joe on doing "a great job" being "an excellent boss".

North Carolina Representative Karl Gillespie proceeded with the swearing in of Benita England (Mayor), Harry Baughn (Council member), Joe Slaton (Council member), and Lauren Tiger (Council member). After the new members were sworn in, Representative Gillespie presented Town of Hayesville with a new State of North Carolina flag. He has been a great advocate for Clay County and as Harry Baughn stated "some of our capital projects are a result of Karl Gillespie's assistance.

Council member Harry Baughn made a motion that Mayor England be elected for the job as Town Manager; Councilman Joe Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

Mayor England suggested Councilman Joe Slaton fulfill the job of Mayor Tempore; Mr. Baughn made a motion to that affect; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Mrs. April England’s report is attached.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Zimmerman reported: (1) Shop Small/Shop Local will be on November 28th & 29th; information will be in the newspaper; tickets are being sold for the concert; (2) report for Cohort money must be submitted by November 30th for funds that have been spent; (3) possibility that funds will be received in April; (4) the idea for a camera to be installed at the Centennial Building is on hold; (5) application for a grant for a bakery in town has been submitted; (6) HHI Christmas dinner will be at the Coffee Shop (Keep Me Posted) on Wednesday, December 10th.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; meeting adjourned.

ATTEST: Suzanne G. Hedden
Suzanne G. Hedden, Town Clerk

Benita C. England
Benita C. England, Mayor