
DECEMBER 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)

Mayor England opened the meeting with prayer and led attendees in the pledge of allegiance to our flag. She then called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the agenda (pending change of Mayor’s report [attached] from item #9 to follow agenda approval); Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

MINUTES

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the November 2025 Town Council minutes as written; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

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

- Mrs. Hedden presented financial information; there being no questions, Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss Report as written; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion, motion approved. Mrs. Hedden explained the need to increase General Ledger Item #57120 (Seminar Expense) from \$400.00 to \$2,000.00; Mr. Baughn made a motion to increase the expense; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved. Mrs. Hedden presented a request to Council members to transfer \$100,000.00 from the Powell Bill account (currently all funds are in a checking account at United Community Bank) to an investment account at North Carolina Capital Management Trust, to earn more interest. While discussing this information, it was suggested that we also move \$150,000.00 from our General Fund checking account (UCBI) to NCCMT. Mr. Slaton made a motion to proceed with these transactions; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor England stated that she is trying to wrap up last item requirements for Hedden Alley. We will only need two tables because the planter boxes can serve as benches. She presented a table design that she is considering. The suggested tables

are easily cleaned, dry quickly, and, one of them is handicapped accessible. Mr. Baughn questioned where the money will come from to purchase them.....funds will be paid from the Legislative Grant. Mr. Slaton made a motion to purchase the tables; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved.

- Councilman Baughn has been appointed as point of contact for the Mill Street Grant and he informed Council members that she has spent time researching what status we are at in utilizing the Mill Street Grant. In a conversation with Andy Russell, he was very encouraging but he cannot get in touch with the project engineer. However, he has been informed that they can get another engineer.
- Terry Campbell agreed in a telephone conversation with Mayor England to serve (if approved by Council) as a Planning & Zoning Committee alternate. Mr. Slaton made a motion to accept Ms. Campbell; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor England has asked Zoning Administrator April England to be the Point of Contact with the Legislative Grant. April is submitting information to the grant administrator so we can move forward with our projects. She will also be submitting expenses that have already been incurred. The money does not have to be spent by June 30, 2026, but must be encumbered.

Mayor England presented a “wish list” for the scope of work she would like to see accomplished in Town Hall:

- Lighting in Town Hall
- Technology
- Entrance doors
- Shrubbery in Mayor’s Park

Ms. Tiger made a motion to accept the items requested; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

Mr. Slaton was appointed as Point of Contact for Mayor’s Park improvements.
Ms. Tiger was appointed as Point of Contact for the way finding signs.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Mrs. April England’s report is attached.

Mr. Slaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; meeting adjourned.

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

Benita C. England
Benita C. England, Mayor