
January 2026

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), Chris and Kim Armstrong

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 6:31 p.m.

Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the agenda (pending addition of Old Business item #C Mill Street Grant Update [replacing Kaseson Hooper audit report] and omission of New Business item #D Discuss donation to Mountain True); Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

MINUTES

Mr. Slaton made a motion to approve the December 2025 Town Council minutes as written; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

December 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 reported that the NCCMT transactions that were approved at the December Council meeting are complete.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mrs. April England presented current information regarding the Legislative Grant. She has met with Amy (grant administrator) and is receiving valuable information from her. In the scope of work, ideas can be included, even if they have not been approved by the Council; any property owned by the Town of Hayesville can be paid with this grant. Mayor England added that she is putting information on the website today for request of project proposals for: Upgrading lighting in Town Hall, Upgrading Flooring in Town Hall, Construction in Town Hall, Technology upgrades. Ms. Tiger made a motion to accept the Scope of Work and Budget; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved. Mayor England added that representatives

from Southwestern Commission visited our office today and were very complimentary of our office operations.

- Mr. Baughn made a motion to accept Ms. Crystal Bryson as the new attorney for Town of Hayesville; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved. Ms. Bryson comes highly recommended by Ms. Ellen Davis, a long-time Cherokee County attorney. She will charge on an “as needed” basis, and, will not be required to attend all Council meetings; however, she plans to attend the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A motion was made by Mr. Slaton to make Curtis Street (across from Fat Dog Diner) a one-way street due to the danger of cars entering Main Street; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved.
- Details pertaining to the commemoration plaque for Tiger’s Store were presented; Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the plaque; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.
- A motion was made by Ms. Tiger to adopt an ordinance mirroring the one adopted by Clay County Commissioners for prohibiting commercial data centers in the Town limits; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Mrs. April England’s report is attached.
- She mentioned that she has received lots of zoning questions since the last Council meeting, but, no permits or certificates have been issued, resulting in no Planning and Zoning meeting or Board of Adjustment meeting. She has also signed up for a Planning and Zoning certification (3-week course) through the North Carolina School of Government. In conversation with the Planning Manager in Franklin, they highly recommended the course.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Zimmerman reported on: 1) The damaged fence at the Post Office has been repaired; 2) Southwestern Commission will meet with Main Street in the near future to work on grant possibilities; 3) Heating System can be fixed with replacing a part (Benita will find out the age of the heat pump); 4) HHI will have a planning meeting in February (new board members will participate in the meeting); 5) Main Street conference is in New Bern this year on March 12th.

Mayor England announced that next Council meeting will be held on February 9th.

Mr. Slaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 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