
April 2026

First meeting in our newly remodeled space @ Town Hall

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), Anthony and Kelley McDonald (Fat Dog on Main), Rob and Holly Tiger (Tiger’s Department Store).

Mayor England called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and offered a prayer in memory Dwight Penland, a Clay County Commissioner who recently passed away.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved.

MINUTES

Mr. Slaton made a motion to approve the March 2026 Town Council minutes as written; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

March 2026 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement – reports are attached.

- Mrs. Hedden presented financial information, mentioning that it has been busy keeping up with invoices and payments related to our remodeling. Mr. Slaton made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss Report, along with the Balance sheet, as written; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved. Mr. Baughn requested that, in the future, the General Ledger show complete information for all columns.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor England explained our financial position with our Legislative Grant (information included in her attached Mayor’s report). Councilman Baughn stressed that all renovations have been done with no expense to taxpayers.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor England presented a beautiful plaque to Rob, Holly and Lauren Tiger in honor and appreciation of their 150th celebration for Tiger’s Department Store.

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- Mr. Anthony McDonald, owner of Fat Dog on Main, addressed the Mayor and council members explaining a change he would like to implement at his business. He first stated that the state of North Carolina passed a law in 2017 that alcohol can be served in restaurants (with appropriate permits) on Sunday, beginning at 10:00 a.m. He advised that he has many customers who ask for breakfast (Brunch Bill). He is not planning a big drinking party and will start by implementing this change only one Sunday per month. It was agreed that the mayor and council members will discuss this, check the Town Charter, and, will also be required to create a town ordinance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Benita England's report is attached.
- Mayor England also reported on the "Visit Smokies" conference they attended on April 14th in Cherokee. The main purpose of the meeting was to educate people that the state does not end in Asheville.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mrs. April England's report is attached.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mayor England advised all in attendance that public comments will be limited to 5 (five) minutes per person.
- Ms. Zimmerman handed out a list of comments she wished to share with those in attendance. In addition, she also included a brochure indicating events to be held in Hayesville this summer; she reported that she will be able to apply again for cohort funds (\$20,000.00); she is working on plants for the Square; the Historical designation is still in progress.

Mr. Baughn mentioned that documentation is not included in the meeting packet pertaining to the Public Hearing held in March; Mrs. Hedden stated that the minutes were prepared, just an oversight that they were not included in the packet. She will include them in the May packet for approval.

Mayor England announced the next Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11th.

Mr. Slaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; meeting adjourned.

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

Benita C. England
Benita C. England, Mayor