
July 2026 (Amended)

Attendees: Mayor Benita England; Council Members: Harry Baughn, Joe Slaton, Lauren Tiger; Planning & Zoning Administrator: April England; Town Clerk: Suzanne Hedden. Others: Marcia Barnes (Clay County Progress), Sandy Zimmerman (HHI), Callie Moore (Mountain True), Susan Bean (Mountain True), Dwight McClure (American Legion), Teresa McClure (American Legion), Sharon R. Kyser (Clay County Chamber of Commerce).

Mayor England led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and offered a prayer. She then called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Mayor England requested a change in the agenda to move Item #9E [UNC School of Government meeting platform] to top of list. Mr. Baughn also requested an agenda change to add discussion pertaining to the Brunch Bill. Ms. Tiger made a motion to make the changes; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

Mayor England explained the UNC School of Government rules of government principles for municipalities and suggested we approve the resolution and operate our meetings in this order going forward. Mr. Baugh made a motion to adopt the principles as presented; there was no further discussion; two (2) votes were affirmative; one (1) vote was negative; motion approved.

MINUTES

Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the 08 June 2026 Town Council minutes as written; there was no discussion; affirmative approval by Town Council members. Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the 24 June 2026 Town Council Zoom Meeting minutes with Attorney Michael Cline as written; there was no discussion; affirmative approval by Town Council members. Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the 22 June 2026 Town Council Public Hearing minutes; there was no discussion; affirmative approval by Town Council members.

FINANCE REPORTS

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

- Mrs. Hedden presented financial information adding that the ending date on all reports is now being generated to reflect the last day of the month prior to the Council meeting. Mr. Slaton made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss Report and the Balance Sheet as written; no discussion; motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor England met with DEQ representatives concerning the Mill Street situation. The process has been closed out with DEQ but the Town is still working on a solution.
- Mayor England met with HHI Board members recently and requested Ms. Zimmerman submit the rental agreement worksheet to her on or before July 15th. Ms. Zimmerman stated she has one more Board member remaining to review the information. She mentioned that all members at the HHI meeting agreed. Ms. Tiger made a motion to accept the agreement worksheet as presented tonight. Our attorney will complete the agreement, and, it will be duly signed; motion approved.
- In reference to the Brunch Bill, Mr. Baughn interjected that surrounding towns already have a Brunch Bill and he feels we could copy theirs to move on with this endeavor. Mayor England stated that she has apologized to the business owner for the delay. She suggested that we go ahead and set up a public hearing in two (2) weeks (July 28th) and have a council meeting to consider immediately after the Public Hearing. Mr. Baughn made a motion to continue with this plan; no discussion; motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Callie Moore and Ms. Susan Bean were in attendance representing Mountain True. Mrs. Moore introduced Ms. Bean, who was hired by Mountain True in 2023 to assist with housing and transportation situations. She mentioned that in the fall of 2023 a meeting was held at Hinton Center and included Clay County representatives along with representatives from other counties. The purpose of the meeting was to address Healthy Communities and American Farmland in our area. Ms. Bean also added that it would be an advantage if Town of Hayesville legalized duplex and triplex housing. She recommended that the planning board discuss this matter.
- A slightly forgotten Town of Hayesville Street (behind the Hayesville First Methodist Church and Fire Station #1) leads to a piece of property that has recently been sold for construction of some residences. Clay County officials want Mayor England to submit three (3) choices so the address can be given a 911 address. The choices chosen were: 1) Bryan Street 2) Mission Street 3) Robin Street 4) Hayes Street 5) Robin Lane. Ms. Tiger made a motion for a resolution to name the street what 911 officials choose from the list; no discussion; motion approved.

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- Mayor England emphasized we need grants to be able to upgrade and repair storm water infrastructure system. There are currently five (5) grants available through SmBiz Infrastructure grants with the Department of Commerce. Mr. Baughn stated he would like conversation with a structural engineer about the rock wall on Jail House Hill. Mayor England stated that there would be a preliminary engineering study (PES) done on the wall as part of the grant process. We need to approve these three (3) resolutions for the three (3) grants tonight for SmBiz Infrastructure. Mr. Slaton made the motion to approve Mayor England signing the grant resolutions; no discussion; motion approved.
 - Mayor England reported that the flag pole in front of Town Hall has become very difficult to use. If we can have approval to purchase a new flag pole, the American Legion will install it for us. Mr. Slaton made the motion to proceed with gathering quotes; Mr. Baughn stated there is a person in our area who sells flag poles; motion approved. Mayor England will get quotes.
 - Mayor England addressed the approval for the Clay Macon Hazard Mitigation Plan, stressing that the plan must be signed every year. Mr. Baughn made a motion to permit her to sign; no discussion; motion approved.
 - Required forms for the Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program were signed and sealed by Mayor England.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor England's report is attached.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mrs. April England's report is attached.
- Mrs. England asked to have a special Council meeting on Friday, July 17th, to discuss the details from the July 15th Planning and Zoning meeting so the situation can be expedited since there has been so much confusion. Mayor England confirmed we will have a special meeting on Friday, July 17th, at 11:00 am.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Zimmerman public comments are attached

At 8:11 pm Mr. Slaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned.

Mayor England announced the next regular Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 10th.

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

Benita C. England
Benita C. England, Mayor