

February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting- Open Session

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Alderman Genita Hill, Mayor Pro Tempore/Aldermen Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Tim Hertz, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, and Mayor Marla Thompson were all confirmed in attendance.

Invocation

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt led the invocation, offering a prayer for his mother-in-law and asking for guidance in the meeting's decisions.

Approval of Minutes

01/13/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes (Open and Closed Session)

The board reviewed the minutes from the January 13, 2025 regular meeting, including both open and closed sessions.

Motion to approve regular minutes made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. Seconded by Alderman Genita Hill. The minutes passed unanimously.

01/23/2025 Special Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the January 23, 2025 special meeting.

Motion for approval made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. Seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The minutes passed unanimously.

Call for Public Hearing/Planner Introduction

Call for Public Hearing

Town Clerk Heather Minor recommended that the Board of Aldermen hold a public hearing at the March 10, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting regarding a 10-lot residential subdivision proposed by Homes For You on the corner of 13th Avenue Southwest and 29th Street Southwest. She noted that the Long View Planning Board had approved these plans at their January 16, 2025 meeting, pending a few changes to the setbacks.

Motion to call for a public hearing on March 10, 2025 made by Alderman Tim Hertz. Seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to call for a public hearing was unanimous.

Planner Introduction

Town Clerk Minor introduced Susan Matheson, the new town planner working on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Ms. Matheson is contracted through the Western Piedmont Council of Government and has over twenty years of experience in local government. Town Clerk Minor expressed enthusiasm about Town Planner Matheson's knowledge and contributions thus far.

Allowable Cost Agreement

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented two policies for approval: an eligible use policy and an allowable cost policy. She explained that both policies were necessary to receive grant monies going forward, particularly

in relation to the ARPA funds. The policies were based on samples from the League of Municipalities and had been reviewed by them.

Motion to approve the allowable cost agreement made by Alderman Tim Hertz. Seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to approve the Allowable Cost Agreement was unanimous.

Eligible Use Agreement

Motion to approve the eligible use agreement made by Alderman Genita Hill. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion to approve the Eligible Use Agreement was unanimous.

Revised Audit Contract

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented a letter from Rick Hammer of Lowdermilk, Church, and Co. regarding the audit contract. The letter explained that due to Hurricane Helene and a ransomware cyber-attack on October 15, they had been unable to perform a significant amount of work for the past two and a half months. As a result, they had to push back the audit completion date and revise the contract.

It was noted that the board was not informed about the cyber-attack until recently, despite the letter being dated December 5. The revised contract is essentially the same as the one adopted last year, with only the date being changed due to the audit being submitted after December 31.

Motion to approve the revised audit contract made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. Seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to approve the revised audit contract was unanimous.

Finance Report

Ms. Lalonde presented the finance report as of January 31, 2025:

General Fund:

- 58% into the fiscal year
- Revenues to date: \$4,481,122 (77% of budgeted revenues)
- Expenditures: \$3,396,004 (58% of budgeted revenues)
- Revenues exceed expenditures by \$1,085,117
- 93% of Ad Valorem taxes collected as of last month

Utility Fund:

- 70% of budgeted revenues collected (\$2,125,974)
- 64% of budgeted expenditures spent
- Revenues exceed expenditures by \$191,461
- Awaiting \$42,600 in reimbursement from water map and sewer grant
- 2,690 utility bills mailed in December, totaling \$240,175.95
- 67 accounts disconnected for nonpayment
- 312 late fees assessed
- 13 new applications for service processed
- 12 requests for terminations processed

Manager's Report

Town Manager Cozart reported on two items:

- The ATM is now operational and being well-used.
- Clerk and PIO Heather Minor completed a three-day course on public information basics at Forsyth Community College in Winston Salem. This was her sixth course with FEMA, enhancing her skills as

a public information officer. Manager Cozart noted that these skills were put to use during a recent house fire incident.

Public Comment

Mayor Thompson read the rules for the public comment period, emphasizing civility, time limits, and the board's discretion in responding to comments.

Mr. Charley Perry of 2200 Sixth Avenue Northwest addressed the board. He expressed appreciation for the quick response to his previous concern about the Water Tower area. Mr. Perry then shared his concerns about the hydrogen facility, mentioning past incidents including an explosion and a fire. He described a tour he took of the facility and discussed potential safety issues related to hydrogen storage and leaks. Mayor Thompson stopped Mr. Perry when his allotted time was up and suggested he speak with the fire department representatives for more information.

Closed Session

Following public comment, Mayor Thompson announced that the board would be going into closed session and that those in attendance could leave, if they wished to do so. All attendees left the council chambers.

The board moved to enter closed session at 5:47pm. A motion to enter closed session was made by Alderman Genita Hill and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to enter closed session was unanimous.

Closed Session Minutes are separate.

A motion was made by Alderman Genita Hill and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington to enter back into open session. The motion to enter back into open session was unanimous. (6:13 p.m.)

Closing Remarks

There were none

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Staff in attendance:

Town Manager James Cozart, Town Clerk Heather Minor, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Police Chief TJ Bates, Police Major Justin Reid, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Police Administrative Assistant Sidney Shirley, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Town Planner Susan Matheson, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde.

Public in attendance:

Terry Hall, Charley Perry, Walter Thornburg