

WHEELER

**TOWN OF ELM CITY  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**May 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

**Train Depot Office 101 Nash Street St.**

**In attendance:**

Tawanda Moore, *Mayor*; Tammie Atkinson, *Mayor Pro-Tem*;  
Gil Wheeler, *Commissioner*; Vonica Carr, *Commissioner*; Bridget Wimberley, *Commissioner*  
Tim Bridgers, *Commissioner*; Melissa Younger, *Town Clerk*

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Tiondra Fields, **Finance Officer**

Shawn Lucas, **Zoning Officer**

**Absent**

Slade Rand, *Town Attorney*

**Call To Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Tawanda Moore

**Invocation:** Mayor Pro-Tem Tammie Atkinson led the meeting with prayer.

**Pledge Of Allegiance:** All in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of two items; Public Comment Policy and a word from Tiondra Fields; Finance Officer with a **\*Motion made by Pro-tem Atkinson and Seconded by Commissioner Tim Bridgers (unanimous)**

**Approval Of Minutes:** (*April 15, 2025, April 22, 2025, May 5, 2025, May 8, 2025*) The approval of these minutes were tabled as Commissioner Vonica Carr questioned approving the April 15, 2025 minutes, stating that the disruptions that happened during April 15, 2025 were not included in the minutes presented tonight. Mayor Pro-tem included that corrections pertaining to Bekki Manning's employment status. Commissioner Wheeler agreed that all minutes should be passed at the next scheduled meeting. **\*Motion was made Commissioner Tim Bridgers and Seconded by Pro-tem Tammie Atkinson (unanimous)** to bring all minutes back with necessary corrections.

**Finance Officer Tiondra Fields:** Shares the Proposed Budget FY 25/26. She states the need to simply overlook the budget with no vote tonight but if everything looked well with proposed budget to publish in the Newspaper and place on display for 10 day and following that there would be a Public Hearing. Tiondra shared that the budget was also sent via email prior to tonight's meeting.

Mayor Moore asks council to take a few minutes to look over the proposed budget for FY 25/26. Commissioner Gil Wheeler expressed his disapproval for rate increases in water and sewer. After discussions amongst the Board, Attorney reminded Board that this session is only a proposal of the FY 25/26 and does not have to be voted upon and does not become final until we've had the Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro-tem Tammie Atkinson expressed the fact that the Board has visited the budget several times and have taken the time to visit each line item thoroughly. Two Commissioners would like to see it lowered while three are fine with the recommendation from the Finance Officer.

Mayor Moore thanked Finance Officer Tiondra Fields for her service to the Town of Elm City and asked the Board to consider approving a bonus of \$1,000 that has been allotted for Finance Officer FY 24/25. Mayor Moore shared how well the finances have grown per verifiable statements with the company's banking institution. While Commissioner Gil Wheeler expressed his disapproval for the Finance Officer's bonus, the **\*Motion was made by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley and Seconded by Commissioner Carr** with four Commissioner's for the bonus and Commissioner Gil Wheeler against. Mayor Moore presented a plaque to Tiondra Fields for her service.

**Presentations/Discussions:** Mike Tolson (town's engineer) gave an update on projects he is charge of. He gave a copy of paperwork to the town clerk and apologized for not having his complete copy tonight. He stated that he would have a complete packet ready by the Board meets again.

Commissioner Gil Wheeler asks the question as to when the pump project will begin? No definitive time frame given.

Commissioner Bridget Wimberley asked Mr. Tolson if he thought he could have an answer within 90 days? No definitive answer given.

A present water and sewer field operator made the comment that that project has been put off for two years already. No definitive answer given aside from He's been working on it. Tolson hopes that by the end of the year something could be done.

**Water and Sewer Operator's Report:** Mayor Moore includes an updated report from the town's Contracted Water and Sewer Company (EMS Service Solutions) which was included within each Commissioner's packets (see Attachment included in May 13, 2025 Board packets.

Mayor Moore shared the good news of the passing of well water testing of the following: Ammonium, nitrates, nitrogen, fecal colorform, chloride, nitrate, total dissolved solids, phosphorus, TOC, Commissioner Wheeler added that one more testing round needed to be done at Sharp Farms.

Mayor Moore shared that recent notices of violations will continue to occur until the town passes (consistently) four consecutive quarters of which the town has passed the first two quarters of the 2025 year thus far.

**Automatic Hydrant Flushers:** Mayor asks board members to consider making Board approved purchases of automatic hydrant flushers (\$3,322/each) with ARP funds to further assist of water and sewer departments since the town is making continuous strides of improvement. **\*Motion was made by Commissioner Tim Bridgers and Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley (unanimous)**

Mayor Moore inquires with Finance Officer if the town has enough ARP monies remaining to purchase 5 automatic hydrant flushers totaling roughly \$15,000+ Commissioner Tim Bridgers



makes the correction of rough estimate of 5 hydrant flushers to be about \$19,000. **\*Motion was made by Commissioner Tim Bridgers and Seconded by Pro-tem Tammie Atkinson (unanimous)**

**Powell Bill:** Mayor Moore presented a quote from Williams Paving for street resurfacing to Cobb Road. Commissioner Gil Wheeler asked for a second quote for resurfacing project(s).

**Public Comment Policy:** Mayor Moore shares that number of elected officials as well as staff have expressed their concerns about safety in our meetings. Mayor Moore asked the Board to vote, approve and adopt a Public Comment Policy. **\*Motion was made by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley and Seconded by Pro-tem Tammie Atkinson. (unanimous).**

**Insurance Rates:** Mayor Moore asks Board for a vote to continue shopping the best rates on all insurance for health benefits and property and liability insurance. **\*Motion was made by Commissioner Gil Wheeler and Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley. (unanimous)**

**Financial Improvements:** Mayor Moore shares a bar graph showing the continuous financial improvements over the last four years. Mayor Moore asks for a motion to allow the citizen who damaged one of the town's Public Works truck, to pay repair town truck with his own money of \$1387.75 to avoid town contacting responsible party's insurance company. **\*Motion was made by Commissioner Gil Wheeler and Seconded by Commissioner Tim Bridgers (unanimous).**

### **Public Hearing/Comments:**

Citizen Alma Lassiter: 611 Cobb Road complained about a tree limb at 604 Cobb Road that is leaning in her yard.

Citizen Eunice Lindsey: Voiced her concerned about the misspelling of Frederick Douglass's (elementary school) name in the town's newsletter.

Citizen Vanessa Mercer: Thanked the Board for their service. She said she wished the water could be a little cheaper but it really didn't matter to her.

### **Mayor/Commissioner's Comments/Reports:**

**Commissioner Vonica Carr:** Thanked Mayor Moore for a job well done on part of being the Town Administrator in ensuring the town's current financial surplus. Carr stated that the town's finances have not looked this good in a long time.

**Commissioner Tim Bridgers:** Is waiting to hear back from Duke Energy regarding getting light poles fixed in town so that there will be no issues at Christmas time for the lighting of the poles.

**Commissioner Gil Wheeler:** Spoke on behalf of the Rotary club stating that they would like to oversee the veterans memorial square and its upkeep sharing that the town would still be responsible for the lawn maintenance around it. **\*Motion was made by Commissioner Tim Bridgers And Seconded by Commissioner Gil Wheeler (unanimous)**

**Mayor Moore:** Shared the concern of a resident at 708 Daniel Drive name Mary Schroth who would like her ditch cleaned out behind her house from debris. Resident home had been flooded in the past. Mayor Moore asks Commissioner Vonica Carr how long she has lived next to Miss Schroth and how many times both their houses have flooded and Commissioner Carr adds that there homes have both flooded in the past a total of three times in 33 years. Attorney Slade advises that if it is part of the town's storm water system. If so, then it should be a basis for the clean out, if it is blocking our drain system. Mayor Moore shares with the Board that Wilson County owns an empty lot two doors down from Commissioner Vonica Carr and Wilson County recently removed a tree from along the drainage system that took roughly an 8 hour day to remove. **\*Motion made by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley and Seconded by Pro-tem Tammie Atkinson (unanimous)**

Mayor Moore thanked Tiondra Fields once again and bid her farewell in her personal endeavors

**Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm **\*Motion made by Commissioner Gil Wheeler and Seconded by Pro-tem Tammie Atkinson (unanimous)**