

TOWN OF WINFALL

Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Winfall Town Hall

Attendance: Mayor Preston White; Mayor Pro Temp Cynthia Cunningham; Councilwoman Arnetta Ormond; Councilman Robert Valentine; Councilman Ronald Smirlock; Town Clerk Valerie Jackson; Town Attorney Will Crowe.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by the Winfall Town Council.

2. Conflict of Interest: No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Approval of Agenda: Mayor Pro Temp Cunningham made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

- **December 8, 2025 Regular Town Council Minutes:**
Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- **December 8, 2025 Organizational Meeting Minutes:**
Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the minutes with minor adjustments. Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Financial Report

Town Clerk Valerie Jackson reported that the North Carolina Capital Management Trust investment balance was **\$18,895.79**.

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. Personnel Policy / ADP: Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the Personnel Policy/ADP. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Water / Sewer Loss Policy: Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the policy with the suggested change to add a **60-day reporting time limit**. Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Sewer Budget Amendment – Emergency Sewer Repairs

Clerk Valerie Jackson reported that multiple emergency sewer repairs resulted in expenditures exceeding the sewer repair budget. The amendment transfers funds from the Capital Reserve Fund and Fund Balance to the sewer maintenance and repair budget. **Amount**

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the sewer fund budget amendments. Mayor Pro Temp Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. The Gathering at Winfall Tiny Home Resort & Spa

Mayor White stated the owners were unable to attend. The project vision has been referred to by the Planning Board for further discussion.

C. Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Council discussed reviewing the existing Master Plan and comparing it to the new plan to determine needed updates.

D. The Veterans Farm

Founder and Executive Director Robert Elliott presented a proposal to develop an agricultural program to assist veterans in finding purpose following military service.

E. Town of Winfall Advisory Committee – Update and Approval

Councilman Valentine made a motion to reopen the application process for 30 days with increased outreach due to low participation.

Mayor Pro Temp Cunningham made a motion to approve the Advisory Committee, noting the application period had already been open for several months. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion.

- **Votes:**
 - Yes: Mayor Pro Temp Cunningham, Councilwoman Ormond
 - No: Councilman Valentine, Councilman Smirlock

Mayor White cast the tie-breaking vote **approving** the Town of Winfall Advisory Committee.

F. Workshop Date: Council agreed to hold a workshop on **January 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.**

G. Winfall Unity Day

Councilman Smirlock noted that 2026 marks the **60th Anniversary of the Unity March** from the former Union School. He suggested a commemorative march from the old middle school to the new middle school currently under construction. This idea will be discussed further during the workshop.

Assignment to Departments

- **Grants:**
Councilman Valentine made a motion for Councilman Smirlock to oversee Grants. Councilwoman Ormond seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Roads & Grounds / Planning & Zoning:**
Councilman Smirlock made a motion for Councilman Valentine to oversee Roads & Grounds and the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilwoman Ormond seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Police / Public Safety:**
Councilman Valentine made a motion for Councilman Smirlock to oversee Police/Public Safety. Councilwoman Ormond seconded. Motion carried.
- **Sewer:**
Councilwoman Ormond made a motion for Councilman Valentine to oversee Sewer. Councilman Smirlock seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Winfall Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD):**
Councilman Valentine made a motion for Mayor Pro Temp Cunningham to oversee WVFD. Councilwoman Ormond seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Recreation:**
Councilman Valentine made a motion for Mayor Pro Temp Cunningham to remain over Recreation. Councilwoman Ormond seconded. Motion carried.

- **Tourism:**
Councilwoman Ormond made a motion for Councilman Smirlock to oversee Tourism. Councilman Valentine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports

- **Fire:** 11 calls reported; Fire Department grant match to FD contributions; Pancake Supper scheduled for **February 26, 2026, from 5:00–7:00 p.m.**
- **Administration:** Clerk Valerie Jackson reported online banking fraud, which has been resolved through merchant services.

Attorney's Report: Nothing to report.

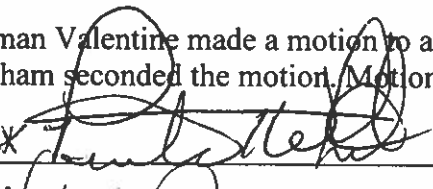
Mayor's Report: Mayor White reported receiving a call regarding fireworks. The Town of Winfall would contribute but will not lead to the effort upon discussion of Council.

Public Comments

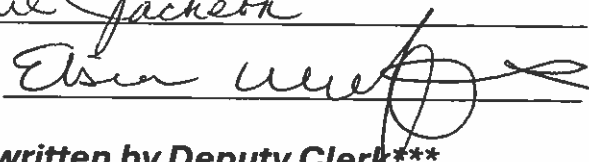
Debra Byrum addressed Council.

Adjournment

Councilman Valentine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at **7:13 p.m.** Mayor Pro Temp Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor:  Date: 2-9-2026

Clerk: Valerie Jackson Date: 02-09-2026

Deputy Clerk:  Date: 02-9-2026

*****Minutes written by Deputy Clerk*****