

TOWN OF WINFALL

Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2026,

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Winfall Town Hall

Attendance

Mayor Preston White

Mayor Pro Tempore 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: Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the agenda for February 9, 2026. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2026, Workshop Minute

Councilman Valentine made a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Financial Report Approval (Ending January 30, 2026)

Councilman Smirlock inquired about the current Sewer Fund balance, noting that funds had been transferred out and requesting clarification on the remaining balance.

Clerk Jackson responded that transferred funds covered past-due bills. She stated that an amendment is currently in process; therefore, an accurate balance cannot yet be provided. She further reported that investment funds increased by \$58 from the previous month, bringing the total to \$18,953.71.

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. Resolution by Governing Body of Recipient (Approval)

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Approval, Acceptance, and Adoption

Following workshop discussion, Councilman Valentine made a motion to approve, accept, and adopt the existing master plan with any necessary updates. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Veterans Farm

Discussion continued regarding land ownership, noting that the property is also owned by the county. It was agreed to postpone further discussion.

D. Fire Department Amendment Approval

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve a \$18,500.00 line-item transfer for the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Sewer Issues

Mayor White reported a sewer main rupture in front of Mr. P's. After discussions with the property owners, it was noted they had been monitoring the issue since fiber optic cables were installed. Due to recent freezing weather, the line ruptured, causing a small spill. Assistance was requested from Hertford and other sources. The issue has since been resolved.

F. Unity Day

Councilman Smirlock reported meeting with community members interested in organizing a Unity Day event but expressed the need for leadership support. He also plans to reach out to local churches.

Mayor White expressed support for the idea but recommended first consulting individuals who participated in the original walk due to its sentimental significance. He stated it would be fair to speak with those directly affected before proceeding.

G. Grants

Councilman Smirlock, with assistance from Mrs. Debbie Jean, created an online survey regarding improvements to the Town Park. The survey deadline is March 15 and will support grant funding efforts for Parks and Recreation. A meeting regarding the Trail Grant is scheduled for March 5 at 9:00 a.m. at the library

New Business

A. Sewer Amendment Approval

Councilman Valentine made a motion to approve a \$15,000 budget amendment to cover emergency sewer repairs. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Communication and Social Media Discussion

Councilman Valentine presented the importance of timely public communication and engagement. He made a motion directing staff and council to improve regular communication and public feedback opportunities.

Mayor White requested the motion be rescinded and tabled until the next workshop for further discussion. Councilman Smirlock agreed.

Councilman Valentine rescinded the motion. The matter will be discussed at the next workshop meeting.

C. Schedule Workshop

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to schedule the next workshop for February 23 at 5:30 p.m. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Departments Chair and Co-Chair Appointments

Mayor White requested that the previous motion appointing Councilman Valentine as Chair of Roads and Grounds, Sewer, and Zoning be rescinded, citing established working relationships with those who are familiar with the issues of the Town.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham made a motion to rescind the previous appointment and reinstate Mayor White as Chair of those departments. Councilwoman Ormond seconded.

Vote:

Yes – Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham, Councilwoman Ormond

No – Councilman Valentine, Councilman Smirlock

Mayor White broke the tie, voting in favor of Mayor White as Chair of those departments
Motion carried.

Councilman Valentine then made a motion to appoint himself as Co-Chair of Sewer, Roads and Grounds, and Zoning. Councilman Smirlock seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor White requested rescinding the prior alternate placement of Stephen McDonald on the Planning and Zoning Board and appointing Debera Long instead.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham made the motion. Councilwoman Ormond seconded.

Vote:

Yes – Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham, Councilwoman Ormond

No – Councilman Valentine, Councilman Smirlock

Mayor White broke the tie, voting in favor. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Sewer: Repairs were made at the Bembury Road pumping station. Floats on the town-owned bypass pump were replaced, the pump was serviced, and a heat lamp was installed to prevent freezing. A pump returned from DOT must be installed. Pumps must also be pulled from Bembury and the Middle School.

Councilman Valentine suggested exploring shared sewer maintenance services with neighboring municipalities to reduce costs.

Police (Public Safety): Councilman Smirlock met with the Perquimans County Sheriff regarding possible hourly coverage. Further discussion will occur during workshop.

Fire: Two structure fires were reported, including a burn-down on Major Street on February 14, 2026, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Administration: Clerk Jackson reported that Teresa from Black Mountain Software contacted the office regarding a possible software transition.

Roads and Grounds: Snow removal was completed by Mike Hurdle. Albemarle Street and a portion of Cotton Gin Road (near the manhole) will be paved after winter.

Tourism: The Indian Summer Festival was discussed

Recreation: Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham reported that once the survey is completed, another meeting will be scheduled.

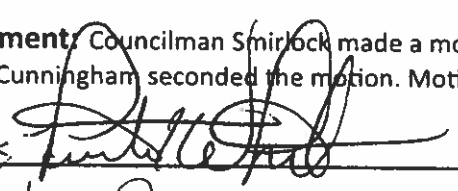
Grant: Councilman Smirlock made a motion to pay the remaining match amount. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

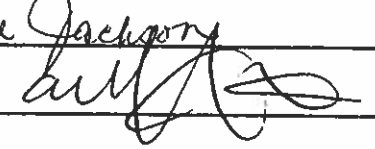
Mayor's Report: Mayor White expressed hope that all residents remained safe during the recent winter storm

Public Comments: Judy Skinner and Debera Long expressed concerns.

Adjournment: Councilman Smirlock made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor *  Date: 3-9-2026

Clerk Valerie Jackson Date: 03-09-2026

Deputy Clerk  Date: 3.9.2026

Minutes written by Deputy Clerk