

TOWN OF WINFALL

Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: March 9, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Winfall Town Hall

Attendees:

- 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

Mayor White led the Invocation, followed by the Town Council leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilman Valentine made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Town Council Minutes for February 9, 2026, and February 23, 2026 Workshop Minutes

Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham made a motion to approve the Town Council meeting minutes and the workshop minutes. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Financial Report Approval for Period Ending February 28, 2026

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to accept the financial report, with a correction to the town tags (line 316.01) from a typo/ error of 316.01it brings it to \$2,215.00. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. Fire Department Amendment Approval

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the amendment of \$18,500 for the Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Councilman Valentine seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Sewer System Issues

Mayor White provided an update on the sewer system. The town owns the Bypass pump at Bembury station, while the pump at the middle school is rented, costing the town \$5,000 per month. It was suggested that the town explore the option of purchasing a pump to reduce ongoing rental costs. The matter was tabled for further discussion at the upcoming workshop meeting.

C. Unity Day

Mayor White announced a meeting with the participants who were in the original march, they would like to meet this Thursday on March 12th, to discuss Unity Day.

D. Grant Applications

Councilman Smirlock reported that the town has applied for several grants through the Community Project Fund via Representative Don Davis's office. One application is for \$150,000 to support the sewer system, and another is for a park grant. A survey for the park project is available online and in paper form. The deadline for submission is March 15th.

New Business

A. Sewer Amendments Approval

Councilman Valentine made a motion to table the approval of the sewer amendments as presented. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Demolition Permit Application Approval

Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington explained the need for a dedicated demolition permit application for filing purposes. Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the new Demolition Permit Application. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Auditor Contract Approval

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to renew the contract with the auditing firm Thompson, Price, Scott, and Adams Co. for the town's audit services. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. New Residential Sewer Connection Application Approval

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the new residential sewer connection application. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Communications Protocol Update

Councilman Valentine presented a motion to modify the meeting agenda by placing public comments immediately after the call to order, allowing citizens to raise issues before the council considers votes on motions, ordinances, or resolutions. The motion also included a proposal to include the names of speakers and summaries of their comments in the official meeting minutes. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Home Occupation Permit Approval

Councilman Valentine made a motion to approve the Home Occupation Permit as presented. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports

- **Sewer Department:**
Mayor White suggested exploring the purchase of additional pumps for the sewer system, as the cost of renting pumps has become financially burdensome. Despite improvements from recent cleanouts, damage to float sensors continues to cause operational issues.
- **Police/Public Safety:**
Councilman Smirlock reported one incident, a dispute between two neighbors, which was resolved by the sheriff's office. Discussions continue regarding the potential cost of hiring a dedicated law enforcement officer on an hourly basis.
- **Fire Department:**
Mayor White reported that the annual Pancake Supper was a success, with a good turnout.
- **Administration:**
Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington discussed the issue of higher-than-expected sewer bills and outlined the necessary steps for addressing this matter.
- **Roads and Grounds:**
Mayor White indicated the need to hire part-time workers for the upcoming grass-cutting season. He also reported that the contractor responsible for road work will begin work on Albemarle Street and Cotton Gin Road as soon as the weather permits.
- **Tourism:**
Mayor White's term on the Board of Tourism is set to end on March 31st. Councilman Smirlock will take over his position. Discussions on the upcoming Indian Summer Festival were held.
- **Zoning:**
Mayor White reported a request to add additional trailers to the existing trailer park, which is currently under review.
- **Recreation:**
Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham attended a meeting where Robin Payne discussed the town's survey efforts, with recommendations for both the county and the town to improve recreational offerings.
- **Grants:**
Casey from AIA has scheduled a meeting to discuss future grant opportunities.

Town Attorney

No updates to report.

Workshop Meeting

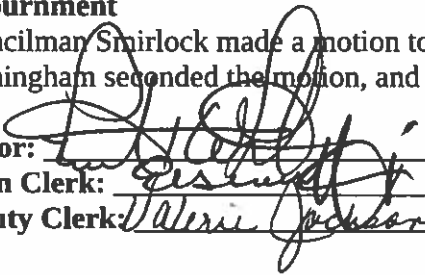
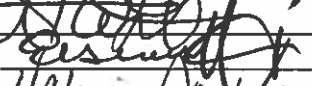
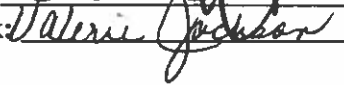
The next workshop meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor White had no additional comments.

Adjournment

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor:  Date: 04/13/2026
Town Clerk:  Date: 04/13/2026
Deputy Clerk:  Date: 04/13/2026

Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington