

Town of Winfall

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 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
- Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington
- Town Attorney Will Crowe

Call to Order

Mayor Preston White called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., delivered the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Conflict of Interest: None declared.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the agenda with the correction to the ending date of the financial report. Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Valentine made a motion to approve the April 13, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes and the April 20, 2026, Workshop Minutes. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

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

Town Clerk Valerie Jackson reported that the CPA requested approval to transfer funds from other accounts to cover over the limit of accounts. Councilman Valentine made a motion authorizing Beverly Stroud (CPA) to move shortfall amounts back to the sewer and office supply income accounts and reallocate funds to credit card fees, sewer fuel, and equipment accounts. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

- Sarah Sawyer
- Debera Long

Council Concerns/Complaints: None declared.

Old Business

A. Unity Day

Councilman Smirlock reported that Unity Day would be held on May 23. Some of the original march participants will attend. The march will begin at Perquimans Middle School at 10:00 a.m., followed by a speaker program. Participants will then march to First Baptist Church on King Street in Hertford, North Carolina.

B. Sewer Issues / Sewer Budget

Mayor White reported that one pump must be installed and alarms at Pump Station 1 had been replaced. He stated that the Town should consider purchasing a pump rather than continuing to rent one. Xylem provided information regarding HGAC, which sells pumps to municipalities. Once the Town is set up, they will move forward with obtaining quotes. Mayor White suggested establishing a budget cap for rental purchases.

C. Street Name Signs

Councilman Smirlock discussed which budget line item should fund street sign replacements. He suggested using the Beautification budget since sufficient funds are available.

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to use \$3,500 from the Beautification budget to purchase the first set of street sign replacements, with the remaining replacements to be completed during the next fiscal year. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Dog Ordinance

Attorney Crowe reviewed Dog Ordinance O-0203, Section 3, which states residents are limited to three dogs unless operating a business as a breeder or seller.

Councilman Valentine made a motion to table the matter to further determine fees and related issues. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion with an amendment to include warning letters. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Speed Bumps on King Avenue

Mayor White reported researching speed bumps through multiple sources. The next step will be determining locations and budget requirements. Councilman Smirlock also suggested installing speed bump signs. Mayor White proposed considering stop signs on residential roads lacking traffic control signs. Council agreed to table the discussion for a future workshop.

New Business

A. Citizens Advisory Board Update

Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham asked whether public notice was required before scheduling committee meetings. It was determined that public notice was not necessary. She will contact committee members to schedule a meeting.

B. Noise Ordinance Update

Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington stated that the Noise Ordinance should be updated regarding fees and animal-related concerns. Council agreed to table the matter until workshop discussion.

C. Sewer Rates

Councilman Valentine presented a data chart showing gallon usage, monthly usage trends, and payments made to the Town of Hertford. He recommended drafting letters to customers with higher usage rates and discussing or renegotiating the Town's contract with Hertford.

D. Reserve Fund Investment

Councilman Smirlock stated he spoke with a PNC representative regarding investment options. He suggested exploring a 3-year certificate of deposit earning 4.7% interest or a general savings account. A meeting will be scheduled with the Town Clerk, PNC representatives, and the CPA to discuss recommendations and investment amounts.

Department Reports

Sewer:No additional report.

Police (Public Safety)

Councilman Smirlock stated that the police flyer needs to be posted.

Administration

Town Clerk Valerie Jackson reported an issue with recent utility bills that listed an incorrect due date. The correct due date is May 18.

Councilman Smirlock and Councilman Valentine observed a demonstration of the TextMyGov system and believed it could benefit the Town but requested further discussion during budget planning.

Roads & Grounds

Councilman Valentine recommended that Dontae prepare a wishlist of needed items and equipment.

Fire:Nothing to report.

Tourism

Councilman Smirlock discussed confusion regarding which fiscal year budget should cover Firework expenses.

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve \$1,500 for fireworks from Account 467.01 (Community Events) from the current fiscal year budget. Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Valentine made a motion to donate \$800 to the Perquimans Art League from the next fiscal year budget. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Smirlock requested permission on behalf of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce to use the Town park and facility for a cornhole tournament on August 15, including permission to sell beer and wine .Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the cornhole tournament at Winfall Landing Park on August 15 and allow beer and wine sales pending attorney approval. The Council later rescinded the motion and tabled the matter until workshop discussion.

Zoning:Nothing to report.

Recreation

Nothing to report. No updated meeting has been scheduled.

Grants

Councilman Smirlock reported that the Town submitted a pre-application for a Coastal Grant to rehabilitate the boardwalk, install a new boat ramp, and renovate the playground. The Town is also exploring a Trail Connect Grant.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Crowe reviewed ordinances requiring updates.

Mayor's Report

Mayor White reported that the Town is making progress and expressed pride in how operations are going.

Upcoming Workshop

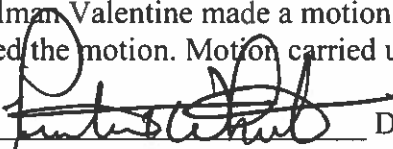
The next scheduled workshop will be held on May 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Closed Session

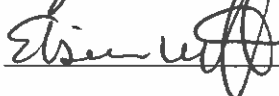
Councilman Smirlock made a motion to recess into closed session at 7:40 p.m. Councilwoman Ormond seconded the motion.

Adjournment

Councilman Valentine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor  Date 6-17-26

Clerk  Date 06-16-26

Deputy Clerk  Date 6-16-26

Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington.