

Town of Winfall

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: June 8, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Winfall Town Hall

Attendees

- Mayor Preston White
- Mayor Pro Tempore Cynthia Cunningham
- 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 Valentine made a motion to approve the agenda, including the closed session minutes pending Council review. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the May 11th, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes with the addition of a reference to **G.S. 160D-605** to help the public understand the purpose of rezoning, as previously discussed by Councilman Valentine on April 13th council meeting. The motion also included approval of May 28, 2026, Workshop Minutes. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Town Clerk Valerie Jackson requested that future financial reports be distributed electronically instead of providing both electronic and printed copies. Councilman Smirlock made a motion to discontinue printing financial statements, with reports to be distributed electronically and one printed copy provided at Council meetings. Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: Kathy Stewart-Linton addressed the Council.

Council Concerns/Complaints: None.

Old Business

A. Resolution to Adopt County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Councilman Valentine made a motion to adopt the County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Dog Ordinance

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve the Dog Ordinance with an amendment to Section 5A, Part 4, replacing the term "Hunting Dogs" with "Dogs." Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of TextMyGov Communication Program

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to approve a three-year commitment to the TextMyGov communication program, contingent upon approval by the Town Attorney. Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Reevaluation of Part-Time Police Officer Position

Councilman Smirlock suggested scheduling a future meeting with the County Sheriff to discuss the part-time police officer position in greater detail.

New Business

A. Approval of Budget Message and Budget Ordinance Draft for Fiscal Year 2026–2027

Councilman Valentine made a motion to approve the Budget Message and the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget Ordinance Draft, with any necessary revisions to be made before final adoption. Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Schedule Budget Workshop

Councilman Smirlock made a motion to schedule a Budget Workshop for **Monday, June 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** Councilman Valentine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Schedule Budget Public Hearing

Councilman Valentine made a motion to schedule the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget Public Hearing for **Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at Winfall Town Hall. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Sewer and Drainage Ditches

Councilman Valentine presented a data analysis of the Town's water usage. The goal is to proactively address infrastructure needs and develop a plan that will reduce financial losses associated with the Town's water and sewer system.

E. Debit/Credit Card Charges

Councilman Smirlock discussed implementing a 3% surcharge on credit and debit card transactions to offset processing fees. Councilman Valentine made a motion to implement the 3% surcharge effective with the July utility billing cycle. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports

Sewer: Already discussed under New Business.

Police (Public Safety): One incident involved a high-speed pursuit originating in Elizabeth City. County law enforcement and the Sheriff's Office resolved the incident.

Fire: No report.

Administration: The Town Attorney reported that he is reviewing the contract with Southern Software. A presentation is scheduled for June 10, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. With Town Council members.

Roads & Grounds: Two employment interviews have been conducted. Hiring decisions are pending completion of background checks.

Tourism: The Tourism Department has little additional business to report but has hired a new part-time Tourism Director.

Zoning: No report.

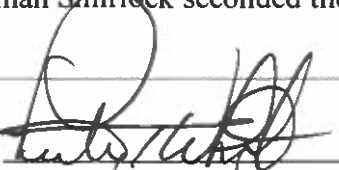
Recreation: Mayor Pro Tempore Cunningham reported that no additional Recreation Committee meetings have been scheduled.

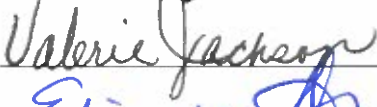
Grants: Councilman Smirlock reported that the Town was awarded grant funding to replace the boardwalk and kayak station. Funding was not approved for the playground, and staff will pursue additional grant opportunities. He also provided an update on the proposed trail project connecting Hertford through Winfall.

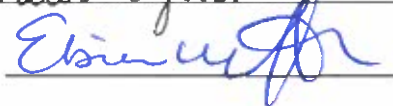
Attorney's Report: Attorney Crowe reported that he is working on grant verification requirements and issuing updated upset bid information.

Mayor's Report: Mayor White reported that the Town received a thank-you card from the Morgan family expressing appreciation for the Town's recognition of the late Mayor Lloyd Ray Morgan.

Adjournment: Councilman Valentine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Councilman Smirlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor:  Date: 07/13/2026

Town Clerk:  Date: 07/13/2026

Deputy Clerk:  Date: 07/13/2026

Minutes prepared by Deputy Clerk Elisha Washington.