

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF WORK SESSION
January 27th, 2026
5:00 PM

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Beaty, Alderman Martin, Alderman Withers, Alderman Milton, Alderman Blythe, and Alderman Cloninger.

The following Staff members were present: Jonathan Newton, Town Manager; Tom Hunn, Town Attorney; Robbie Walls, Police Chief; Lanny Smith, Electric Director; Lindsey Tysinger, Town Clerk; Bill Trudnak, Public Works Director; Zack Foreman, Assistant Public Works Director; Stuart Valzonis, Planning Director; Brittany Beam, Planner; Earl Withers III, Fire Chief; Alex Wallace, Parks and Recreation Director; and Captain Fleming.

Mayor Beaty called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Mayor Beaty opened with the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Beaty asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Alderman Martin made a motion to approve the agenda with deletions, seconded by Alderman Blythe and carried unanimously.

New Business:

Item 3A - Captain Withers IV Recognition

Captain Earl Withers IV was recently awarded the Western North Carolina Association of Firefighters “Firefighter of the Year.” Captain Withers IV was selected to receive this award by a committee of peers representing the 17,000 members of the Western Association. Dallas Fire Chief Earl Withers III would like to recognize his son’s achievement.

Chief Earl Withers III gave a speech for Captains Withers IV on his accomplishments and being awarded the Firefighter of the Year.

Item 3B - Recognizing Reid Simms

The Planning Board relies on dedicated citizen volunteers to provide guidance on land use, zoning, and long-range planning matters affecting the Town. A proclamation has been prepared to formally recognize Reid Simms for their service to the Planning Board.

Reid Simms was not in attendance, and this item was requested to be moved to the February 10th meeting.

Item 3C - Text Amendment 153.002; 153.009 (Deletion)

Text amendment application was pulled by resident.

Item 3D - Hydrant Policy

Discussion on the Hydrant Policy.

Jonathan Newton presented item. Advised Board to read over policy to be brought back to the February meeting.

Item 3E - Parks & Recreation Facility Rental Policy

Staff requests Board consideration of proposed revisions to the Parks & Recreation Facility Rental Policy to improve clarity, consistency, and enforceability. The updates are intended to address facility use requirements, rental eligibility, fee structures, and staff authority related to scheduling and compliance.

Jonathan Newton presented the Parks and Recreation Facility Rental Policy. Newton informed the Board that staff made updates to the policy and will bring this item back to the February meeting.

Mayor & Aldermen's Report: Mayor Beaty thanked Town Staff for all their hard work during the winter storm. Asked everyone to please keep Sheriff Deputy Casey Tignor in your prayers as he recovers from a sledding accident.

Chief Earl Wither III gave an update on the upcoming snowstorm, going to communicate with department heads on getting prepared.

Chief Robbie Walls informed the Board that only one person showed up to the warming shelter this past weekend during the winter storm.

Alderman Cloninger made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Alderman Martin and carried unanimously (5:13).

Alderman Martin made a motion to go out of closed session, seconded by Alderman Milton and carried unanimously (6:17).

Alderman Milton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Withers and carried unanimously (6:17).

Hayley Beaty, Mayor

Lindsey Tysinger, Town Clerk