Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

The Town Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 30 S. Main Street, Weaverville, N.C.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Town Council Present: Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons, Vice Mayor John Chase, Council members Michelle Wood, Doug Jackson, Catherine Cordell, Peter McGuire, and Dee Lawrence.

Staff Present- Town Manager Scottie Harris, Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Jackson, Planning Director James Eller, Assistant Public Works Director Eric Cutshall, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Randall Wilson, Finance Director Tonya Dozier, Town Attorney Michael Frue, Town Clerk Tamara Mercer, Planner Graham Crawford, Fire Chief Michael Hunter, Community Center Manager Mike DeSerio, Police Chief Somer Oberlin, and A/V Coordinator Lauren Ward.

2. Approval/Adjustments to the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Doug Jackson

Aye *Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Michele Wood, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Catherine Cordell*

Carried unanimously. 7-0

3. Conflict of Interests Statement

Mayor Fitzsimmons stated that it is the duty of the Mayor and every Town Councilmember to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts. No member had any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters on the agenda for tonight's Town Council meeting.

4. Consent Agenda

Town Manager Harris reviewed the consent agenda items.

Motion to approve and adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Dee Lawrence

Aye *Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Michele Wood, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Catherine Cordell*

Carried unanimously. 7-0

A. June 17, 2025 Town Council Workshop Minutes- approved as presented
B. June 23, 2025 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes- approved as presented

C. FY24-25 Year End Tax Report of 99.87% collection rate, Refunds/Releases- approved as presented
D. Budget Amendment- Police and Public Works- approved as presented
E. Board Appointment – Tree Board - approved as presented
F. Code Amendment- Ch. 20 New R-6 District & Signage – Public Hearing set for August 25, 2025

5. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Harris reviewed the report containing the following announcements and projects updates.

- CodeRED Early Notification Alert System
- Arbor Day Foundation Truist Charitable Fund Grant Award $35,000
- Tree Board Annual Report FY:2024-2025
- Private Property Debris Removal PPDR S.M.A.R.T. Program
- Salute to Summer Kids Party Sponsored by the Weaverville Business Association and Blue Mountain Pizza
- Financial Audit By Gould Killian
- Summer Strolls Community Walks
- Weaverville Elementary School new principal announcement, Principal Harrell
- Asheville Butterfly Trail sculpture at Town Clock
- Main Street Nature Park Community Foundation anonymous donation of $10,000
- Community Cetner Lake Louise handrail installation update
- July 4th Celebration event update
- Dry Ridge Historical Museum Quarterly Report
- Outdoor Recreation Complex Pickleball update
- Planning Board Meeting Schedule Change and Adoption
- Water Treatment Plant Resiliency Project update
- Upcoming Town Meeting, Events and Calendar review

6. General Public Comment

Guidelines for Public Comment were reviewed by Mayor Fitzsimmons, and he stated that Staff has been charged with the operation and management of the Outdoor Recreation Complex.

Ms. Mary Hilton, Weaverville resident addressed wellness and healthy living programs at the Community Center, and she said she was in favor of pickleball courts hours and time changes to increase the operation in summer in decrease the hours in winter.

Ms. Darla LeTourneau, Weaverville resident stated she was in favor of the installation of the Outdoor Recreation Complex and in favor of extended pickleball court hours. She discussed Weaverville's quality of life and noted the pickleball courts' rules and regulations.

Mr. Charlie Wilkers, Weaverville resident, discussed pickleball court activities and said he supports extended play hours.

Mr. Jayson Feliciano, Weaverville resident discussed his pickleball activities and said he was in favor of extended hours at the courts.

Ms. Inger Stallman, Weaverville resident said she was in favor of the pickleball courts at the current location. She discussed noise abatement, the installed noise reduction methods, and suggested hiring consultants to study acoustic issues and noise mitigation.

Mr. Laird Ruth a Weaverville property owner, addressed the local economy, exercise benefits, and area amenities. He said he was in favor of pickleball extended hours.

Ms. Catherine Underdown, Weaverville resident, provided her history in Weaverville and said she is in favor of the pickleball complex location. She encouraged following Staff's recommendations.

Ms. Mari Fox Weaverville resident said she was opposed to the location of the pickleball courts and read from the Code, specifically the Weaverville noise ordinance and zoning regulations.

Ms. Angel Erdmann, Weaverville resident, said she was opposed to outdoor complex due to the noise at the pickleball courts and is against extended hours and operation of play.

Mr. Michael Stuart Weaverville resident recounted his history living in Weaverville and said he was opposed to the public nuisance of the outdoor complex and is against pickleball court complex location. He said he was in favor of relocation of the outdoor recreation complex.

Ms. Marci Brigman Weaverville resident said she was in favor of pickleball complex hour modification for dawn to dusk hours.

Ms. Angela Wilkers Weaverville resident agreed with the previous speakers in favor of pickleball court complex, and she recounted her history prior to becoming a pickleball player. Ms. Wilkers was also in favor of extended hours of pickleball operation to coincide with the daylight hours.

Attorney Frue stated for the record the on-line citizens comments were provided to Town Council members, and there were seven people in-favor and one against extended hours of the outdoor complex.

Councilmember Wood stated she was in favor of the relocation of the Outdoor Complex and pickleball courts.

Catherine Cordell recounted the history of the park pool at its current location as a public outdoor recreation facility. She is not in favor of dawn to dusk hours of operation and in favor of maintaining conservative hours at the pickleball courts in its current location.

7. Discussion & Action Items

A. Project Bids- Paving Project

Town Manager Harris reviewed the street improvement paving project, the Town street improvement list, and noted some of the NCDOT roadways within the Town which are State maintained.

Assistant Public Works Director, Eric Cutshall, stated that the Town re-advertised for bids and noted the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder was C&T Paving with a bid amount of $638,941.

Councilmember Cordell inquired about an oak tree in the island on Oak Street, and staff agreed to have an Arborist look at it to see if there is anything that can be done to decrease the likelihood of any damage to the tree's root system in the milling and paving process.

Motion to award the bid to C&T Paving and authorize Town Staff to execute a paving contract on the total bid amount of $638,941.

Moved by: Doug Jackson

Aye *Peter McGuire, Doug Jackson, Michele Wood, Dee Lawrence, Patrick Fitzsimmons, John Chase, and Catherine Cordell*

Carried unanimously. 7-0

B. Maple Trace- Streets/Stormwater Update and Plan

Assistant Town Manager Jackson reviewed the status of the Maple Trace streets and stormwater situation including catch basins regrouting, flushing of stormwater lines, and needed repairs. The

Homeowner Association (HOA) owns and maintains several stormwater ponds and one is full of sediment which is causing the piping to not drain properly. She reviewed the costs and balance of work needed.

There was discussion regarding the HOA's responsibilities, remaining payments and repair costs and the balance remaining. Mayor Fitzsimmons requested a delay of paving the agreed upon portion of Water Leaf Way until the stormwater pond is cleaned out by the Maple Trace HOA.

There was a general consensus for the Town Manager to look further into at what stormwater repairs are necessary, that maintenance of the stormwater ponds is an HOA issue and expense, that no paving should occur until the stormwater pond and other stormwater issues are resolved, but otherwise Town Council would like to proceed on this matter and asked that the matter be brought back when there is a plan to move forward.

Mr. Jeff Kniffen and David King addressed Town Council regarding Maple Trace subdivision repairs.

C. **Helene Recovery Plan- Draft Project List**

Assistant Town Manager Jackson stated that she has been working with Buncombe County and other area municipal jurisdictions on the consolidated Helene Recovery Plan and noted Weaverville's project section with be under the following categories: Emergency Preparedness, Infrastructure Resilience, Community Resilience, Economic Resilience, and Environmental Resiliency

D. **Quarterly Report - Planning**

Planning Director Eller submitted the quarterly report his team's work and for the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment for April, May and June of 2025.

E. **Quarterly Report – Community Center**

Community Center Manager DeSerio reviewed the activities, events, programs and rental revenues, and highlighted the upcoming volunteer appreciation event this fall.

F. **Quarterly Report – Finance**

Finance Director Dozier reviewed the detailed budget projections and provided increases and decreases over last year's revenues, expenses on capital projects, departmental summaries, and reappropriations, and noted the upcoming audit for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 that will begin in August.

8. Adjournment

With no further business and no objection, Mayor Fitzsimmons adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Tamara Mercer, Town Clerk

Patrick Fitzsimmons, Mayor