SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Sawmills Town Council

May 19, 2026

5:00 PM

Attendance:

Keith Warren, Mayor
Clay Wilson, Mayor Pro-Tem
Melissa Curtis, Council
Rebecca Johnson, Council
Bobby Mosteller, Council
Chase Winebarger, Town Manager
Dustin Millsaps, Assistant Town Manager
Terry Taylor, Town Attorney
Abby Rich, Town Clerk

Mayor Keith Warren called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

Councilman Mosteller provided the invocation for those in attendance.

Mayor Keith Warren led the Pledge of Allegiance for those in attendance.

Manager Chase Winebarger began discussing the budget with the Council. Manager Winebarger noted what a difficult budget season this has been due to varying factors. One of those factors is the Veterans Park clean-up and the approval of funding from FEMA. Manager Winebarger told the Council the project was submitted to FEMA this previous Friday and it is now in the reviewal stage.

Manager Winebarger then began providing updates concerning the fire department merger. HR Director Hope Moore has started 1 on 1's with fire department employees to ensure they understand the benefits as the merger concludes. Another update concerned the announced retirement of Chief Crowe.

Manager Winebarger then reviewed the increases and decreases in the budget noting the budget is currently a moving target due to waiting on a decision from the County concerning the tax rate increase request. Another variable is the amount encumbered as the Town waits for a decision concerning the Veterans Park FEMA reimbursement.

The next topic centered around the water rate study conducted. The study showed that the Town should increase rates by 3%, taking the advice from the consultant, Manager Winebarger recommended increasing from 2.5% to 3%.

Manager Winebarger then began a conversation centered around increasing some of the Town's fees. The increases include a double permit fee for building without a permit. A $500 fee for mowing overgrown yards, a $2,500 fine for parking lot damage, increase in sanitation deposits from $20 to $40, and increase fees for additional trash bins.

The last discussion concerned firefighter pay rates.

With there being no more business to attend to, at 5:41 PM. Councilman Wilson made the motion to adjourn. After a second from Councilwoman Johnson, the motion carried unanimously.