

May 12, 2025

Town Hall Meeting

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Mayor Larry W. Adams was present along with the following Commissioners: Dawn Hobson, Neal Nichols, Martin Hauser, Earl Norman, and Kurt Held.
2. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the April 14, 2025, minutes as written. Commissioner Norman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the April 14, 2025, Closed Session minutes as written. Commissioner Hauser seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Jan Hicks reminded everyone about the music event at the Town Square at 6pm Friday night. Darrell Carter, Big Daddy D's, is hosting the music event and food will be provided by New Vision Church. Next Event will be June 20<sup>th</sup> on a Friday, and it is a Children's Play Day with Olympic type games. She also drew attention to the New Banners which were on display in the Board Room. They are beautiful and as time permits Gavin will be putting them up throughout town. Ronnie Fletcher invited everyone to come out to all park events and to help keep our park clean during events. Ben Peacock said that everything is on schedule for the God & Country Parade and Celebration scheduled for June 28, 2025. He thanked the town for their support and looks forward to seeing everyone at the event. Mayor Adams wanted to remind everyone to help clean up the town for the upcoming events. Commissioner Nichols asked if another Street trash pickup event could be scheduled next month. Chief Shore will help coordinate the effort.
5. Michelle Boyd and Alysha Wilkins-Smith would like to thank everyone who came to their Grand Opening of Genesis Salon. Mayor Adams was able to attend the event and stated he was amazed at the transformation of the building's interior. She left flyers at town hall with a list of several services provided. She invited everyone to come in and visit the Salon and see all the new renovations and experience the services they offer which is more than just tanning. They will also be setup at the God & Country Event.
6. Commissioner Norman introduced Steve Garrett the State NFIP Coordinator and Jerry Frye from FEMA . Mr. Garrett spoke on the NFIP program and stated that this insurance is available to the town on a voluntary basis. They would identify risk, make sure we are building appropriately and provide flood insurance to insure against the risk. The main goals of the program are to reduce loss of life and property due to flooding and to reduce disaster costs. The costs would shift from the

taxpayers to individual property owners. The town would benefit from coverage for public infrastructure. He did state that there is one flood property to the north of town which has no development at this time. East Bend currently sits on a ridge line. However, if there were flooding due to an exterior source this could be covered by the Flood Insurance Program. Mr. Frye stated that 30% of claims paid out are from properties that were not supposed to flood. Mr. Garrett left this open for discussion. No decision must be made at this time.

7. Mayor Adams opened a discussion on Capital Management. Commissioner Held was in favor of utilizing this resource. Commissioner Norman requested more information and asked that this be tabled until June.
8. Sam's card issue is tabled until next meeting.
9. Mayor Adams requested the date for the June meeting be moved until June 16<sup>th</sup> because several board members will be absent. Notice will be posted at Town Hall and Ben Peacock will update on the website.
10. Mayor Adams reviewed the 2025-2026 Budget. Tax rate will stay the same which is .50 per 100 and there will be a base increase of \$5.00 a month for the Water rates and a 3% cost of living raise for full time employees. These increases are to balance the budget. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the budget. Commissioner Hauser seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
11. Clerk Miller presented a Contract to Audit Accounts from Gibson & Company, P.A. for the upcoming year. Mayor Adams requested the board's approval to sign this contract and continue doing business with Gibson & Company, P.A. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the signing of the contract. Commissioner Norman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
12. Chief Shore reported an issue with our backup system this morning. This battery needs to be replaced. Commissioner Hauser continued into discussion about quotes for new computer hardware for town hall along with new tuff books for police cars. Quote from HCTEC is \$15,287.88. This number includes support. Windows 10 will no longer be supported by Microsoft after October of this year. Commissioner Hauser said his quote did not include a new UPS backup. Mayor Adams brought up the upgrade of software as well. He urged the board to consider the time frame. Commissioner Norman asked Clerk Miller to review the software again. The base cost would be \$5700.00. Clerk Miller will call for a time frame update on software and hardware installation. Commissioner Hauser stated the quote was good until the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. He will call and get updates on the numbers with exactly all hardware needed. Commissioner Nichols made a motion that we move forward with the purchase of the hardware and software upgrades needed. Commissioner Hobson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Chief Shore updated the board on Radar's. Grant money is not available. He has funds in the police budget to purchase one or two Radar's. One is \$2557.50 and two with a discount would be \$5246.76. Commissioner Held questioned if they are forward and rear facing and the answer is yes. Commissioner Held made a motion to purchase one Radar. Commissioner Norman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
14. School Resource Officer can be a part-time or full-time position. Chief Shore is currently interviewing for this position. The \$22,000 in funding would be available for 2 years. The school system has requested an answer by July 1 of this year. Commissioner Held asked if the officer could be an SRO and work for the town as well. Half of the time would be at school and the other half in service to the town. Commissioner Nichols asked if the prospective officer would be willing to be an SRO and a Nighttime officer. Mayor Adams asked the board if this could be left to Chief Shore. Commissioner Hauser made a motion to have Chief Shore continue with the offer. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
15. Chief Shore stated that the Body Cameras are reaching their life expectancy. Axon does a 60-month contract and after 2.5 years they replace equipment. After 60 months the town has the option to renew it or not. Chief Shore gave a quote of \$14,049.62 for three devices with cloud storage for five years. The second quote is with a GPS option and live view with a cost of \$17,759.00. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to purchase three Body Cameras. Commissioner Held Seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
16. Police update is that everything has been quiet. Nothing to report.
17. Closed Session – no updates on this issue currently.
18. Attorney Epley gave an update on the Water Issue with the county. It is still in litigation. Attorney Fitzgerald has served discovery requests at the beginning of May to Yadkin County which they have a total of 60 days to respond.
19. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the bills and any that come in prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Norman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
20. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Held seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

6-16-25

DATE

Bettina Miller

Bettina Miller, Town Clerk/Administrator

Larry W. Adams

Larry W. Adams, Mayor