

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

May 12th, 2026

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Chip Bell, Council Members Craig York and Cindy Wheeler. Also present were Town Administrator Karen Horne, Town Clerk Barbara York, Chris Howell with Freedom Junk Removal and four citizens.

Mayor Chip Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He asked Council Member Craig York to give the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR MEETING

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting

- Mayor Chip Bell asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting. Council Member Craig York made the motion and Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Bell noted there were amendments to the March 10, 2026, meeting minutes. Council Member Craig York made a motion to accept the amendments. Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Update on Well and New System

- No update

3. Update on Ballfield Bathroom

- Council Member Craig York reported he is working with Guilford County and expects a solution that will cost significantly less than the previously estimated \$10,000–\$12,000.

4. Update on Town Hall Reno Project

- Council Member Craig York reported the restoration grant expires at the end of June 2027. Electrical work is underway and structural work, including joist and support installation, will begin in early June 2026.

5. Town Hall Security Monitoring System

- Council Member Craig York reported delays due to door sizing and framing issues. Work continues with the vendor to resolve these issues so that we are able to get a quote for the system as well as doors for the Town Hall.

6. Landscaping Update

- Town Clerk Barbara York reported a quote from Cody Myers of approximately \$550 to mulch, trim boxwoods, and remove two bushes. Council Member Craig York made a motion to proceed with the work and Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Any Other Old Business

Pothole Repair

- Town Manager Karen Horne reported that the Department of Transportation has repaired the pothole at the Town Hall entrance.

City Limits Sign Relocation

- Discussion was held regarding relocating the town limits sign from the intersection at Penn-Lo to its proper location near the gas junction. Town Clerk Barbara York reported that Wright Archer has been contacted and follow-up will continue.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board

- No Meeting

Enforcement Officer

- No business to discuss

Town Administrator

Update on Hudson Way DCC's

- Town Manager Karen Horne reported six house permits have been issued, tap fees have been paid for two lots, and water meters have been installed. Construction has begun with initial foundation work underway.

NEW BUSINESS

Financials

- Town Clerk Barbara York presented the proposed General and Water budgets for FY 2026–2027.
- A public hearing will be held at the next meeting. Council members were asked to review and provide feedback

Waste Management Contract

- Town Manager Karen Horne presented a proposal from Freedom Junk Removal as an alternative to Republic Services. The proposal reflects an approximate 11% cost reduction (about \$7,000 annually). Chris Howell with Freedom Junk Removal was present to answer any questions. Freedom Junk Removal also offered additional community service options. Council Member Craig York made a motion to accept the Freedom Junk Removal contract. Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Transition Planning from Republics to Freedom Junk Removal

- New cans are expected to be delivered around June 19 2026. Republic Services' final recycling pickup is anticipated June 23, with final trash pickup around June 30. Staff will notify residents multiple times via letters, postcards, and other communication methods regarding the transition and requirements for placing cans for pickup.

Any New Items from Council Members

- **Generator System Contractor**
 - Council Member Craig York reported the previous generator contractor is no longer in business. A motion was made by Council Member Craig York to contract Prevent Electrical for generator services. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler and approved unanimously.

- **Announcements**

- Town Manager Karen Horne explained the need to update the Future Land Use Map to align with previously approved zoning changes (including the Highway Business designation near Highway 61 and 70). A public hearing will be held at the next meeting to address this update.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Pro Tem Rice asked if there were any speakers from the floor

- A resident raised concerns regarding the capacity and location of the local post office, including space limitations and growth needs. Mayor Chip Bell reported that discussions are ongoing and that he is exploring potential alternative locations. He said that he would prefer it to stay along Highway 61.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Council Member Craig York made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. The motion carried and the May 12th, 2026, Town Council meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m. The next Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

Chip Bell, Mayor

Jerry Rice, Mayor Pro Tem

APPROVED: