

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

June 9, 2026

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Chip Bell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and Council Members Craig York, Cindy Wheeler, and Lee Greenson. Also present were Town Administrator Karen Horne, Town Clerk Barbara York along with eight citizens.

Mayor Chip Bell called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting

- Mayor Chip Bell asked if he had a motion to accept the minutes from the May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting. Council Member Craig York made the motion to accept the May minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice seconded the motion. The adoption of the May 12, 2026, Town Council Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

2. Update on Ballfield Restrooms

- Council Member Craig York didn't have an official update, but he noted that the concrete vessel that is in the ground must be removed. Gerald Clapp is looking into what our options are to bring the septic system up to code.

3. Any Other Old Business

- Mayor Bell asked if there was any further Old Business and there was none.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board

- Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne informed the Council that the Planning Board had made a recommendation for Council to approve the Future Land Use Map to reflect the current Zoning Map.

Enforcement Officer

- No Report

Town Administrator

- Town Administrator Horne let the Council know that the office staff had written and mailed letters to all of the Whitsett residents with information and dates about our transition from Republic Waste Services to Freedom Junk Removal. This information will also be posted on the Town's Facebook page.
- Administrator Horne informed the Council that Liberty Storage has submitted a DCC and paid the fee for a site plan review. They are intending to purchase the property at 7210 NC Highway 61 to build two storage unit type buildings that will hold individual units. She discussed with the Council a letter about a utility easement letter that Liberty Storage is asking the Council to review and approve. This has already been reviewed by our attorney and if there were any concerns, they needed to reach out to Kevin Hornik. Council wanted time to fully review this letter before making a decision.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025-2026 Budget Amendment Approval

Council Member Craig York made a motion to accept the 2025-2026 Budget Amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and the motion carried with unanimous approval.

2. 2026-2027 General Budget Approval

Council Member Craig York made a motion to accept the 2026-2027 General Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and the motion carried with unanimous approval.

3. 2026-2027 Water Budget Approval

Council Member Craig York made a motion to accept the 2026-2027 Water Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and the motion carried with unanimous approval.

4. Proposed Changes to Future Land Use Map

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to update in the Future Land Use Map that it reflects the current Zoning Map. The Motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson and the motion was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

New Items from Council Members

- Mayor Chip Bell asked Fire Chief Leon Apple if the price that was quoted to the Town for the replacement of the fire hydrant at the corner of Coleman Road and Highway 70 seemed like a fair bid. Chief Apple expressed his thoughts that the hydrant needed to be fixed and not replaced and explained what that would look like. Town Administrator Karen Horne spoke and informed the Council that the company that had put in the bid had explained to her that after all the work (which included digging deep into the ground, removing the hydrant, deciding what the issue is, making the repair and then re-installing the original hydrant) it would cost just as much, if not more than purchasing a new hydrant and doing the hydrant swap in a single day.
- Mayor Bell also asked Chief Apple what input he had about the recent purchases for the plumbing and well problems the department has been having. Most of the plumbing/water issues were brought to the Town's attention by the fire department. The Council discussed letting the fire department make emergency decisions about the water and plumbing that they share with the Town and then share their decisions with Mayor Bell or Council Member Cindy Wheeler. Council Member Lee Greeson made a motion that Chief Apple have the authority to make emergency decisions regarding the water and plumbing problems that occur and that they will inform our Mayor and Financial Officer. The motion was seconded by Council Member Craig York and the motion was approved unanimously. In addition to this decision, Town Clerk Barbara York was asked to create a list of emergency contacts for both the fire department and the Town Hall. The Town Council along with representatives from the fire department will schedule a retreat to discuss emergency protocols to put into place.

Announcements

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice informed the Council that he would be stepping down as the Financial Officer as of July 1, 2026. Everyone expressed their appreciation for all his years of service working with the Town on finances. Mr. Rice will remain on the Council and will continue to have the authority to sign checks. Council Member Craig York made a motion to appoint Council Member Cindy Wheeler to be the new Financial Officer as of July 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson and was carried with unanimous approval.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Bell asked if there were any speakers from the floor and there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson. The motion carried; and the June 9, 2026, Town Council meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

Chip Bell, Mayor

Jerry Rice, Mayor Pro Tem

APPROVED: