

**TOWN OF AURORA, NC**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES**  
**Monday, January 5, 2026, Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the Town Hall. Mayor Hendrix called the meeting to order with the following present:

**Officials Present:** [X] Curt Hendrix, Mayor

**Commissioners**

**Present:** [ ] Dalton Bennett  
[X] Coley Jordan  
[X] Steve McCormack  
[X] Galene Williams

**Attendance:** [X] Matthew Robinson - Public Works Director  
[X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer  
[X] Rhonda Stallings – Admin. Assistant & Utility Billing  
[X] Various members of the public were in attendance.

Commissioner Bennett was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Hendrix led in prayer and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

**Public Comment**

After welcoming all in attendance, the Mayor opened the floor for public comment. Debbie Guthrie addressed the board regarding her work with Veterans Challenge Inc and had a list of future meeting dates. She also addressed her organization's desire to acquire the recently vacated S.W. Snowdon School property.

At this point Kurt Ryan with the Aurora Leadership Council and also a member of the Partnership for Aurora Richland Township Progress, explained that the issue of the school building would have to be addressed by the Beaufort County Board of Education, as there are state statutes that relegate how the school property may be disposed. He and Mayor Hendrix plan to address the issue with BC BOE Superintendent Allen as well as the County

Board of Commissioners, making them aware of the Town Councils' concerns about the future of the S.W. Snowden School property.

Next under Public Comment Jennifer Wilson presented a list of questions for the Mayor and Town Council as derived from the Facebook Group "you're probably from Aurora if", please see the attached document.

Mayor Hendrix stated that all of these issues are important and that we will get there, and he thanked Jennifer Wilson. One of the topics on Mrs. Wilson's list was the request for "slow bumps" be placed on 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Chapin and Bonner and between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets. Laura Jordan also signed up for Public Comment regarding the same issue. She stated that she will keep speaking on this issue until it is resolved. Further discussion took place regarding the necessary warning signs that we need to place when installing the speedbumps, as well considering where liability issues may arise. The Town is still researching the best way to solve this traffic issue.

Also under Public Comment, Nancy Hubbard provided a document outlining the NC Occupancy Tax and how it could benefit Aurora and Richland Township. For the new board, Mrs. Hubbard provided an in-depth history of where the state and Beaufort County locations were with support and passage of this legislation. Please see the attached.

Lastly under Public Comment, Director of the Aurora- Richland Township Chamber of Commerce, Joy Dunn announced there were going to be a few changes happening with the Chamber. The Aurora Chamber was going to take a short "hiatus" while administration and goals were being considered. She announced that "The Venue" on Main Street would still be available for rental. The team at the Chamber was thanked for all they do for the Aurora-Richland Township area.

### **Consideration of Minutes**

The proposed minutes of December 1, 2025, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

### **Old Business**

Under Old Business, Jamie Heath Planner with the Mid-East Commission provided the new council with updates on all current infrastructure projects that included:

- NC Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) Force Main Replacement and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. List Station Rehab – RK&K contract for preparation of engineering /environmental report
- Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) Phase 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant project (wetland restoration, berm improvement, sludge removal)
- NC Land and Water Fund Baileys Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvements
- Fall Round for DWI applications

Please see the attached document.

### **New Business**

Under New Business, Beverly Horvath presented “Planting the Seeds of History” to the Town Board.

Beverly stated that as a business owner on Main Street she is often asked “what is there to do in this town?”. Many places attract tourism through roadside advertisement to “come see this” or “we are home of this or that.” She believes we need another attraction in town that will bring interest to the area and include the Aurora Fossil Museum. Her statement went on to say “this is a very doable project with volunteers and will need some fundraising, but I felt it was best to get the buy in of the town and citizens of Aurora.” When everyone is on board, she will proceed with the project with the assistance of volunteers. She also made it aware the last November event that was held on Main Street “The Historical Shiver Tour” was sponsored by her company South Creek Media LLC and that profits are being held specifically to start this project. The presentation sparked a good interaction of ideas amongst those in attendance and was well received.

Next under New Business, Kurt Ryan with the Partnership for Aurora Richland Township Progress presented the Board with a written follow up to the status of several projects undertaken by the PARTP. The Historic District designation for the Town of Aurora is now complete. The study was started over two decades ago and was revitalized by the PARTP two years ago, as designated in the Town’s 2024 Strategic Plan. The Historic District designation was completed by private donations.

Mr. Ryan then presented the PARTP Request for Project Approval. He began by covering the 2025 Revitalization projects and the efforts being made. He then asked for the Boards approval of the following upcoming projects:

- Purchase of 65 Town of Aurora decorative banners to replace the aged and fading “hometown hero” banners

- Purchase of wayfaring signage and professional installations of the signs
- Fund a July 25, 2026 "Small Town, Big Celebration: Aurora's Salute to 250 Years"

A motion to approve the Partnership for Aurora-Richland Township Progress request for project approval was made by Commissioner Jordan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

### **Staff Reports**

Public Works Director Matthew Robinson gave an update on Public Works projects. After conferring with our generator consultant at ENC Generator, he is sorry to report that our emergency generators are not the right size for where they were installed. Most notably the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street lift-station. He is getting a quote for the cost to install the correct generator. He also copied the Board with the old hourly rate increase chart used for public works employees when they had mastered a task and received an hourly increase. The rate sheet was over 25 years old and needs an update. The Board agreed to revise the chart.

The Clerk presented a cash balance report to the Board and indicated that she was working on budget amendments for their consideration.

### **Mayor And Board Comments**

Mayor Hendrix informed the Board that he was working with a representative from "Sound Rivers" who stated that Aurora has a great set up for kayaking and paddling trials. He is learning more about it and everyone he has discussed it with thinks it would be a great tourism draw. All in attendance were in agreement.

### **Adjournment/Recess**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack and approved with a 3 to 0 vote.

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Curt Hendrix, Mayor

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Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk