TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, October 6, 2025, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 6, 2025, at the Town Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Peed called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [X] Jeff Peed, Mayor Pro-Tempore

Commissioners Present:
[X] Omar Bahhur
[X] Coley Jordan
[X] Steve McCormac

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.

Mayor Pro Tempore Peed offered a prayer and remembered Mayor Clif Williams. Commissioner Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment to Agenda

A motion to amend the agenda was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack to reverse the order of items under Old Business in order to allow Mid-East Commission Planner Jamie Heath time to arrive as Hwy 33 East was temporarily closed due to a fire. Also to add the topic of Wi-Fi access for Community Watch training sessions. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Jennifer Wilson inquired about recent water and sewer rate increases due to her higher bill. Town staff said rates last increased in January 2025, and the Clerk confirmed no changes since switching to Beaufort County water in June. The Town hasn't seen cost savings from bulk rates yet, given ongoing operational and equipment expenses. Rate increases are being advised, though the Board of Commissioners are reluctant to raise them again this year.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of July 10, 2025, recessed meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

The proposed minutes of August 4, 2025, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Bahhur and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

Old Business

Regarding updates on the Aurora Industrial Park project, The Mayor Pro Tem reported that he had no updates from the potential buyer that had expressed interest previously. However, he had spoken with Blake Hardy with Duke Energy and it sounded like they could turn their electrical work at the new lift station round within our 90 day window with NC Dept of Commerce. Mr. Peed also gave an update regarding the Richland Township Fire and Rescue and their progress in the AIP. Within the past two years their construction plan estimate has gone from 175,000 to 2.2 million. They are now researching alternative construction plan ideas being used by other Fire and Rescue organizations.

Meanwhile, Jamie Heath Planner II with the Mid-East Commission joined the meeting. Ms. Heath walked the Board through the RK&K engineering contract for the Bailey's Creek Nature Based Improvement Project. After a brief discussion regarding streets and homes impacted by Bailey's Creek flooding during storm events; a motion to approve the proposed resolution and contract with RK&K to provide design, permitting and conservation easement recording assistance on the project was made by Commissioner McCormack. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

New Business

Public Works Director Mathew Robinson gave an overview of work being done by his department. They now had uniforms and have received positive comments from townspeople. He was still working on getting boots lined up and that would happen soon. The tractor has a new tire and is back in commission. The dirt and gravel roads in town had been graded by Boyd Equipment what a big difference this is made. He was working with his team to move forward with their training certification process in collections and sampling and these discussions were very positive. He also reported that he would be meeting with our Water ORC Lee Sasser on site at the water treatment plant very soon.

At his time Commissioner Jordan spoke about the water and sewer rates and stated that a decision had been made last June to change the base rate from 0 to $1000 gallons. The Clerk contested that and stated the discussion did take place in June but no vote or action was taken. The Town had approved the budget at that meeting and was made aware of the cost of contracted ORC's for both water and sewer and did not approve a lowering of rates from the January 2025 decision.

Commissioner Jordan stated that the Clerk should be able to provide the current status of the Town's utility budget without reference. The Clerk responded that, had he contacted her prior to the meeting, she would have been prepared with the necessary information. Commissioner Jordan then moved to reduce the reconnection fee from $50.00 to $25.00, and Commissioner Bahhur seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3 to 0 vote.

The Mayor Pro Tem declined the request for a closed session regarding the review of a document the Clerk/Finance Officer provided to the Board. The material was titled "NC Local Government Finance Officers; Who Can Serve and What is Their Role?" She was then was pressed as to when she would be posting the notice for opening of her position. She agreed as soon as possible.

Adjournment/Recess

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

______________________________ ______________________________

Jeff Peed, Mayor Pro tempore

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk