

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, March 3, 2025, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, March 3, 2025, at the Town Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present: [X] Clif Williams, Mayor

Commissioners Present:
[X] Omar Bahhur
[X] Coley Jordan
[X] Steve McCormack
[X] Jeff Peed

Attendance: [X] Judi Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
[X] Ashley Barnes – Public Works Director
[X] Rhonda Stallings – Administrative Assistant/Utility Billing
[X] Various members of the public were in attendance

Mayor Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Peed led in prayer.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Public Comment

Aurora Leadership Council Chairman Kurt Ryan gave an update on current projects being handled by the council which includes the “Historic District Plan” a work in progress to revitalize and designate the downtown business area and its future historic district designation. This project includes the restoration of the Aurora History Museum. The ALC also helps promote the annual Fish and Farm Festival. The Councils’ newest project will be Aurora’s celebration of America’s 250th Birthday on Saturday, July 25, 2026 marking the “Semiquincentennial.”

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the January 6, 2025, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner McCormack and were approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business

Under Old Business the Clerk informed the Board that Mid-East Commission Planner Jamie Heath needs to meet with them for further discussion and decision making on what infrastructure projects to apply for under the 2025 Drinking Water Infrastructure grant funding cycle: Sewer Force Main; Well rehabilitation on both wells so they can interact alternately with the upgraded water treatment; or the 3rd Street water distribution replacement. The Board was agreeable to calling a special meeting for that purpose once Ms. Heath gives them some prospective dates to meet. The Clerk will follow up with Jamie Heath.

Next Under Old Business, Public Works Director Ashley Barnes gave his report on several issues being addresses by his department regarding town owned buildings. Public Works has started the demolition of the storage building in the P.W. yard for the purpose of replacing that structure with the conex container being donated by the ALC for storing Christmas decorations. His department has been digging trenches to help with storm water runoff at several locations including the library.

Regarding the Water treatment Plant, Buck Electric came and replaced the contactor in the main control panel for well number one and re-tested the emergency generator to see if it could run the plants total operation. After further testing, it was found that the generator was under powered and cannot run the water treatment plant under normal operations. Mr. Barnes is trying to access the correct size of generator needed for the plant. Commissioner Jordan asked if a second generator could be added in the interim if needed. Mr. Barns would check with Mr. Buck, but he did not believe it would be safe.

He reported that emergency generators at lift stations located at NC HWY 33 and at 7th Street ran fine under load during the ice storm. The generator at the 3rd Street lift station came on line and ran fine but did not produce enough power to run the pump and we found that the Phase Monitor was not set up properly. Once corrected it ran fine. The generator at the wastewater treatment lagoon kept setting codes at first, but ran everything as needed once it was set up properly by the electrician.

Regarding roads, the P.W. staff has been picking up storm debris on roads since the ice storm. A few of the gravel roads have been scraped and pot holes filled. Mr. Boyd has submitted another quote for pot-poles and the second company did not work out as they had bad reviews.

New Business

Under New Business the Clerk reported that Beaufort County Tax Collector will be reaching out to the Town to schedule a Public Forum for the citizens to ask questions regarding the new 2025 property tax reassessment.

Mayor and Board Comments

The Board thanked Public Works Director Ashley Barnes for his departments work after the snow and then the ice storm.

Adjournment/Recess

The Mayor asked for a motion to recess this evenings meeting until Wednesday, March 5th at 1:00 pm at the Town Hall in order to conduct a human resource Grievance Hearing along with the Town Attorney. The motion to recess the meeting was made by Commissioner Jordan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk