

TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, July 7, 2025, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, July 7, 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] Rhonda Stallings – Admin. 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

Debra Guthrie addressed the Board regarding a Veterans Challenge she had worked on some years ago and was interested in helping the Town in a similar fashion if anyone could connect her to a needed cause. The Mayor thanked her.

Denise Bonner with the Aurora Community Watch announced the Aurora National Night Out would take place Saturday, August 23 at the Aurora Community Center. She requested the Town Board please consider their annual request to support their efforts. The Clerk advised the same amount of \$500 was in the budget again this year for the Aurora National Night. The Board thanked Denise and the Aurora Community Watch members for their efforts.

Nancy Hubbard shared the “Formal Complaint Regarding the Closure of S.W. Snowden School” letter as issued by the Concerned Citizens of Aurora and Richland Township to several state and local dignitaries. The letter had been sent to: Beaufort County Board of Education; Superintendent of Beaufort County Schools; NC Department of Public Instruction; US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights; Representative Keith

Kidwell and US Congressman Greg Murphy. The letter outlined the communities' outrage over the lack of documented evidence of due diligence, impact assessments of the area and to the children themselves. Mrs. Hubbard said, "the school is closed but our voices will be heard." Many in attendance thanked her for sharing the document.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the May 5, 2025, meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Presentation to Council

Reid Parker, CPA/Manager with Carr, Riggs & Ingram presented the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit. There was a minor finding in the audit regarding the DEQ Loan for the Water treatment plant upgrade not being properly reported in the budgetary process, other than that the Town was in good financial status for the audited time period. The Finance Officer explained that the continued lack of staffing in Public Works was causing her focus to be drawn away from what she was hired to do, keeping the books in order. A motion to receive the audit as presented was made by Commissioner Jordan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business

Under Old Business Nancy Hubbard with the Aurora Richland Township Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Board again regarding an Occupancy Tax for tourists and travelers who travel here to enjoy our area. This idea was well received at the June meeting. She reported that she had spoken with representatives in NC Senator Bob Brinson's office who gave her lots of information on how to make this happen at the county level. Beaufort county is one of only nine counties in North Carolina that have not adopted an Occupancy Tax. The other Towns in the county that she has been able to speak with are on board. She asked for a vote of support from the Town Council. A motion to support the efforts in the county adopting an Occupancy Tax was made by Commissioner Jordan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with 4 to 0 vote. The Clerk stated that the council may need to adopt a Resolution to this effect in the future. Mrs. Hubbard will keep the Board informed on the progress of the Occupancy Tax progress.

Next Old Business, the Clerk reported that Jamie Heath, Planner with the Mid-East Commission had coordinated a second bid process for the Resilient Coastal Communities Phase 4 Restoration of the two wet cells, removal of sludge and berm improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. The bid opening will be conducted at the August 4th meeting.

New Business

Under New Business, The Clerk requested the Board enter into closed session in order to discuss the hiring process for the new Public Works Director. Commissioner Peed made the motion to enter into Closed Session under the two following statutes: Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Upon returning to open session, a motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner McCormack to reimburse the citizen at 275 N 5th Street for her plumbing costs associated with the Town's sewer line problem. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Adjournment/Recess

When the meeting returned to regular session, a motion was made by Commissioner Bahhur, seconded by Commissioner Peed to recess the meeting until July 10th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion was and approved with a 4 to 0 vote.

Clif Williams, Mayor

Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk