TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Monday, August 4, 2025, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, August 4, 2025, at the Community Center. 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.

Proclamation and Key to the City
Mayor Williams presented a Proclamation and Key to the City to Mr. Bradley Cannon, Jr., a local resident who has greatly impacted the lives elders and of children in our community and specially at the S. W Snowden School. Mr. Cannon received a standing ovation from all in attendance.

Public Comment

Laura Jordan came before the Board for a second time and requested that the Town look in to placing a speed bump on North 7th Street. The residents of that street are tired of the speeding vehicles, and more children have moved there as well. The issue was reported and last month and nothing has been done. The Clerk reported that there was no Public Works Director or anyone from the department at this evening's meeting, but the Public Works employees needed some further direction in the matter. Mrs. Jordan also reported that there was an entire section of grass between the sidewalk and the road at the marina that had not been weed wacked all season. The mayor thanked her for her input.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of June 2, 2025, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Bahhur and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Presentation to Council

Robert Sands, PhD, of the Community Wellness Gardens program through his organization the Pamlico Rose Institute gave the Board an update on the community gardens. The funding for the programs is being cut by half. The institute will be making some changes, but the community garden will continue to grow with the support of townspeople. His group will continue to expand on building patronage by incorporating arts and crafts and other civic gatherings already happening in town. The Board would like Dr. Sands to return and present his presentation on the future of the community garden project.

Old Business

Under Old Business, the Town's mentor in the Accounting Instruction and Mentorship, AIM Program, Sharon Edmundson, Director of Municipal Finance Programs NC League of Municipalities awarded the Town of Aurora and the Town Finance Officer Judi Lannon with a plaque and certificate commemorating the completion of the program. The mayor thanked Judi for her dedication to the Town.

Next Old Business, Jamie Heath, Planner II, Mid-East Commission followed a list of updates and action items on resiliency projects for the Town's infrastructure. First was an update on the NC Land and Water Fund (Baileys Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvement. Nutrien as well as the adjacent landowners have signed the intent to grant conservation easement for the project and the RFQ properly advertised, and statement of qualifications are due by August 25.

Continuing under old business, the Board considered the Mid-East Commission grant administration contract for the RCCP Phase 4 grant amendment, date only. The new date of May 31, 2026, now coincides with the grant agency extension date. Commissioner Jeff Peed made the motion to amend the date with the Mid-East Commission for grant administration contract to May 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

The Board next considered the sealed bid for the construction of the upgrades to the wastewater treatment covered under the RCCP Phase 4 project. The bid contained the amended bid-sheet as necessary for the proposed contract as well as the required bid bond. After a short discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Jeff Peed to accept the proposed bid from General Maintenance Inc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

The last action item under Old Business was the consideration of the grant writing contract with Mid-East Commission for Ms. Heath's services on the applications for the two NC Division of Water Infrastructure applications; Sewer Force Main Replacement and the Rehabilitation of 2 Supply Wells that were submitted in July. This agreement includes the grant writing applications for the CDBG-I, for sewer line (and possibly water) replacement in low to moderate income neighborhoods which will be submitted on September 30. A motion was made by Commissioner Peed to accept and enter into the grant writing agreement with the Mid-East Commission on the grant applications as described. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

New Business

Under New Business, the Clerk requested the Board enter in to closed session to further discuss the new Public Works Director position and also discuss other human resource issues. Commissioner Peed made the motion to enter into Closed Session under the two following statues: 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.

Adjournment/Recess
Upon returning to open session, a motion was made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner McCormack to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

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Jeff Peed, Mayor Pro tempore   Judith S. Lannon, Town Clerk