TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
Tuesday, September 2, 2025, Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 2, 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] 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 Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Peed led in prayer.

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

Public Comment

Sharon Holland with the Partnership for Aurora-Richland Township Progress (PARTP) presented the "Small Town, Big Celebration: Aurora's Salute To 250 Years" celebration slated to take place July 26, 2026 in downtown Aurora and surrounding venues. The celebration will feature a mix of historical exhibits, live entertainment, including a parade, local venders and a fireworks display. Mrs. Holland received positive feedback from all in attendance on what seems to be a well-organized event to celebrate our countries "Semi quincentennial" here in Aurora.

Consideration of Minutes

The proposed minutes of July 7, 2025, regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Old Business

Under Old Business Nancy Cameron Hubbard with the Aurora Leadership Council presented to the Board a request to have Christmas light receptacles added to the light poles from 3rd Street to the marina. Nancy had previously brought this issue to the Boards attention and followed up by coordinating the process with Duke Energy. The light poles had been replaced after Hurricane Irene but were not wired with Christmas lighting receptacles. The cost of replacing the receptacles will be covered by the Aurora Richland Chamber of Commerce and the Partnership for Aurora-Richland Township Progress (PARTP). Once the lights are installed the kilowatt usage will be billed to the Town under their existing Duke Energy street lighting account. A motion to approve the funding arrangement and ongoing cost to the Town was made by Commissioner Peed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Next under Old Business, Jamie Heath, Planner II, Mid-East Commission followed a list of updates and action items for the Town of Aurora. The first item is the Beaufort County Utility Merger and Reorganization Feasibility study. Since May 2025 utility administrators and operators of systems within Beaufort County have been meeting to discuss the future possibilities of merging these utilities and exploring options to expand collaborative efforts, including the possibility of a water and sewer authority. These efforts could possibly better ensure the efficiency, reliability, and level of service of public water sewer utilities throughout the county.

Beaufort County and its participating municipal utilities are applying for a grant from the NC Division of Water Infrastructure for a Merger and Regionalization Feasibility Study or MRF. The Clerk presented to the Board a letter of acknowledgement and participation in the study as required in the grant application. A motion to execute the acknowledgment letter and participate in the MRF study was made by Commissioner Peed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormack and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Continuing under Old Business, the Mayor opened the Public Hearing to receive Public Comment on the Town's filing of a 2025-2026 NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Community Development Block-Infrastructure Grant (CDBG-I). The purpose of the grant is to replace water and sewer lines and related fixtures in areas of the Town where at least 51% of the beneficiaries are low to moderate income as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The proposed project will provide benefits to residents in "Area 1" (and "Area 2" if budget allows), 87% (in "Area 1") of whom are low and moderate income individuals based on income surveys performed by the Mid-East Commission Council of Governments and Town of Aurora staff members. "Area 1" includes the residential neighborhoods bounded by N 5th Street to the west, Chapin Street to the south, Baileys Creek to the north and the Pamlico River to the east. No individuals will be displaced, nor will any require temporary relocation assistance as a result of the proposed project. With no comment from the public, a motion was made by Commissioner McCormack to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Next Under Old Business, Jamie Heath covered the two NC Drinking Water Infrastructure grant applications that were both approved for funding on August 21st, both part loan and part grant. The first was a grant application to rehab both Town water supply wells and equipped them with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). The second application was for the replacement of the sewer force main from the 3rd Street lift station all the way to the wastewater treatment plant. The Town was very fortunate to have both projects approved for funding but would not be able to take on both loans, as the Town is still paying for the 2018 upgrade to the water treatment plant. The force main replacement is a much more urgent issue, and the Board was in agreement to complete that project first. Commissioner Peed made the motion to decline the funding for the rehabilitation of the supply wells and except the offer to fund the sewer force main replacement. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, and it passed with a 4 to 0 vote. The project for the supply wells will be resubmitted for grant funding in the future.

Last under Old Business the Clerk presented a Resolution and Settlement Statement from Baron & Budd P.C. regarding a settlement from 3M Company for PFAS/AFFF. The Clerk requested authorization to execute the settlement document through Baron & Budd, P.C.. The motion was made by Commissioner Bahhur to accept the settlement amount of $30,720.53 and execute the agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

New Business

Under New Business, the Clerk presented to the Board the Resolution Adopting the Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan vests the Town with the responsibility and authority to cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies to study, survey, map and identify floodplain areas and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining floodplain areas in order to prevent exacerbation of existing hazard impacts. The Resolution passed on a motion made by Commissioner Jeff Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan with a vote of 4 to 0.

Next under New business, the Clerk presented council with the proposed 2025 Planning Board nominees. The three-member board consisted of two residents: Sherry Hollister and Curt Hendrex and one Extraterritorial Jurisdiction resident Steve Mayo. The new proposed Planning Board members were appointed on a motion made by Commissioner Bahhur and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

Last under New Business, new Public Works Director Matthew Robinson gave a department report to the Board. Mr. Robinson stated that his current focus was on safety and OSHA compliance. Items he was focusing on:

- Chlorine detectors for both water and wastewater plants
- Access to a trench box. Speaking with CMF to rent theirs if needed until the Town can budget for their own.
- Safety concerns for NC 33 when we are required to work on the lift station, we need traffic diversion and not just traffic cones.
- The 7th Street lift station needs a fence.
- A saw that is able to cut pipe
- Boots for his crew at least once a year
- Tools, we are in dire need of hand tools. We are slowly replenishing what has been borrowed or stolen and the Public Works gate is being locked when the site is unattended.

The Board thanked Matthew for his diligence since joining the Town as the Director of Public Works. He was advised to call upon any of the Commissioners at any time as needed.

The Clerk requested the Mayor ask for a closed session in order to discuss human resource issues. As requested a motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to enter into 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 and also 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.

Adjournment/Recess

After the meeting returned to regular session, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Peed and seconded by Commissioner Jordan and approved on a 4 to 0 vote to adjourn the meeting.

______________________________ ______________________________

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