



TOWN OF ELM CITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Sept. 9, 2025 at 6:30pm

Town Hall Building
117 S. Railroad Street
Elm City, NC 27822

In attendance:

Tawanda Moore, **Mayor**;
Tammie Atkinson, **Mayor Pro-Tem**;
Tim Bridgers, **Commissioner**; Gil Wheeler, **Commissioner**; Vonica Carr, **Commissioner**;
Bridget Wimberley, **Commissioner/Finance Officer**

Shawn Lucas, **Zoning Officer**; Slade Rand, **Town Attorney**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mayor Tawanda Moore with a prayer of invocation given by Minister John Boyd of Bible Light Outreach Ministry / Elm City.

Pledge of Allegiance: All in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved with the added Public Hearing for Ben Jones of CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization program with ***a motion made** by Commissioner Gil Wheeler and properly Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley (**motion passed**)

Approval of Minutes: August 12, 2025 minutes and August 21, 2025 minutes were approved with ***a motion made by** Commissioner Tim Bridgers and Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley. (**motion passed**)

Presentation/Discussions:

Mr. Ben Jones, who is currently working with the town in its Neighborhood Revitalization project, gave updates on his progress in the CDBG Revitalization project, naming 4 homes that have been selected and 3 alternatives. Mr. Ben then asked the Board to open up the floor for a Public Hearing #2. ***A motion was made** by Commissioner Gil Wheeler and properly Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley at 6:36pm. (**motion passed**)

Public Hearing:

Citizens inquired of Mr. Ben Jones the following: 1). Is there any cost to the town for this project. 2). What is the time frame to get documents signed by the mayor. 3). Is there a demolition process and bids that will be taken. 4). Why wasn't an abandoned home included in the homes elected, and 5). What was the selection process.

***A motion was made** to close the Public Hearing at 6:46pm with a motion made by Commissioner Vonica Carr and properly Seconded by Commissioner Gill Wheeler. (*motion passed*)

Mr. Ben Jones then asked the Board to pass/adopt the following resolutions:

1. Adopt the Resolution For The Town of Elm City to Apply for

***A motion was made** by Commissioner Gil Wheeler and properly Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley (*motion passed*)

2. Adopt the Citizen Participation Plan.

***A motion was made** by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley and properly Seconded by Commissioner Tim Bridgers (*motion passed*)

3. Adopt the Housing Selection Committee Bylaws.

***A motion was made** by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley and properly Seconded by Commissioner Tim Bridgers (*motion passed*)

Mayor Moore asked the Board to make a motion to allow other relevant CDBG forms present and forthcoming to be signed by the mayor allowing Ben Jones to meet timely deadlines, as well as the detailed list of houses selected. ***A motion was made** by Commissioner Tim Bridgers and properly Seconded by Commissioner Vonica Carr (*motion passed*)

Minister John Boyd

Mr. John Boyd asked the Board if there were any town owned properties where he could hold a revival in 2026 (July-October) from roughly 7-9pm nightly. Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Shawn Lucas shared that most people hold them in the ETJ, and that the only town property that would probably be feasible would be the lot on Parker Street (beside former restaurant "Oh My Lawd") but that parking would be somewhat of an issue unless participants parked downtown on Main Street.

Water/Sewer Adjustments

Mayor Moore asked the Board to consider some of the citizens' concerns with water and sewer adjustments. Mayor Moore shared that citizens generally ask for adjustments if they change their toilets, if they change the flap in their toilet, if they fix water leaks under their house or for pool adjustments. Board asked that further research be done to see what other municipalities use as their policy for water and sewer adjustments, but all Board members agreed that adjustments should only be made on the sewer side.

Public Comments:

- Elm City resident Carla Stutts stated her concerns about a sitting commissioner (Tim Bridgers) being paid to turn off water in town. Mayor Moore stated that all public works staff members live further away and that Commissioner Bridgers had to get out of his bed at midnight to turn handle a service call and would have cost more money to get staff to answer an emergency call and to get to the Town of Elm City. Mayor Moore shared that it was Commissioner Gil Wheeler who had first received the text regarding the issue but did not respond until the next day. Miss Stutts also questioned whether Mayor Pro-tem had removed fees from a family member's account totaling \$2500 in Sept/October of 2024. Pro-tem Atkinson responded saying that she is not authorized to remove any fees from anyone's account.
- Linda O'Boyle questioned who is responsible for checking on the faulty/non-working pumps in town that had previously been mentioned by Mike Tolson (town engineer). Mrs. O'Boyle also questioned the Board about when the audits would be caught up. Mayor Moore asked the town's water/sewer operator Mr. James Pittman if the pumps in question were working when he came onboard to work for the town of Elm City and Mr. James Pittman responded that the pumps were not working and were faulty when he arrived.
- Elm City resident Eunice Lindsey brought before the Board the issue concerning the 100-200 block of Dixon/Branch Street where there is a big bush with flowers that have grown largely out of it that is causing site visibility issues in the town's right of way.

Mayor & Commissioner's Reports:

Mayor Moore read her report sharing the following issues:

- **Cedar Grove Cemetery**- Braswell Family would like the Board to consider removing a tree that has a 20% lean and could possibly destroy his plot investments. Mayor Moore shared that the Mr. Braswell is willing to help incur the cost of tree removal only if the town's budget will not fully cover the cost of removal.
- **Notices of Violation**- Mayor Moore shared that the town received recent notices of violation and civil penalties dated Aug. 25 and August 28, 2025. Mayor Moore that the total cost of penalties assessed is \$11, 634 of which ES &S are currently working with the state to have penalties dismissed or reduced.
- **NC Division of Water Quality**- Mayor Moore shared that members of the NC Division of Water Quality inspectors, herself and the ES &S (water and sewer operators) recently met on August 27, 2025 to discuss and troubleshoot problematic areas that would assist the wastewater operators in continuing to

improve the management of the wastewater system. The inspectors also made a site visit to the primary lagoon and final spray irrigation field.

- **NARCAN-** Mayor Moore shared that the Wilson County Substance Abuse Coalition would like to install a NARCAN dispenser outside of the Elm City Public Library. The Board would like to also see if other dispensers could be placed outside of the Train Depot, Town Hall, and the town's Public Works building. ***A motion was** made by Commissioner Tim Bridgers and properly Seconded by Commissioner Gil Wheeler. **(motion passed)**

Commissioner Bridget Wimberley:

Commissioner Wimberley asked the question if there was anything that could have been done from 2017 to present day, to improve upon the project that was stalled by engineer David Honeycutt of McGill and Associates.

Commissioner Tim Bridgers:

Commissioner Bridgers shared a concern with his recent visit out to the Cedar Ridge Pump Station where the station had recently undergone an upgrade and placed back online. Commissioner Bridges' concern was why was an electrical panel box installed at the pump station without an awning or covering such as the old one that was removed and replaced. Operator James Pittman shared that the control panel will not last long if there is not a stainless-steel box placed over the new control panel box because it is left open to the elements. (Engineer Mike Tolson and/or his company's affiliates were the installers of the new control panel box).

Commissioner Bridgers also shared his concern with standing water in the lining of one of the wells, questioning why is water present in the bottom of a well that was supposed to have been lined and sealed.

Commissioner Bridgers also shared that upon his field visit to the spray fields that he noticed that flow meters were not working, and they should be to help the operators (ES&S) to be able to accurately do their jobs. Mayor Moore asked the operator, Mr. James Pittman, if the flow meters were outdated and not working when he started working for the town, Mr. Pittman shared that the flow meters were not working when he began work for the town and that it is tough because the operators are constantly being blamed for the outdated system.

Mayor Moore stated that it was good time to insert her most recent conversation with Mr. David Honeycutt of McGill and Associates. Mayor Moore shared that Mr. Honeycutt had one last round of payments that needed to be made to him and the Ralph Hodges Company for work contracted in 2017 for the Parker Street Lift Station. Mayor Moore shared with Board that the state had stopped McGill and Associates from completing the work that the company was 95% completed with pertaining to the irrigation spray fields.

Commissioner Gil Wheeler noted that the company was indeed well aware of why the work abruptly ceased, adding that the \$3-million-dollar project and its halt was due to regionalization talks at the time and that the state was not going to fund it at the time.

Mayor Moore asked Commissioner Wheeler if he thought that the work needed to continue with the town's spray fields to eliminate overs spraying in the present fields. Commissioner Wheeler stated that he did think that the work needed to continue regarding the spray fields that are not currently being used.

Mayor Moore asked operator James Pittman if he felt that the spray fields in question needed to be utilized and he felt that the extra spray field does need to be utilized. Mr. Pittman shared that the report done by McGill and Associates in 2017 added that there were three things outlined in the report at the time that could help the town, and those things that Pittman shared from the report were: 1). Send the town's wastewater to Rocky Mount or Wilson, 2). Upgrade the town's system, or 3). To simply do nothing. Mr. Pittman added the town chose option #3 and did nothing and that is why the system is still struggling eight years later than the 2017 report given by engineering company McGill and Associates.

NC Division of Water Resources- Collection System Operator School

Mayor Moore shared that the town's Train Depot will be hosting a three-day class in Elm City on Sept. 24, 2025, Oct. 1, 2025., and October 8, 2025. Mayor Moore shares that state officials will be present and that all Board members are openly invited to attend.

Closed Session (NC. G.S 143.318-11a)

***A motion was made** at 7:46pm by Commissioner Vonica Carr and properly Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley to enter closed session pursuant to NC G.S 143-318.11a for the purpose of discussing personnel related issues. **(motion passed)**

***A motion was made** at 7:53pm to reconvene regular session by Commissioner Vonica Carr and properly Seconded by Commissioner Tim Bridgers. **(motion passed)**

Finance Team; Contract of Mr. Joseph Maganga

In regular session, the Board moved to accept the contract with Mr. Joseph Maganga, welcoming him to our finance team with the understanding that he will begin work with the town of Elm City as soon as he has completed his important travels. ***A motion was made** by Commissioner Vonica Carr and properly Seconded by Commissioner Bridget Wimberley **(motion passed)**

Adjourned:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm with ***a motion made** by Commissioner Tim Bridgers and properly Seconded by Commissioner Vonica Carr. **(motion passed)**

*Meetings were recorded by Mayor Tawanda Moore in the absence of a permanent Town Clerk