

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT TOWN COUNCIL

December 9, 2025

Whitsett Town Hall Building

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Whitsett Town Hall. The following members of the Town Council were present: Mayor Chip Bell, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice and Council Members Craig York, Cindy Wheeler, and Lee Greeson. Also present were Town Administrator Karen Horne and Town Clerk Barbara York along with four citizens.

Mayor Chip Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He asked Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice to give the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting and the Public Hearing

- Mayor Chip Bell asked if he had a motion to accept the minutes from the November 11, 2025, Regular Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made the motion to accept the November minutes. Council Member Craig York seconded the motion. The adoption of the November 11, 2025, Town Council Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

2. Any Other Old Business

- Mayor Bell asked if there was any further Old Business and there was none.

MAYOR RECESSES COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Bell recessed the regular meeting of the Town Council to proceed with the swearing in of two re-elected Council Members and election of Mayor.

SWEARING IN and ELECTION OF MAYOR

1. Swearing In Ceremony

Mayor Bell administered the oath of office to Cindy Wheeler and Lee Greeson who will serve four-year terms. Congratulations were extended by Mayor Bell.

2. Election of Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Rice presided over the election and swearing in of the Mayor. Mr. Rice opened the floor for nominations for the office of Mayor.

Council Member Lee Greeson made the motion to nominate Chip Bell to continue his role as Mayor of the Town of Whitsett. This motion was seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. Mayor Pro Tem Rice asked for further discussion or debate, and seeing none, the election of Mayor was approved by a unanimous vote by the Council. Mayor Bell took the Mayor's Oath of Office the was congratulated by The Mayor Pro Tem and others from the Council. Mayor Bell will serve in this mayoral capacity for another two years until next municipal election is held in 2027.

NEW MAYOR PRESIDES

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board

- Planning Board Chairperson Karen Horne stated that the Planning Board did not meet this month, but she did receive a couple of notices recently. One is regarding the rezoning of the Guilford County property just outside of our town limits where the old airport was (zoned commercial). There has already been one meeting regarding this rezoning and there will be another meeting tomorrow night (December 10th) to finalize the zoning. They are looking to rezone from Special Use to Commercial-Light Industrial.
- Chairperson Horne let the Council know that the fire department has submitted a site plan to construct a 24' x 36' storage building at the back of their property. Guilford County send that request back to us today and let us know that because this is commercial property, the Planning Board must approve the site map first and once that has been done, Council needs to approve it. This will be on the agenda for both committees' meetings in January.
- There is a company out of Raleigh that is looking to rezone the property at the crossroads of Highways 61 and 70 across from the gas station to Highway Business. That should be coming in for the Planning Board to discuss soon.

Enforcement Officer

- No business to discuss

Town Administrator

Town Update

- Town Administrator Karen Horne mentioned to the Council that the Town Hall's new sign has been installed. It looks nice and will last us a long time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member Craig York made the motion to reinstate Jerry Rice as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Cindy Wheeler seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Appointment of Finance Officer

Council Member Cindy Wheeler made the motion to reappoint Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice as Finance Officer. Council Member Lee Greeson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

3. Appointment of Assistant Finance Officer

Council Member Cindy Wheeler made the motion to reappoint Town Clerk Barbara York as Assistant Finance Officer. Mayor Chip Bell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

4. Adoption of Council and Planning Board Meeting Dates for 2026

Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made a motion to accept the meeting schedules for both the Planning Board and the Town Council for the year 2026. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Greeson and was then approved unanimously.

5. Financials

Budget Committee Chairperson Barbara York suggested a meeting date be set for the Budget Committee to discuss any budget amendments that may be needed. Jerry Rice felt that this committee can wait until March to meet.

6. Any Items from Council Members

Mayor Bell asked if there were any further items from the Council Members. Council Member Lee Greeson informed the Council that he received a call from the Whitsett Fire Department on Saturday, December 6th, saying they had no water. (Note: the fire department shares the well with the Town Hall). Mr. Greeson called Randy Ingle’s Plumbing to come and see what the problem was, and he determined that our pump (which we purchased in February of this year) had stopped working. After evaluating this lack of water and that no parts could be purchased until Monday, Mr. Greeson and Mr. Ingle determined that something more extensive needed to be done. Mr. Greeson arranged for a well assessment to be done during the next week by Built-Rite Well Drilling Company, Inc. Built-Rite will run a camera down into the well to see exactly what the problem is and suggest what is needed to fix this situation. Mayor Bell asked Gerald Clapp who was at the meeting representing the Fire Department, if the Fire Department would be willing to pay half of the expenses of taking care of this problem. Mr. Clapp said, “Yes, We don’t really have a choice.”

There was much discussion between the Council Members and Gerald Clapp, who used to drill wells and sits on the Board for the Fire Department, about this issue.

7. Announcements

Mayor Bell asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor Bell asked if there were any speakers from the floor. Billy Queen, a candidate for Guilford County Sheriff in the November 2026 election, introduced himself and explained his background and what he would do should he be elected. He discussed and answered questions how he could help small towns and communities with concerns about crime, drugs and prevention of those issues.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Bell asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Rice made that motion, and it was seconded by Council Member Cindy Wheeler. The motion carried; and the December 9, 2025, Town Council meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Whitsett Town Council is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Whitsett Town Hall.

Chip Bell, Mayor

Jerry Rice, Mayor Pro Tem

APPROVED: