Mayor
Amelia Stinson-Wesley

Mayor Pro Tem
Nick Gallo

Town Manager
Ryan Spitzer

Pineville
NORTH CAROLINA

Town Council
Josh Simelton
Ed Samaha
Danielle Alford

Town Clerk
Lisa Snyder

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stinson-Wesley called the meeting to order @ 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone to our alternative location at The Hut.

Mayor: Amelia Stinson-Wesley
Mayor Pro Tem: Nick Gallo
Council Members: Josh Simelton, Danielle Alford, Ed Samaha
Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer
Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director: Chris Tucker
Town Clerk: Lisa Snyder
Town Attorney: Janelle Lyons

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Council Member Ed Samaha began the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Stinson-Wesley asked for a moment of silence for our First Responders, Police, our Fire Department and anyone we have lost since our last meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Simelton made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, followed by a second made by Council Member Alford. All ayes. (***Approved 4-0***)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the April 14, 2026, Town Council, the April 23, 2026 Budget Meeting, and the April 27, 2026 Work Session were submitted for approval.

Council Member Alford moved to approve all sets of minutes as presented with a second made by Council Member Samaha. All Ayes. ***(Approved 4-0)***

BOARD REPORTS

Mayor Stinson-Wesley noted that the board updates scheduled for this month have been postponed to subsequent months so that we can be in an environment that would be more conducive to the presentation of those.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the following Proclamations for National Police Week, National Public Works Week, Pineville's World Fest, and a Resolution for Surplus of Electric Department items.

Council Member Simelton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, with a second provided by Council Member Alford. All ayes. ***(Approved 4-0)***

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up to speak for Public Comment.

PUBLIC HEARING

It was noted that no one signed up to speak at the Public Hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Gallo made a motion to open the Public Hearing followed by a second made by Council Member Alford. All ayes.

Town Manager Spitzer presented the Town Manager's Recommended FY202-2027 Budget for Pineville. He noted that this is a balanced financial plan focused on maintaining service levels, investing in infrastructure, and advancing Town Council strategic priorities without increasing the property tax rate. The proposed General Fund budget totals $25.85 million, representing an 11.7% increase over the previous fiscal year, with most of this increase coming from the Penny Sales Tax increase. This budget maintains the current tax rate, and incorporates no additional fee increases outside of the utility adjustments. The Town continues to fully fund the Town's residential trash service, which went up 3% this year, and is a cost that the Town bears at a cost of over half a million dollars.

Personnel and employee retention remain a major focus of this budget. The recommendation includes a 3.5% COLA and an average 2.5% merit increase following the compensation study completed in FY25. Additional funding is included to address a 42% health insurance increase. The Town will transition to the North Carolina Health Insurance Pool (NCHIP) in order to stabilize rates in the upcoming years. Public Safety staffing enhancements, including funding to support a SAFER Grant initiative and adjustments to Fire Department weekend supplemental staffing, are also included.

To maintain a balanced budget, the Town utilized a combination of contingency reductions, general government savings, and delayed full-year funding for vacant positions that take several months to fill. Approximately $1.4 million is allocated toward General Fund capital projects. Planned investments include police vehicles, mobility projects, information technology upgrades, public works equipment, park improvements, outdoor fitness amenities, and enhancements at Jack Hughes Park, including fencing, netting, and scoreboard upgrades. Additional infrastructure funding will support crosswalk improvements, street resurfacing, and stormwater system upgrades through the P.A.V.E. Act and Powell Bill funding sources.

The Electric Fund budget totals approximately $15.25 million and reflects continued investment in utility reliability and future growth. Within the next year, the Town will have an increase in wholesale rates. In order to absorb this wholesale rate increase, a 4% retail electric rate increase is proposed. This budget also includes funding for vehicle replacements, system maintenance, underground infrastructure, asset replacement, and the continued development of Substation 4 and the new utility operations facility.

The next step is to adopt the budget at the next Town Council meeting on June 9th. It must be adopted by June 30th. Council Member Samaha complimented Ryan and his staff as we've been working on this for the past four months. Mayor Stinson-Wesley asked one more time if anyone in the audience wanted to speak and there was no response. There were no additional questions from council members.

Council Member Simelton moved to leave the Public Hearing with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo providing a second. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Supplemental Power Sales Agreement (Kevin Josupait). Mr. Josupait gave a short presentation regarding the proposed Supplemental Power Sales Agreement, and the Proposed Project Power Sales Agreement. He noted that Council has seen the slides before, but the public has not. He highlighted that there are 99 municipal members across three states and serves nearly 1.6 million people in the State of North Carolina. Power agencies were formed in the 70's due to an energy crisis at that time, and municipalities wanted greater liability and control over costs. Legislation was passed to create the power agencies. The Catawba Nuclear Plant has multiple owners. It's a very well-run plant. He also noted that 94% of the needs are met from emissions-free generator sources.

He continued by comparing rates and highlighted that North Carolina has the 16th lowest rate in the country. They were initially 50-year agreements with expirations coming in the near future. They want to sync up the end of the operating license. They currently have 18 out of the 19 members approved the agreements, and he is hopeful that he will get the final approval. Mr. Josupait is requesting approval of both the Supplemental Power Sales Agreement and the Project Power Sales Agreement.

Council Member Alford moved to approve the proposed Supplemental Power Sales Agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo provided a second. All ayes ***(Approved 4-0)***

Proposed Project Power Sales Agreement (Kevin Josupait).

*Council Member Simelton moved to approve the proposed Project Power Sales Agreement with Council Member Alford providing the second. All ayes. (****Approved 4-0****)*

JSI Agreement (Ryan Spitzer). Late last calendar year, Council had voted to the sale of PCS, the internet and telephone portion. We will have to do an additional valuation to determine the value of PCS, at a cost of approximately $10,000. Their success fee is 3% upon the sale. If they sell it for $3 million, the fees will cost about 5%, which is standard for a sale of this size. Council Member Samaha said that they have had many discussions over the last few years, and the market pressures from the bigger players that are there are hurting us, and we need the expertise. Mayor Pro Tem Gallo would like to give consideration to the employees and do something good for them. Town Manager Spitzer replied that what they have discussed giving them options such as severance and negotiating with the new owners.

*Council Member Samaha made a motion to approve the JSI Agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo providing a second. All ayes. (****Approved 4-0****)*

Resolution and MTC Agreement (Ryan Spitzer). Mr. Spitzer explained that MTC will be dissolved and survived by Metropolitan Public Transit Authority (MPTA). This has to be done by July 1st.

*Council Member Simelton moved to approve the Resolution and MTC Agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo providing a second. All ayes. (****Approved 4-0****)*

Budget Amendments (Chris Tucker). Mr. Tucker explained the Police Department needs a budget amendment to address two appropriations. One is for the insurance proceeds toward vehicle replacements; the second, is to close out the radio system project as there is an amount due at this final stage.

*Council Member Alford moved to approve Budget Amendment 2026-04 with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo providing the second. All ayes. (****Approved 4-0****)*

NCHIP Interlocal Agreement (Chris Tucker). Mr. Tucker advised that during the budget season, the Town received an unfavorable health benefit proposal from our broker. The Town approached and had good conversations to join the NC Health Insurance Pool run by Gallagher. It is made up of 40 like-minded counties and municipalities that have pooled together to spread our risks. The pool has 17,000 plus members across forty NC counties and municipalities. It is a Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, similar to what we have, and will have no major impact to the employees.

Council Member Simelton moved to approve the NCHIP Interlocal Agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo providing a second. All ayes. ***(Approved 4-0)***

Downtown Roof Lights (Ryan Spitzer). Town Manager Spitzer advised that the Town gave downtown businesses money to install lights on the roofs of the buildings several years ago. The business owners have not kept the lights working and in good shape. If Council chooses to keep the lights on, staff recommends installing meters and taking control of the lights and their maintenance, with an estimated cost of $5,200 for three meters and $1,000 per year. He is seeking Council's approval to spend the $5,200 to install the meters to continue to enhance the aesthetics of our downtown area.

Council Member Alford made a motion to approve the downtown roof lights with the Town being responsible for the meter and maintenance of the lighting and give the Town Manager to give authority to get access agreements, with a second made by Mayor Pro Tem Gallo. All ayes. ***(Approved 4-0)***

TOWN COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Stinson-Wesley acknowledged the different meeting space due to a traffic accident that happened two weeks ago, that a driver plunged into the Town Hall and Library after crossing the railroad tracks at a high speed. She thanked the residents for their grace in allowing us to relocate while the building is repaired. From our perspective, our police department, fire department and first responders are so amazing and we are very blessed, as a town, to be cared for with such care, expertise, and attentiveness. We are truly grateful that they were here and able to handle that situation. She added that the Town Manager and his staff have been extraordinary in their handling of this crisis.

She also said that she has written to the NCDOT to plead with them to address the safety concerns that we all share regarding the traffic and the speed along Highway 51 (aka Main Street). She has reached out to our U. S. Congressperson's office, regarding mail delivery service within our zip code due to lack of consistency of staffing, resulting in some confusion of mail delivery and inconsistency of services. She has opened an inquiry into that at the federal level on behalf of our residents.

She is grateful for our police department for their response to several issues in town as of late, and their willingness to come and be present with residents in their neighborhoods in real time. She recently returned from the NC League of Municipalities Annual Conference in Raleigh, and she was awarded a Certificate of Municipal Leadership for completing 12 hours of coursework in the municipal leadership program. She is grateful to serve this town.

Mayor Pro Tem Gallo appreciates his council members for covering for him, and seeing everyone here and smiling, particularly with everything that has transpired over the last few weeks. He appreciates the police and fire department for taking care of that problem.

Council Member Simelton also attended the conference in Raleigh and learned a lot. It was a chance for him to fully understand the responsibility that he has to serve the town. He looks forward to continuing to learn and be the best leaders they can for our community.

Council Member Alford agrees with the comments regarding Ryan, and the police and fire departments for their good response that day. The safety of the town is at the front of their minds. We will be opening the new Fire Department at the end of this month and hope that everyone and join the event and enjoy the beautiful building.

Council Member Samaha was here after the incident happened and saw how everyone worked together. It was also wonderful seeing the Church and College projects start to happen, as well as the parking lot at Johnston Drive. There's a lot of good things happening and it feels very good.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Spitzer reported that the pickleball at Jack Hughes Park is expected to be complete at the first part of June. Arts in the Park will be this weekend at the Belle Johnston Center. Music on Main is this Thursday at the regular time. We will put a vehicle near the event. The Fire Department Grand Opening is May 26th at 10:00 am. The public is welcome to come and explore the building at that time.

Stage II of the drought begins on May 15th and the fountain will be turned off, however the Splash pad will remain open as the water is recycled there. If we go into Stage III, we may have to cut that off.

The parking lot will be completed in six weeks, weather permitting.

We received the report from our insurance, which allows us to go out for estimates. He talked with Edifice on starting the process. The structure of the building is sound. The Fire Mashall put an Unsafe Building notice because of the front window and one of the beams that holds up the brick was pushed back. We are looking into building a temporary wall, during the reconstruction of that room, so we can open up the library sooner. All of the town staff has returned.

For Music on Main, we will place police cars at the intersection and ground barriers will be placed to create added safety in that area. In the General Assembly budget, we have requested $60,000 for improvements on the front lawn and are progressing on improvements there even without that money. We are looking at adding removable bollards along Main Street when we have events. Mayor Stinson-Wesley has also had conversations with our local representatives to obtain their support on this. Mr. Spitzer added that we have already purchased the materials and should be getting these in the next month or two. He also added that the purpose of Music on Main, in the Spring and the Fall, was created to have people come for the downtown social district.

Mayor Stinson-Wesley asked how long it will take to build the crosswalk. Public Works Director, Chip Hill, replied that it should be ready by the tree-lighting. The construction of the Town Hall should take no more than three months.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Simelton made a motion to adjourn followed by a second made by Mayor Pro Tem Gallo. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Amelia Stinson-Wesley
Mayor Amelia Stinson-Wesley

ATTEST:

Lisa O. Snyder
Town Clerk Lisa Snyder