**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 AUGUST 24, 2026

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stinson-Wesley called the meeting to order @ 6:30 pm.

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 Josh Simelton began the Pledge of Allegiance.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Stinson-Wesley asked for a moment of silence to remember our First Responders, our Police and Fire Departments, and loved ones who have lost.

## ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the July 14, 2026, Town Council, the July 27, 2026, Work Session were submitted for approval.

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

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Interim Police Chief Copley introduced our newest Police Officer, Kristgen Williamson and presented him with his badge. Mayor Stinson-Wesley gave him his oath and welcomed him and his family.

Mayor Stinson-Wesley recognized the Venezuela Aid Effort and presented proclamations to Alexandra Marchan, with the Latin Corner, and Pete VanSaun, with the QCD.

## BOARD REPORTS

**Legislative Updates (Rep. Laura Budd/Sen. DeAndrea Salvador).** Representative Laura Budd and Senator DeAndrea Salvador gave updates on legislative matters, including Senate Bill 227 and the I-77 update. They shared results from a traffic study done for Highway 51 by the NCDOT. The study showed that 40% of drivers were exceeding the speed limit along that highway; there were 204 crashes, in which 33 were speed related. The study was done at four checkpoints. Senator Salvador added that they are regularly checking in with NCDOT and pushing for change to improve the processes. Mayor Stinson-Wesley asked them about potential budget bills coming. Representative Budd replied that there may be another Budget Technical Correction bill coming. North Carolina is out of money due to filling funding gaps. Co-responder funding was discussed. Mayor Stinson-Wesley noted the money that was saved by the Town due to the addition of our co-responder this past year.

Council Member Samaha asked what's causing the delay with the I-77 corrections. Representative Budd replied that there are a number of things that can be done to reduce the congestion on I-77 South. Uptown to the State Line it is reconfiguring intersections leading up to the interstate for better traffic flow, including the implementation of roundabouts, and redesigning the ramps that enter and exit from 77. These things cost far less than expanding two lanes outward on either lane.

**Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation (Nick Walker/Peter Cook).** Mr. Walker, Park Director, began introducing himself and Peter Cook, Deputy Director, by sharing their Mission and Vision. They are 24,0000 acres in size. They have an operating budget of $94 million and he outlined their services. They have 472 full-time employees, 64 regular part-time employees and 500 limited part-time employees. He stated that he is very proud of the tenure in his department. Some highlights of his department includes having 430 miles of trails and greenways, 222 athletic fields, 133 playgrounds, over 100 picnic shelters and indoor pavilions. They have over 290 park properties which include 14 fishing piers, 5 boat launch areas, and 11 pools. Their parks see over 24 million visitors annually, or over 2 million visitors per month.

Mr. Walker discussed the Meck Playbook and advised that they recently began updating the plan. They have had an extensive community engagement process with 6 open houses and pop-up events, a statistically valid survey with more than 1,000 responses, a community survey with more than 2,000 responses, partner surveys and 2 focus groups.

## CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of Resolution 2026-14 for Surplus Items for Public Works and Police, and Resolution 2026-15 for the Use of Electronic Ads for Contracts.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

**Bolyn McClung, 115 Olive Street.** Mr. McClung stated that he is thankful for the quick process in getting a sidewalk along College Street and he shared photos with council members. He stated that Public Works kept him informed on the progress This is an example of how Pineville does a good job. He also stated that parking is dangerous on Olive Street. Years ago, he requested that the speed limit be lowered from 35 to 25. He feels that great service by the Town.

## PUBLIC HEARING

*There was no public hearing.*

## OLD BUSINESS

**1806 Lakeview Conditional Zoning Request (Travis Morgan).** Mr. Morgan began the hearing by outlining that the applicant wishes to withdraw his request at this time. Mr. Cook did send an email of his intent to Mr. Morgan, for the record.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Appointment of Tax Collector (Ryan Spitzer).** Mr. Spitzer advised that each year we must submit, for Council's approval, an appointment of Mecklenburg County as Tax Collector. They do a great job and they collect approximately 99% of the taxes for the Town on an annual basis.

*Council Member Simelton moved to approve the Appointment of Mecklenburg County as our Tax Collector, with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo providing the second. All ayes. (**Approved 4-0**)*

**Changes to the Employee Handbook (Teesha Boozer).** Mrs. Boozer provided two updates to the current Handbook policy, and procedures for Merit Pay and Maternity Leave. The Merit Pay Policy is not changing. We are simply adding clarification that employees on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) or under an active IA investigation will be reviewed by Town leadership before receiving a merit increase. The additions are as follows: Employees who are on an active PIP or who are subject to unresolved disciplinary proceedings, including Internal Affairs (IA) investigations, are not eligible to receive a merit increase while the matter is pending. Employees must successfully complete the applicable process and then demonstrate an additional ninety consecutive calendar days of sustained satisfactory performance before becoming eligible for consideration. If an investigation or disciplinary proceeding concludes with no finding of misconduct or corrective action, the employee may be considered for a merit increase without the additional ninety-day waiting period. Successful completion or resolution of a PIP, disciplinary proceeding, IA investigation, or corrective action does not guarantee a merit increase or any other pay adjustment.

With regard to Paid Parental Leave, the Town is expanding our Maternity Leave Policy to include all employees. The new policy will be called Paid Parental Leave. PPL will be used to support employees who welcome a child into their family through birth, adoption, or foster care placement while maintaining compliance with FMLA and other applicable laws. The duration being proposed is an additional six weeks for the mother and six weeks for the other parent..

*Council Member Simelton moved to approve the update to the Employee Handbook, with Council Member Alford providing a second. All ayes. (**Approved 4-0**)*

**Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Project Discussion (Ryan Spitzer).** Mr. Spitzer advised Council that the Town has received a $500,000 Grant but comes with an extended time to complete the construction. We have three scenarios to move forward with the project. They are (1) Not accept the money and construct it using town funds; (2) let NCDOT construct the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon; or (3) Construct the beacon as a LAP (Locally Administered Project). With the LAP option, we have to wait 2 months to sign the agreement and obtain the loan, then it will take 10 months to get it put in. If we sign the LAP agreement, we will not get the grant. If we let NCDOT do it, it will be 18 months. Mayor Stinson-Wesley requested a vote be taken at this time. Council concurred.

*Council Member Samaha moved to approve the LAP agreement to do the crosswalk at Town Hall and to pay for the remaining engineering costs of the Pedestrian Hybrid, with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo providing the second. All ayes. (**Approved 4-0**)*

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Spitzer reported that the Fire Department's Mast Arm is onsite and will be installed this Thursday at 9:00 am. However, in order to install this, they will have to shut down all 5 lanes of N. Polk Street, for approximately 20 minutes. We will block off N. Polk Street at the intersection of N. Polk at Main Street and also at Industrial. We will have Police will be at

the intersection of Cranford and Industrial to prevent tractor trailers from coming through Cranford. We will post on social media tomorrow that indicate significant delays, in addition to signs. It will be operational that day.

We are putting in the substation pole in McCullough this Thursday at 9:00 am.

Highline shut down the parking lot downtown over the weekend and we are working with them on ways to open College and Church.

## TOWN COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Stinson-Wesley announced that she recently sent out a number of condolence letters to residents in the past month who have been in difficult moments in this town. She met with other mayors in Mecklenburg County. She filmed a reopening promotional for the library and also filmed a welcome back for the teachers at Pineville Elementary. While attending the Electricities Conference last week, she met with several elected officials in the state.

## CLOSED SESSIONS

*Council Member Alford made a motion to go into Closed Session with a second made by Council Member Simelton. All ayes. Attorney Janelle Lyons was also present.*

**Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (5)** *pertaining to negotiating agents concerning acquisition of real property.*

**Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (3)** *pertaining to consultation with an attorney in order to preserve attorney-client privilege.*

*Council Member Alford made a motion to leave Closed Session with a second made by Council Member Samaha. All ayes.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Gallo made a motion to return to Open Session with Council Member Alford providing a second. All ayes.*

*With regard to the Closed Session NCGS 143.318.11 (5), Council Member Alford moved to empower the Town Manager to enter into a contract for the purchase of property at 907 Lakeview Drive and to require the owner to vacate the tenant in sixty days or less. Mayor Pro Tem Gallo provided a second. All ayes.* ***(Approved 4-0)***

## 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 9:30 pm.

Amelia Stinson-Wesley

Mayor Amelia Stinson-Wesley

ATTEST:

Lisa Snyder

Town Clerk Lisa Snyder