

**MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE  
TOWN OF STALLINGS, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Town Council of the Town of Stallings met for its regular meeting on February 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Stallings Government Center, 321 Stallings Road, Stallings, North Carolina.

Those present were: Mayor David Scholl; Mayor Pro Tempore Brad Richardson; Council Members Steven Ayers, Mike Couzens, Graham Hall, Jon Van de Riet, and Laurie Wojtowicz.

Staff present were: Alex Sewell, Town Manager; Erinn Nichols, Assistant Town Manager/Town Clerk; Chief Dennis Franks; Eunice Donnelly, Parks and Recreation Director; Max Hsiang, Planning Director; Kevin Parker, Engineering Director; Justin Russell, Associate Engineer; Jessie Williams, Finance Officer; and Melanie Cox, Town Attorney.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and meeting called to order

Mayor David Scholl welcomed everyone to the meeting and Council Member Ayers delivered the invocation. Mayor Scholl then led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order.

Special Presentation

*North Carolina League of Municipalities Law (NCLM) Enforcement Risk Review Award*

Chet Efler, Public Safety Consultant with NCLM, recognized Stallings Police Department for best practices in industry standards in policing and award the department and Chief Franks the North Carolina League of Municipalities Law (NCLM) Enforcement Risk Review Award. Stallings Police Department completed this review for the second time when only 105 departments in state had completed the assessment once. This successful review also reduced the Town's Police insurance premiums by 15%.

Public Comments

No one was present to give public comment.

1. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes from the following meetings:

- (1) 01-12-2026
- (2) 01-12-2026 – Closed – 1 of 2
- (3) 01-12-2026 – Closed – 2 of 2

B. Microsurfacing Contract

Council Member Van de Riet made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council after a second from Council Member Ayers.

## 2. Reports

### A. Report from Mayor

Mayor Scholl reported that he attended his first WUMA meeting where Union County sewer capacity was the continued topic of discussion. Mayor Scholl brought accurate capacity numbers to the meeting.

### B. Report from Council Members/Town Committees

Council Member Hall had no report.

Council Member Couzens reported that he conducted a ride along with the Stallings Police Department and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about that department. He also attended the two HOA meetings – Hunley Creek and Shannamara.

Council Member Wojtowicz had no report.

Council Member Van de Riet reported that his neighborhood streets were being resurfaced, and he appreciated engineering staff keeping the Town's roads in good working order.

Council Member Richardson reported he was currently serving as the chair of Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO).

Council Member Ayers had no report.

### C. Report from Town Manager/Town Departments

Town Manager Sewell reported the following:

- Budget Line Items Transfer List – The *January 2026 Budget Line Item Transfer List* is attached to these minutes and therefore incorporated herein.

## 3. Agenda Approval

Mayor Scholl requested Council remove Agenda Item 4, *RZ25.10.01*. Council Member Hall requested adding a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) as Agenda Item 9.A. Council Member Wojtowicz made the motion to approve the Agenda with the changes above. The motion was seconded by Council Member Van de Riet and passed unanimously.

4. RZ25.10.01

- A. Stevens Schultz Lane General Rezoning
- B. Statement of Consistency and Reasonableness

*This item was removed during Agenda Approval.*

5. CRTPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Funding and Prioritization

Engineering Director Parker explained that in advance of FY2027 budget discussions, Staff had been coordinating with the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) and developed a list of bicycle and pedestrian projects that may be eligible for future CRTPO funding. Staff would like Council feedback on potential projects and prioritizations so that it might more adequately budget projects.

Council discussed various projects. It was requested that Staff reach out to Indian Trail for partnership on some segments to bring information back during budget discussions. Council held consensus to use the prioritization list as presented by Staff for upcoming budget discussions.

6. Ensuring Townwide Representation on Stallings Boards and Committees (Scholl)

Mayor Scholl explained he wanted to try to ensure that there was equal representation on the Town's boards and committees so that the boards and committees were not run by a few neighborhoods.

Council held discussion on the item and directed Staff to draft options for equal Town representation on the Planning Board to bring back to Council for consideration.

7. Planning Board Application Consideration

Council Member Van de Riet made the motion to waive the Council's policy on applicant's attendance to a board meeting prior to appointment and appoint Ann Bowman to the Planning Board with the term ending March 31, 2028. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ayers to which Council approved unanimously.

8. Travel Policy

Town Manager Sewell presented the Council an updated and more comprehensive Travel Policy for consideration. The proposed policy applied to employees, non-Town participants, and elected officials, with distinctions recognizing differing roles and approval structures. Staff requested Council direction and/or awareness on the draft policy.

Council first considered Council-Specific Policy Considerations:

1. First-Come, First-Served Use of Budgeted Travel Funds
2. Car Allowance /Stipend (for Mayor only)
3. Council Review of Travel Expenses Exceeding Policy or Budget Limits

Council then discussed additional concerns:

- No International/non-continental US travel without Council approval
- Only allow economy class (no premium seating) on flights with Town funding.

Council Member Richardson made the motion to adopt the Travel Policy with the two additional concerns/modifications listed prior to this motion. The motion was passed unanimously after a second from Council Member Hall.

Council Member Hall made the motion to approve all three Council-Specific Policy Considerations, increasing the Mayor's Car Allowance/Stipend at \$200/month for local travel. Council Member Van de Riet seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 5 to 1 vote with Council Member Richardson opposing.

#### 9. Annual Retreat Priorities Report

Town Manager Sewell presented the Council the follow-up report from the January 24, 2026, Annual Retreat and requested Council approval of the proposed priorities and draft action plan developed by staff in coordination with the Town's facilitator, Curt Walton.

Council made the following changes to the proposed priorities and draft action plan:

- Quarterly meetings for strategic discussions would be from 5:30 – 7 p.m. prior to a regular Council Meeting to include dinner.
- Review the small area plan again in 2027 and/or when construction began on Old Monroe Road Improvements.
- Include wayfinding signs at Town entrances points in Town Identity section.

Council Member Richardson made the motion to approve the 2026 Annual Retreat Follow-Up, Priorities, and Action Plan with the changes notes above to which Council Member Couzens seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by Council. The *2026 Annual Retreat Follow-Up, Priorities, and Action Plan* is attached to these minutes and therefore incorporated herein.

9.A. Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Council Member Hall made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) inviting Director Planning Max Hsiang into the session. The motion was passed unanimously by Council after the a second from Council Member Richardson.

*Council went into closed session at 9:10 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 9:24 p.m.*

10. Adjournment

Council Member Van de Riet moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Couzens, and the motion received unanimous support. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Approved on March 9, 2026.

*s/David Scholl*

David Scholl, Mayor

Approved as to form:

*s/Cox Law Firm, PLLC*

Cox Law Firm, PLLC

*s/Erinn Nichols*

Erinn E. Nichols, Town Clerk