

05/20/25

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade held a public hearing May 13, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Wade Town Hall for the purpose of receiving public comment on the Proposed Charter Amendment Ordinance to Implement Four-Year Staggered Terms.

Board Present

Mayor Johnny Lanthorn
Commissioner Jennifer Weaver
Commissioner Huell Aekins
Commissioner Kevin Herring
Commissioner Johnny Sawyer
Commissioner Beth Ritchie

Visitors

Town Attorney Thomas Neville
1 Wade Citizen

Mayor Lanthorn called the public hearing to order and opened with prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Agenda Adoption

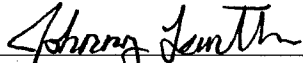
Commissioner Herring made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sawyer to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Charter Amendment to Implement Four-Year Staggered Terms

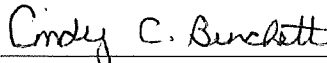
Board Members held a general discussion. Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that no one had signed up to speak for or against the Charter Amendment. There were no comments.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Aekins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.



Johnny Lanthorn, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk

05/20/2025

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session May 13, 2025 following the adjournment of the budget public hearing.

Mayor Lanthorn called the regular session to order.

Minutes

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2025 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Board Members reviewed the financial reports and Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to approve the Reports as presented. Commissioner Aekins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Water Department

Commissioner Aekins questioned why the Church St. well pumped more than the Covington Ln. wells. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that there was a leak at the tandem wells on Covington Ln. and so all the wells were shut down for approximately one week. Mayor Lanthorn explained that the water loss was not metered and did not use any chemicals. Board Members reviewed the April Water Report. Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to approve the Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Business Items

Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that no one had signed up to address the Board under the Speakers from the Floor agenda item.

Committee Reports

Beautification – Mayor Lanthorn stated that the maintenance employees had been working of planting flowers and putting new mulch out at the Park & Town Hall in preparation for Founder's Day.

Park– Mayor Lanthorn stated that the maintenance employees along with Parks & Recreation were working to get the Park cleaned up and sprayed prior to Founder's Day.

Streets – Mayor Lanthorn stated that the streets were in good condition.

General Fund Budget Amendment No. 2-25

Board Members reviewed the Amendment. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the amendment was merely moving numbers around to accommodate some of the general expenses including changing the status of Michael Dayton to full-time. Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to approve General Fund Budget Amendment No. 2-25. Commissioner Aekins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Employee Health Coverage

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that as of June 30th the NC League Municipalities would no longer be offering health insurance options for municipalities. She explained that this change would affect every municipality that was a part of the League's Insurance Trust. Commissioner Sawyer suggested partnering up with other Towns. There was a general discussion concerning this issue and the issue of rates. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett informed the Board that there was a problem with the 2-times salary life insurance that the Town offered through the League. She stated that according to the new carriers the premium would be based on the employees' age and not just a certain amount per \$1,000 of coverage. She explained that she had not presented the information to the Board earlier because the League notified the Town on February 24th and it had taken the agencies a while to get quotes together. Commissioner Ritchie suggested reaching out to Callahan & Rice in Fayetteville & another group that she dealt with for work to get additional quotes. Board Members reviewed proposed options from the Robert Taylor Group, the Hilb Group & Cornerstone Employee Benefits for health, dental & vision insurance. Following discussion of the issue, Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to table the issue until the June meeting to give time to acquire additional quotes. Commissioner Ritchie seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2025-2026 Budget

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett informed the Board that no formal action was needed and that she merely needed guidance from the Board regarding any changes that they would like to make to the proposed budget. She also stated that the decision regarding insurance coverage may affect the overall budget numbers minimally. Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that the County may allow the Town to keep more of the local option sales tax funds for at least one more year. Board Members reviewed the proposed budget figures and agreed that the .32-cent tax rate should remain the same. The Board agreed to move forward with the proposed budget figures for adoption at the June meeting.

Pay-Out of Vacation Days

Mayor Lanthorn explained that as of April 30th, Town Clerk Cindy Burchett was over the allowed total of vacation days by 10.50 days. He explained that he encouraged her to take days but then she returns to a backlog of work and things to do. Mrs. Burchett explained that she gets 2 days per month and usually only takes 1 weeks' vacation during the month of July with scattered days throughout the year, as necessary. She stated that she would like to do a 10-day payout in the current fiscal year and a 10-day payout in the new fiscal year to clear the overage issue until December. Commissioner Ritchie made a motion seconded by Commissioner Aekins to do a 10-day vacation payout in 2024-2025 and one also in 2025-2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Founder's Day

Board Members agreed to have a Founder's Day meeting Friday, May 16th and Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00 P.M. The Board held a general discussion concerning vendors and performers for the event. Commissioner Ritchie stated that there were new vendors this year. She also stated that there had been no response from the local dance studios about participating. Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that Bell's Seed Store had donated \$50 to use for a raffle prize. There was also discussion regarding the parade.

Announcements

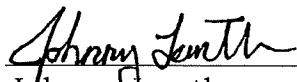
Commissioner Ritchie stated that she and Mayor Lanthorn had a good meeting with the principal of District 7 School regarding Founder's Day and the Town's involvement with the character awards. She informed the Board that he agreed to make sure the school was represented at Founder's Day 2026 and that he wanted to bridge the support between the school and the Town. She also stated that he agreed to have the school counselor work with the Town to revitalize the character trait awards involving the traits of friendly, kind, patient, respectful & trustworthy.

Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that he had participated in two informative meetings with County officials. He explained that four County Commissioners came to Town Hall for a Coffee with the Commissioners Event which was a meeting where those in attendance merely asked questions of the Commissioners. Mayor Lanthorn stated that issues such as the loss of the Wade name on the I-95 exit as well the property revaluation were discussed. He explained that other such meetings were being held throughout the County if anyone would like to attend. Mayor Lanthorn informed the Board that the second meeting was regarding Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks & Recreation. He stated that County officials were not happy with the overall organization because the City of Fayetteville was always taken into consideration first and the other parks therefore suffered. He explained that Assistant County Manager Faith Phillips requested that each area give her a list of their immediate maintenance & repair needs, their plans & goals for the future as well as copies of their Parks & Recreation contract. He also explained that the County Officials were trying to get financial information for each district, a list of projects that should have been accomplished in each district and copies of the latest interlocal agreement. Board Members held a general discussion of the issue.

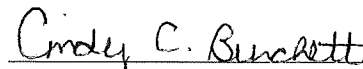
Adjournment

Commissioner Herring made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sawyer to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.



Johnny Lanthorn, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk