



**Town of Stantonsburg
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026**

Attendance

Mayor Coley Rhodes; Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew; Councilperson Carla Davis; Councilperson Skip Covert; Councilperson Jackie Grice; Councilperson Eartha Butler; Town Manager Brian Hawley; Town Clerk Christie Cobb, Attorney Michael Franchi, and 1 member of the public.

Call to Order

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the regular meeting of the Stantonsburg Town Council to order on June 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

Motion to Approve Agenda

Before approval of the agenda, Mayor Rhodes noted two additions: Budget Amendment No. 0926 and a closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client matters. Upon motion by Mayor Pro Tem Dew and second by Councilperson Skip Covert, the motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion to Approve Minutes

Upon motion by Councilperson Eartha Butler and second by Councilperson Carla Davis, the motion carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2026.

Upon motion by Councilperson Carla Davis and second by Councilperson Eartha Butler, the motion carried unanimously to approve the closed session minutes of May 11, 2026.

Public Comment

No members of the public came forward for public comment.

Public Hearing

Mayor Rhodes opened the public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget.

During the hearing, Mayor Pro Tem Dew asked for clarification regarding prior comments about needing another budget meeting, and Town Manager Brian Hawley explained that the issue related only to pending amendments for the current fiscal year, particularly delays in CDBG reimbursements, and not to the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget itself.

No citizens spoke during the hearing, and with no additional discussion, Mayor Rhodes closed the public hearing.

Upon motion by Councilperson Eartha Butler and second by Councilperson Skip Covert, the motion carried unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget.

Financial Reports

Town Manager Hawley presented the monthly financial summary and advised that the Town's monthly receipts were \$302,191.54 and monthly disbursements were \$306,987.02.

He noted that debt service payments totaling approximately \$103,000 were due at the end of May and June, including one payment of about \$55,000.

He also reported that the Town was awaiting reimbursement of approximately \$30,000 for emergency water and sewer repairs and approximately \$4,000 for utility poles damaged in an accident.

Additional discussion followed regarding an outstanding well project reimbursement and delays in CDBG reimbursements. Mayor Pro Tem Dew expressed concern about moving additional CDBG housing projects forward until the reimbursement process improves, and Mr. Hawley agreed that the Town should allow current outstanding items to be resolved before bringing additional projects forward for action.

Upon motion by Councilperson Carla Davis and second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew, the motion carried unanimously to approve the financial reports.

Upon motion by Councilperson Jackie Grice and second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew, the motion carried unanimously to approve the invoice from Beverly Stroud, CPA, in the amount of \$2,265.95.

Upon motion by Councilperson Eartha Butler and second by Councilperson Carla Davis, the motion carried unanimously to approve the remaining May invoices.

In response to questions, Mr. Hawley stated that work on the 2024 audit had been completed and that the final reports were expected to be submitted to the Local Government Commission within two to three weeks, with presentation anticipated at the July meeting.

Departmental Reports

Although Roger Sullivan was absent due to vacation, his departmental reports for Water and Sewer, Public Works-Sanitation and Streets, and Electric were included in the packet.

Council discussion focused on street maintenance items observed around town, including potholes developing near Saratoga and Tyson and pavement settling near Main Street and Tyson by the new sidewalk.

Town Manager Hawley noted that some potholes had already been identified for repair and stated that he would follow up on the additional locations discussed.

Town Manager Reports

Town Manager Hawley updated the Council on several public safety and operational matters.

Mr. Hawley discussed a possible county program involving school-zone traffic enforcement cameras and explained that, if the county elects to proceed, the Town may be able to obtain additional cameras at no cost. Council discussed potential safety benefits, as well as concerns regarding fairness, administrative enforcement, and public reaction. Mr. Hawley emphasized that no formal action was required at this time and that any implementation would involve additional review and agreement.

Council also revisited its previous approval to purchase seven town cameras and discussed camera locations, including the school area, park, bank, the area near Dollar General, across from Adrian's, the event center, and other traffic concern points. Council discussed whether any future county action regarding school-zone cameras might affect placement decisions, and it was agreed that purchased cameras could be relocated, if necessary,

once additional information became available. Mr. Hawley was directed to move forward with the camera process, with final placement locations to be reviewed again before installation.

Additional discussion addressed surplus property procedures. Mayor Pro Tem Dew stated that surplus sales should proceed only through the approved government sales platform rather than through private offers, and Mr. Hawley agreed.

Mr. Hawley then provided a progress update on the municipal building renovation. He reported that flooring preparation was underway, lighting, and exterior drainage work had largely been completed, cabinetry and interior finish work were progressing, and inspections would soon be requested for items such as ADA rail compliance. He further explained that interior security measures would include cameras and limited-access areas, and he responded to questions regarding keys, secure rooms, and building access protocols.

Mr. Hawley also reported that the Town was still awaiting reimbursement information from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality related to the well project because of staffing delays at the agency.

New Business

The Council first considered Budget Amendment No. 0726 for the CDBG Fund. Town Manager Hawley explained that the amendment, in the amount of \$7,351.50, would move received revenue into the proper expenditure line so that the current deficit would be eliminated pending receipt of additional reimbursements. Upon motion by Councilperson Jackie Grice and second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew, the Council unanimously approved Budget Amendment No. 0726.

The Council then considered Budget Amendment No. 0826 for the General Fund. Mr. Hawley explained that an updated version had been provided to account for anticipated audit-related expenses, including the need to move approximately \$35,000 from police salaries into professional services to ensure sufficient funds were available should the audit invoice arrive before the end of June. Upon motion by Councilperson Eartha Butler and second by Councilperson Carla Davis, the Council unanimously approved Budget Amendment No. 0826.

Next, the Council considered Budget Amendment No. 0926 for the Electric Fund. Mr. Hawley advised that, due to a significant increase in Duke transmission costs and the likelihood of higher-than-anticipated electric expenses, he recommended appropriating \$75,000 from fund balance to cover those charges. Upon motion by Councilperson Skip Covert and second by Councilperson Eartha Butler, Budget Amendment No. 0926 was approved by a three-to-two vote, with Councilperson Jackie Grice and Mayor Pro Tem Powell Dew voting in opposition.

The Council then considered retaining RGrid as the Town of Stantonburg's system engineer. Mr. Hawley reported that the firm had met with Town representatives and could assist the Town with engineering evaluations and future utility planning. He also advised that the Town Attorney had reviewed the proposed agreement and recommended approval subject to minor revisions to the confidentiality provisions, with authorization for staff and counsel to finalize any necessary minor changes. Upon motion by Mayor Pro Tem Dew and second by Councilperson Jackie Grice, the Council unanimously approved retaining RGrid as the Town's system engineer, subject to the noted revisions.

Council Comments

During council comments, Councilperson Carla Davis raised the possibility of coordinating another town cleanup event to allow residents to place certain bulky items at the curb for pickup, similar to a previous spring cleanup program.

Town Manager Hawley responded that such an event could be organized if directed by the Council, while cautioning that disposal of items such as tires and demolition debris could be costly and may require limitations.

Additional discussion followed regarding recycling service issues, missed pickups, and practical alternative approaches to improving recycling collection.

Mayor Rhodes also shared that she had received positive comments from citizens about how well the town looks, specifically noting recent paving work and commending the sanitation and maintenance departments for their efforts.

The Council was advised that representation on the Tri-Town Committee will continue through members who regularly attend committee meetings and report back to the full Council for any necessary action. Councilperson Grice was removed from the committee due to other daytime obligations. Going forward, the committee will consist of Brian Hawley, Roger Sullivan, Coley Rhodes, and Powell Dew.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Councilperson Carla Davis and second by Councilperson Jackie Grice, the motion carried unanimously to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client matters.

Following closed session, the Council returned to open session upon motion by Councilperson Jackie Grice and second by Councilperson Eartha Butler, the motion carried unanimously to enter open session. No action taken in closed session was reported in the open meeting minutes.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilperson Jackie Grice and second by Councilperson Skip Covert. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved by:

Coley Rhodes, Mayor

Christie Cobb, Town Clerk