

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOLDSBORO CITY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

**1. Call to Order – 5:30 P.M. – Council Chambers**

Mayor Gaylor called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**1.1 Invocation**

Father David Wyly, Police Chaplain provided the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Charles Gaylor  
Mayor Pro Tem Hiawatha Jones  
Councilman Chris Boyette  
Councilwoman Jamie Taylor  
Councilwoman Brandi Matthews  
Councilwoman Beverly Weeks  
Councilman Roderick White

Also Present: Matthew Livingston, City Manager  
Ron Lawrence, City Attorney  
Laura Getz, City Clerk

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Councilwoman Weeks made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved. Council adopted the agenda.

**4. Recognitions and Presentations**

**4.1 First Responders' Appreciation Month Proclamation**

Read by Mayor Gaylor: The Goldsboro City Council proclaimed September 2025 as First Responder's Appreciation Month in North Carolina and commended its observance to all citizens.

**4.2 U.S. Air Force's Birthday Proclamation**

Read by Mayor Gaylor: The Goldsboro City Council proclaimed September 18, 2025 as the United States Air Force's Birthday Proclamation in the City of Goldsboro and commended its observance to all citizens.

**5. Public Hearings**

**5.1 Annex-2-25 - Idlewild Subdivision – Located on the south side of US 70 Hwy W. between Carolina Circle and Brentwood Drive**

The item was submitted by Mark Helmer, Planning Services Manager and presented by Kenny Talton, Assistant Planning Services Manager.

Tax Parcel #: 2680-83-2550

Acreage: Approximately 49.67 acres

The City Council, at their meeting on August 4, 2025, scheduled a public hearing for the proposed annexation of the subject property. A public hearing notice was properly advertised stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting for September 8, 2025. Pursuant to G.S. 160A-31, at the public hearing, all persons owning property in the area proposed to be annexed, as well as the residents of the municipality, shall be given an opportunity to be heard on the proposed annexation.

If the Council determines that the proposed annexation meets all the requirements of G.S.

160A-31, it has the authority to adopt an annexation ordinance.

In the agenda packet is a report prepared by the Planning Department in conjunction with other departments, concerning the subject annexation area. All city services can be provided to the property.

It was recommended that after the public hearing, Council adopt the following entitled Ordinance annexing the subject property, effective September 8, 2025.

John Thomas with Thomas Engineering offered to answer any questions that arose.

Mayor Gaylor opened the public hearing. No one spoke, and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Boyette made a motion to adopt the Ordinance annexing the subject property, effective September 8, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved.

*ORDINANCE NO. 2025-38 "AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN CONTIGUOUS REAL PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA"*

**5.2 Annex-3-25 - Stoney Creek (City Limits) – Located on the south side of Royall Avenue between North Drive and Landmark Drive**

The item was submitted by Mark Helmer, Planning Services Manager and presented by Kenny Talton, Assistant Planning Services Manager.

Tax Parcel #: 3519063209; 3519160064; 2599669999(8.922 Acres of NCRR RoW)

Acreage: Approximately 60.349 acres

The City Council, at their meeting on August 4, 2025, scheduled a public hearing for the proposed annexation of the subject property. A public hearing notice was properly advertised stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting for September 8, 2025. Pursuant to G.S. 160A-31, at the public hearing all persons owning property in the area proposed to be annexed, as well as the residents of the municipality, shall be given an opportunity to be heard on the proposed annexation.

If the Council determines that the proposed annexation meets all the requirements of G.S. 160A-31, it has the authority to adopt an annexation ordinance.

A report prepared by the Planning Department in conjunction with other departments, concerning the subject annexation area is attached in the agenda packet. All City services can be provided to the property.

It was recommended by staff that Council continue the public hearing until the October 6, 2025 Council meeting.

Mr. Talton shared that as staff was working on the petition, they noticed that the railroad owns a piece of property that is adjacent to the larger piece owned by the City (shown on the map in the agenda packet). He shared that one piece of land is contiguous with other property all along the railroad going westward and eastward along Royal Avenue. Planning staff has reached out to the North Carolina Railroad Company and have asked them if they would mind signing the petition for annexation because their signatures are needed as part of the process. Planning staff has not received the signatures yet and because of that, they are asking council to defer this matter until another date.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones made a motion to table Item 5.2 until the Council meeting on October 6. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Weeks and unanimously approved.

**6. Public Comment Period**

1. William Michael Thomas shared comments and concerns regarding the repair and expansion of the skate park on Ash Street. (Full comments are available on YouTube at 30:02.)

2. Wayne Woodard shared comments regarding a recent event and expanding the skate park on Ash Street. (Full comments are available on YouTube at 33:33.)

3. Bevan Foster shared concerns regarding a recent experience with the city's Inspections department. (Full comments are available on YouTube at 34:37.)

4. Candra Edwards shared concerns regarding NCDOT closing the street her business is located on and how that affects her business. (Full comments are available on YouTube at 38:57.)

## **7. Consent Agenda**

*Approved as Recommended.* City Manager Matt Livingston presented the Consent Agenda. All items were considered to be routine and could be enacted simultaneously with one motion and a roll call vote. If a Councilmember so requested, any item(s) could be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed and considered separately. In that event, the remaining item(s) on the Consent Agenda would be acted on with one motion and a roll call vote. Councilwoman Weeks moved the items on the Consent Agenda, Items 7.1 - 7.4 be approved. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and a roll call vote resulted in all members voting in favor of the motion.

The items on the Consent Agenda were as follows:

### **7.1 Approval of the 2026 Goldsboro City Council Meeting Dates**

The item was submitted/presented by Laura Getz, City Clerk.

The Goldsboro City Council normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month for their Regular Council Meeting. It is necessary to adopt the City Council meeting calendar each year. The proposed meeting dates are as follows:

Monday, January 5

\*Tuesday, January 20

(\*Monday, January 19th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Monday, February 2

(One meeting in February due to the Council Retreat)

Monday, March 2

Monday, March 16

Monday, April 13

(One regular Monday meeting in April due to Easter)

Friday, April 24 (3:00-5:00) -Budget Work Session

Monday, May 4

Monday, May 18

Monday, June 1

Monday, June 15

Monday, July 13

(One meeting in July due to the July 4th holiday)

Monday, August 3

Monday, August 17

Monday, September 14

(One meeting in September due to the Labor Day holiday)

Monday, October 5

Monday, October 19

Monday, November 2  
Monday, November 16

Monday, December 14  
(One meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday)

Council Retreat Dates 2026-Proposed  
February 12-13 (Thursday and Friday)

It was recommended that Council accept staff recommendations and approve the 2026 regular Council Meeting schedule. *Consent Agenda Approval. Weeks/Jones (7 Ayes)*

## **7.2 Business Development Strategic Plan**

The item was submitted by Kelly Arnold, Assistant City Manager and April Choice, Development Services Director.

In April 2022, the North Carolina Department of Commerce – NC Main Street and Rural Planning Center conducted an economic assessment workshop with City staff and stakeholders. The workshop resulted in a document adopted by the City Council called the "City of Goldsboro Economic Development Assessment and Plan". The plan provided short-term actionable items to prepare the City for comprehensive economic development planning. In January 2025, a follow-up economic assessment forum was conducted. This group reviewed what actions have been taken since the 2022 report and identified gap work goals for economic and business development. One of the eight key recommendations included developing a comprehensive business development strategic plan. In the FY25-26 adopted budget, City Council approved \$20,000 for business development studies within the city. Building upon the recommendations of the 2022 Economic Development Assessment and Plan and the subsequent 2025 forum, the Development Services Department has identified a critical need to enhance its internal capacity to support and lead local economic development initiatives. This strategic shift will focus on cultivating a departmental culture geared toward proactive engagement and resource development. The plan aids in the Department's capacity to strengthen and assist new and existing Goldsboro businesses and commerce.

Creative Economic Development Consulting has provided a proposal that includes the scope of services and a schedule to complete the work by the end of 2025. The proposal also includes the assigned team, process, and costs to suit the budget. Creative Economic Development Consulting was chosen due to its expertise in tailoring economic development strategies for smaller cities and rural communities. They have previously worked within Wayne County and will provide valuable insights into our local context and evolving economic development efforts. This firm is well-suited to guide the Development Services Department in developing a focused and effective Business Development Framework and Strategic Plan within the approved budget to support local entrepreneurs and small businesses. The scope of services is attached in the agenda packet.

Staff recommends the approval of contracting with Creative Economic Development LLC to develop the Business Development Framework & Strategic Plan for \$21,100. *Consent Agenda Approval. Weeks/Jones (7 Ayes)*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-67 "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH CREATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING FOR THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN & FRAMEWORK"**

## **7.3 Community Survey Proposal**

The item was submitted by Kelly Arnold, Assistant City Manager, and LaToya Henry, Public Communications Officer.

The City Manager's Office (CMO) is preparing to launch Phase 2 of its strategic planning initiatives, which will focus on gathering input from the community. While Phase 1 provided valuable internal data supported by department heads, Phase 2 will incorporate external feedback directly from residents. This community input will be translated into measurable data

to help define key performance metrics, set targets, assess organizational impact, and ensure alignment with community priorities. The CMO has solicited proposals from Polco and ETC Institute. These are two of the most well-known companies that develop and administer surveys for municipalities nationwide. We have also met with each vendor. After reviewing the proposals, we decided to go with ETC Institute. We believe ETC is the best choice for the following reasons: strength of their survey methodology; features offered, such as geocoded survey results. They can give responses to questions by district; customer service/responsiveness. They have assured us they can meet our timeline.

In order to reach as many of our residents as possible, Spanish and Haitian Creole translations of the survey will be available.

The City Manager's Office staff recommends that Council approve this strategic planning initiative. *Consent Agenda Approval. Weeks/Jones (7 Ayes)*

***RESOLUTION 2025-68 "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH ETC INSTITUTE FOR THE 2025 COMMUNITY SURVEY"***

#### **7.4 Fall 2025 Grant Application for the WRF Expansion Project**

The item was submitted by Bert Sherman, Public Utilities Director.

The Goldsboro Public Utilities Department has collaborated with the engineering firm Hazen and Sawyer on past Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) expansion project grant applications. To continue enhancing our wastewater infrastructure, we intend to submit a grant application for the Fall 2025 grant cycle. This funding will aid in further development and improvements necessary for expanding the facility's capacity and efficiency. Allowing Hazen and Sawyer to submit this application on behalf of the city will streamline the process and allow us to utilize their expertise in grant submissions.

Partnering with Hazen and Sawyer will enhance our application quality, and also increase our likelihood of securing the grant. Expanding the WRF is crucial for accommodating future growth and maintaining environmental standards. This grant will facilitate vital upgrades to our infrastructure without heavily impacting the city's budget.

City staff recommends that Council approve the authorization for Hazen and Sawyer to submit a grant application on behalf of the City of Goldsboro. Entrusting this task to our experienced engineering partner will help ensure that a comprehensive application is submitted, which will help maximize our chances of receiving the grant necessary for the WRF expansion project. *Consent Agenda Approval. Weeks/Jones (7 Ayes)*

***RESOLUTION 2025-69 "RESOLUTION APPROVING HAZEN & SAWYER TO APPLY FOR THE 2025 FALL FUNDING GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WRF IMPROVEMENTS"***

### **8. Old Business**

#### **8.1 Crossroads Strategies Agreement**

The item was submitted and presented by Matt Livingston, City Manager.

The City of Goldsboro, in consultation with the County and Friends of Seymour made the decision to change consultants in 2024 to support the relationship the City has with Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and state and federal legislators.

Crossroads Strategies (CRS) is a bipartisan, multi-disciplinary federal relations, advocacy, and advisory firm based in Washington DC. Founded in 2010 by longtime advocacy industry veterans, CRS offers a comprehensive suite of services ranging from congressional affairs to agency and regulatory lobbying.

The City Council approved an agreement with Crossroads Strategies for advocacy and consulting services on September 3, 2024 which was effective through June 30, 2025. Crossroads Strategies will advise the City, County and Friends of Seymour on legislative issues impacting Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. They will also work with federal agencies

on behalf of the City.

The terms of this Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2025, and remain in effect through June 30, 2026. The City of Goldsboro and County of Wayne will pay Crossroads Strategies a monthly retainer of \$15,000 (\$7,500 each). Crossroads Strategies shall send invoices approximately quarterly at the beginning of each quarter to the City of Goldsboro and the County of Wayne in the amount of \$22,500.00 due from each entity covering time periods as follows: 7/1/25 – 9/30/25, 10/1/25 – 12/31/25, 1/1/26 – 3/30/26, and 4/1/26 – 6/30/26.

The City and County will reimburse Crossroads Strategies for all reasonable expenses associated with the above services, the expenditure of which shall be pre-approved.

The deliverables of the agreement are listed in the agreement.

Henry Smith and Ken Gerrard, representing Friends of Seymour, will be the primary points of contact. Recurring updates and regular access to Crossroads Strategies will be provided to City and County leadership.

Staff recommended that Council adopt the following entitled Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement with Crossroads Strategies.

Councilman White shared that quality of life issues need to be addressed and shared concerns regarding the city having no voice. He asked Council to come up with a legislative agenda. City Manager Livingston shared that Crossroads is willing to assist, but there will be additional funds required for them to address any additional issues. Council shared comments regarding the proposed agreement.

Councilwoman Weeks made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved.

***RESOLUTION NO. 2025-70 "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CROSSROADS STRATEGIES"***

## **8.2 Friends of Seymour Agreement**

The item was submitted and presented by Matt Livingston, City Manager.

In order to raise funds to help support its efforts to preserve, grow and maintain its relationship with Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, members of the Military Affairs Committee founded Seymour Support Council, Inc., a non-profit corporation, which is currently known by its registered assumed name, Friends of Seymour Johnson AFB.

Friends of Seymour Johnson AFB has proven its value in building and maintaining relationships with Senior Leadership of the United States Air Force, in directing lobbying efforts in support of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and in identifying and helping to eliminate or mitigate development that would restrict, limit or diminish the quality of training or the performance of missions at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. City Council approved an agreement with the Friends of Seymour on March 3, 2025. This agreement did not have a specific expiration date.

The updated agreement is attached and has been updated to include June 30, 2027 as the date the agreement expires. The funding of the agreement was approved in the current FY25-26 budget.

It was recommended that Council adopt the following entitled resolution approving the Friends of Seymour Agreement.

Council discussed the proposed agreement.

Councilman White requested the following modifications to the agreement:

Section 13, amended to read on the final line, public safety, infrastructure, public education, and other legislative initiatives as defined in resolution by council.

Mayor Gaylor asked the Council's military liaison committee to be more engaged with the Friends of Seymour.

Council discussed the frequency of reports from Friends of Seymour.

Councilwoman Weeks made a motion to approve the resolution as is with the modification in section 13 as stated. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION 2025-71 "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE FRIENDS OF SEYMOUR AGREEMENT"*

**8.3 Goldsboro/Eureka/Fremont Interlocal Agreement Update**

City Manager Livingston shared that the Town of Fremont did not accept the agreement as proposed. City Manager Livingston and Mayor Gaylor discussed the matter with Fremont Mayor Yelverton. The main concern, as stated, was that Fremont may end up covering some of Eureka's costs. He stated they were aware of the contractual relationship Fremont has with Goldsboro and suggested that we ask the state or Representative John Bell for assistance. City Manager Livingston shared he would like to discuss this agenda item further as potential litigation in closed session.

**9. New Business**

**9.1 Friends of Seymour Briefing**

Ken Gerrard with Friends of Seymour shared the amendment getting into the NDAA from the House is in the Rules Committee today. He shared the (Council's) military committee would be a great place to get some current updated live information and there may be more information quarterly than monthly. He shared an update regarding legislation and the NDAA. He also shared that the staff at Crossroads would welcome the ability to help with issues such as quality of life issues, but they need direction. Whether it's housing, child care, education, crime, whatever it is, wherever federal support is needed, putting those things down so they would have marching orders on what to do, they would welcome it and be glad to do in a separate contract with the city, a joint contract with the county, or an amendment to to the existing contract.

Council discussed the Friends of Seymour, grants, legislation and Seymour Johnson.

**9.2 Proposal for the Development of a Water Master Plan**

The item was submitted and presented by Bert Sherman, Public Utilities Director.

The City of Goldsboro currently lacks a comprehensive Water Master Plan. Developing such a plan would yield substantial benefits, including long-term infrastructure planning, thorough condition assessments, and robust support for growth and development initiatives. We are collaborating with the engineering firm Withers Ravenel to facilitate the grant application on behalf of the City of Goldsboro. This esteemed firm possesses the specialized expertise and financial resources necessary for the successful development of the Water Master Plan.

Partnering with Withers Ravenel will significantly enhance the city's efforts in creating a comprehensive and effective Water Master Plan.

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing Withers Ravenell to apply for a Water Master Plan Grant and sign the necessary documents for the Plan and authorize Withers Ravenel to develop the Water Master Plan on behalf of the City of Goldsboro.

Bert Sherman, Public Utilities Director shared information regarding the Asset Inventory Assessment. Public Utilities has the opportunity to apply for a grant for the water master plan.

Councilwoman Weeks made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion

was seconded by Councilwoman Taylor and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION 2025-72 "RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FALL 2025 WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN AIA GRANT APPLICATION"*

**9.3 Boards and Commissions Appointments**

The item was submitted and presented by Laura Getz, City Clerk.

There are currently several vacancies on Advisory Boards and Commissions. Citizen involvement is vital to the performance of City government. It is necessary that additional appointments be made in an effort to fill these vacancies. Recommendations for appointments were requested from the respective Boards and Commissions. Applications were also solicited from the public at large.

With these appointments, five positions on the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, and one student position vacancy on the Recreation Advisory Commission remain.

City staff recommends that Council adopt the following entitled Resolution appointing members to Advisory Boards and Commissions in the City of Goldsboro.

Councilman Boyette made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved.

*RESOLUTION 2025-73 "RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS"*

**9.4 Council Meeting Safety Measures Discussion**

The item was submitted and presented by Matt Livingston, City Manager.

City Manager Livingston shared that this item of security and safety in the building has been a topic of discussion for a few months and was requested to be addressed by Council members and the attorney. He shared that the building is not secure. He also shared that Robin Gurganus, Safety Coordinator, has been working on the safety issue but was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Chief Mike West shared information regarding safety and shared this conversation has been going on since 2017. He also discussed that cameras have been installed and shared cost and staffing concerns regarding metal detectors and hand-held metal detectors (wand).

City Manager Livingston discussed implementing a book bag policy as a start for safety.

Councilwoman Matthews shared comments regarding safety concerns for city staff and the public. Councilman White shared comments regarding the book bag policy and making sure the entire building is secure.

Chief West shared that having an officer at city hall full time and at council meetings would be approximately \$71,000 and discussed entry points for Council meetings.

Council, City Manager Livingston and Chief West discussed safety at City Hall and the City Hall Addition.

Councilwoman Weeks made a motion for staff to look into the cost of a metal detector at the main entrance and any other safety measures that can be implemented at that entrance. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved.

**10. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Livingston shared Freedom Fest went well and was meaningful to military and first responders.

**11. Mayor and Councilmembers' Comments**

Councilman Boyette thanked city employees, thanked the Police Chief and Fire Chief for attending a Rotary Meeting, and shared that US News and World Report named Goldsboro as

the top 24 city in the state to live in.

Councilwoman Taylor had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones commended the community for coming together during a recent fire in Rosewood. She also thanked city staff for all they do and shared that we do want to put safety measures in place as City Hall is vulnerable.

Councilwoman Matthews asked the Council to commit to civility with the NCLM and discussed civility. She asked the city manager to make civility a priority for the board.

Councilwoman Weeks thanked Councilman Boyette for participating in a recent forum in her district. She thanked Landscape Design and city departments that worked on the unveiling of the Blue and Gold Star Memorial event. She also thanked Pikes Crossroads for inviting Council to attend their service and honoring them. She wished her husband a Happy 30th Anniversary.

Councilman White shared that Dillard Alumni had a great event last weekend for kids. He shared concerns regarding the leaf and limb pickup. He also thanked whoever built the bridge on Shelly Drive and shared concerns about a garbage truck leaking hydraulic fluid on Baines Street and asked that the street sweeper go down that street.

Mayor Gaylor shared comments regarding Freedom Fest, and the Blue and Gold Star memorial dedication. He shared concerns for the residents of Adair Place and praised the community for their response to the fire. He also shared comments regarding New Hire Orientation, the Employee Appreciation event at the Paramount and thanked Paramount and HR staff. He shared that he attended the Mayor's Youth Council's first meeting, and they will be handled under Parks and Recreation leadership this year.

Detailed comments from the Mayor and Council are available on YouTube.

## **12. Closed Session**

Councilwoman Weeks made a motion to go into closed session to discuss Personnel and Potential Litigation. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved.

After the Closed Session was held, the Council came out of Closed Session and back into Open Session.

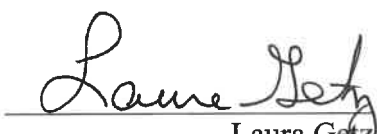
## **13. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Weeks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Mayor Gaylor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



  
Charles Gaylor, IV  
Mayor

  
Laura Getz  
City Clerk