

Town of Pollocksville
Regular Meeting
January 13, 2026

Present: James V. Bender, Jr. – Mayor

Guest List: Attached

Sherry Henderson - Commissioner
Ellis Banks – Commissioner
Maria Robles – Commissioner
Vic Bryan - Commissioner

Toni Floyd – Town Clerk
London Mayo – Asst. Town Clerk

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Declaration of a Quorum
The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Pollocksville held its regular schedule meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at the Pollocksville Town Hall. The meeting was open to public attendance as well as participation via Zoom. Mayor Bender called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. With 4 Commissioners present, we had a quorum.
- II. Introduction of New Business
- III. Approval/Adoption of Final Agenda
Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve and adopt the final agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Banks and all were in favor.
- IV. Public Comment
 - A. N/A
- V. Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2025 Meeting
Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Commissioner Banks. All were in favor.
- VI. Presentations to the Board
 - A. Jones County Veterans Initiative – Chad Day, Jones County Veterans Office

Mr. Day requested that the Board recognize the Jones County Veteran’s Initiative and support it with a resolution. The Initiative seeks to address veterans’ isolation and to better integrate veterans into the county while increasing civilian understanding of the veteran experience. This will include more outreach, better access via transportation, encouraging veterans’ participation at leadership levels, better public education, and better identification of veterans in the county.

Commissioner Bryan was in favor, and seconded by Commissioner Robles and all were in favor.
- VII. Action Items
 - A. N/A

VIII. Reports

A. Mayor's Report – Mayor Bender:

1. There is little to report at this time, as the remaining balance of the grant is still uncertain. We budgeted \$110,000 to match the CRP sidewalk project, but can expect to use less than that due to lower-than-estimated bids. JJ and Todd will install solar panels for the two mobile speed limit signs, and we have tentatively agreed to replace the cemetery street signs, which were omitted from the original calculations. If funds remain, we may also consider purchasing a generator for the Town Hall.
2. Carbon Reduction Plan Grant (CRP): The final inspection occurred on December 10, 2025, with several punch list items remaining. Work continued last week. We are still awaiting final project accounting and confirmation from DOT, which is pending the contractor's final invoice. Excess funds cannot be used for sidewalks on Trent Street due to drainage, utility, and eligibility issues. Mayor Bender has asked DOT to consider improved crosswalks on Main Street, as the existing ones are deteriorating, and am awaiting a response.
3. A part of Beaufort Road has been paved. Barnhill did the work for this paving.
4. BRIC: On December 11, 2025, a federal judge ruled that FEMA BRIC funds could not be withheld, but we have received no guidance on the impact of that decision. We moved the project to the state's HMGP list and submitted it by the December 15 deadline. Based on prior discussions with the State, funding is still expected, though no official notice has been received. DPS has requested Right of Entry and Site Notification permits previously submitted; Travis is handling this. NCDEQ is still holding \$120,000 for the project. Moving forward under HMGP is preferable, as it requires no match and allows the \$120,000 to cover potential cost overruns.
5. FEMA Reimbursements (Golden Leaf): Golden Leaf has requested full repayment of the funds. Although we attempted to retain a portion for Lead for NC intern expenses, Golden Leaf determined the funds were strictly for Town Hall and sewer elevation costs, which were fully reimbursed by FEMA and insurance. In hindsight, returning the funds is appropriate—Golden Leaf fulfilled its role in covering costs during the FEMA process, and maintaining a strong relationship for future support is important.
6. Jonathan Hinkle from Bolton & Menk will attend the February board meeting to present the Pollocksville portion of the recently approved Trent River Flood study. But this will also be presented as one of two presentations at the Joint County-Municipal meeting on January 27.
7. Joint meeting is on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at the Civic Center – two weeks from tonight. We will RECESS tonight's meeting so we can reconvene at the joint meeting.
8. Mayor Bender met with the County Manager, the County Economic Developer, and Kelly Bowers from the Timmons group, engineering firm. Kelly is working with the county to obtain funds for the joint Jones-Craven industrial site. As Mayor Bender previously mentioned, John and Kyle feel that Craven County is moving too slowly, and they want to get the Jones County side of this industrial site developed and marketed for a company. One of the things is sewer, and they had talked with Mayor Bender about Pollocksville taking their sewer. They would pipe to the new WTP at Ten Mile Fork, and then it would come to us. This is not industrial but bathroom waste. Mayor Bender reminded them again that we would have to do a feasibility study – since we do not want to jeopardize our own capacity if we have the opportunity to serve more residents.

One other thing that came out of the meeting was some possibilities on how to obtain and later market the property at the bypass. What Mayor Bender thought might work will not work, but he is working on setting up a meeting with Mary Beth Houston, NCDOT Division 2 Chief Engineer, to talk about this property.

9. The NC Main Street Conference will be in New Bern next March, March 10-12.
 10. Everyone will be getting an invitation to the groundbreaking of the new Jones County shell building. It is on Monday, February 9 at 11AM
- B. Department of Public Works – Todd Meadows and J.J. Chadwick:
1. Water and Wastewater projects updates
 1. JJ shared a video of the sewer project.
 2. JJ also shared a video of the treatment plant
 3. Mower\Tractor – Needing Funds
 4. JJ Chadwick met with the sidewalk contractor and he will come in and repair the problems near the old Trent Restaurant/Post Office as well as an issue on the sidewalk in front of Danny Meadows’ new house. He will also pour a concrete pad from the Town Hall parking lot to the side walk. We also have a trip hazard on the sidewalk in front of the Town Hall – parking lot side – and JJ will have the contractor fix this.
- C. Town Clerk/Finance Office – Toni Floyd
1. Check Register, BvA, Cash Report, and Bank Reconciliation for August
 2. Budget Amendments for approval – Commissioner Banks made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henderson and all were in favor.
 3. Town Hall Cleaning – we are looking into a new company to use for the cleaning of town hall.
 4. Other?
- D. Beautification/Economic Development – Commissioner Barbee
1. N/A
- E. Planning and Zoning – Mayor Bender:
1. Update from Andy Thomas, Code Enforcement Officer
 - a) Andy is still awaiting the variance request from DW Hamill.
 - b) The nuisance at 401 Third Street has not yet been abated by Town staff – too much going on since the December meeting with getting the new sewer system online and dealing with water leaks.
 - c) Andy is dealing with the interested party regarding elevation requirements and what is and is not permitted for properties on Bell Street
 - 2.
- F. Attorney-David Baxter
1. N/A
- IX. Unfinished Business
- A. N/A
- X. New Business
- A. N/A

XI. Public Comment

A. N/A

XII. Closed Session (if necessary) - NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney Client privilege

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to enter closed session with a second from Commissioner Banks. All were in favor.

Commissioner Banks made a motion to exit the closed session with a second from Commissioner Robles. All were in favor.

No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

XIII. Announcements

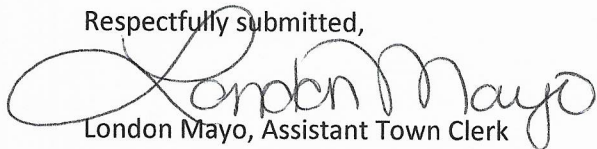
XIV. Adjournment

RECESS UNTIL JANUARY 27, 2026 AT 6:00 PM.

Commissioner Banks made the motion to recess the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henderson and all were in favor.

**Due to weather conditions, the January 27th meeting was postponed.

Respectfully submitted,



London Mayo, Assistant Town Clerk

Approval Date March 10, 2026