

Town of Pollocksville
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2025

Present: James V. Bender, Jr. – Mayor

Guest List: Attached

Sherry Henderson - Commissioner

Nancy Barbee - Commissioner

Ellis Banks – Commissioner

Maria Robles - Commissioner

Vic Bryan – Commissioner

Toni Floyd – 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, April 8, 2025, 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 all Commissioners present, we had a quorum.

Mayor Bender expressed his gratitude to his colleagues and staff for their role in the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award and the reception which preceded the meeting.

II. Introduction of New Business

None

III. Approval/Adoption of Final Agenda

Commissioner Banks made the motion to approve and adopt the final agenda with a second from Commissioner Henderson. All were in favor.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2025 Meeting

Commissioner Robles made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Barbee seconded the motion and all were in favor.

VI. Presentations to the Board

A. None

VII. Action Items

A. Proclamation recognizing Municipal Clerks: Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve the Proclamation of the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion and all were in favor.

VIII. Reports

A. Public Safety – Commissioner Banks: No report

B. Mayor's Report – Mayor Bender:

1. Paving Grant-Work is continuing in town. The mayor has heard mostly good comments, with a few people complained about stuff in their yards. The good news is that the initial work has resulted in savings. The bad news is that some sections were worse than anticipated and will require additional work. Mayor Bender has signed a couple of change orders for an additional layer of skimming on town streets. There may be funds remaining for Gertrude and/or Church Street. The work may be finished by Friday if the weather cooperates, or by Tuesday at the latest. There is a potential pothole near the library that needs to be investigated. Two big loads of milling have been dumped at the end of Third Street.
2. OSMB Grant: \$25,000 was budgeted for street signs. We need 27 signs and 54 sign blades, and have received a quote for \$29,000. We will need clarification from DOT about the size requirement for stop signs on streets intersecting with state roads. We also have to replace some stop signs and yield signs.
3. Park and Main St Maintenance-Eddie Jenkins is planning to submit a quote.
4. CRP Grant-The cost has been reduced due to the design changes, so we may not need all of the \$110,000 matching funds for the project.
5. BRIC Grants: Grants from 2020-2023 have been cancelled, citing waste, fraud, and political agendas. We have not received any information from the state yet. Travis Klondike reached out to Kaine Riggan and he said they are waiting for leadership to approve the wording before releasing a statement. There is a possibility that we may need an emergency meeting depending on what the state tells us. If so, we will attempt to provide six hours of notice. We have already spent about \$20,000 for legal fees and advertising.
6. FEMA issues will be discussed during the closed session.
7. Pending WWTP and WTP projects are still active, but could change due to federal budgets.
8. Fourth Street has not gone out for the second round of bids yet. The engineer is looking for contractors.
9. Letter from CDBG-NR: We were notified all remaining funds will be recaptured after an August 15 encumbrance date. We currently have unexpended funds of \$495,000. Mayor Bender has reached out to the engineering firm to see if we have any options.
10. Request from library: Mayor Bender stated that this request would carry over to budget discussions. Commissioner Henderson talked with Maysville Town Manager Shumata Brown and told him that she doesn't think we should fund the request because we would have to raise taxes to do it. Commissioner Bryan made a motion requesting the board to vote now to decline the funding request. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion and all were in favor.
11. We have negotiated an agreement with Todd Meadows for covering for Robby Tew while he is out for surgery. Our auditor said to pay Mr. Meadows as a contractor, which will be executed as quickly as possible.
12. Mayor Bender hosted meeting of the Jones Leadership Academy. They are doing project on leadership differences among the three towns in Jones County.
13. Mayor Bender signed a letter of support for an emergency shelter/recreation center for the county.
14. The NCORR quarterly reports have been submitted. He inquired about Rebuild NC and was told that the program will probably not survive.

15. A draft lease for the old firehouse was provided at our last meeting. Mayor Bender found a couple of items to be changed. Attorney David Baxter is going to amend the lease for further review.

C. Department of Public Works – Robby Tew and J.J. Chadwick:

1. Commissioner Henderson asked if Mr. Chadwick if he had seen anything that is going to require work. He stated that the water plant is on its last leg. The WTP pre-construction meeting is next week. The town had an inspection from the state last week. There is some testing to be done. The new power line for the new WWTP is almost completely installed. According to the contractor, everything is on schedule for the new plant build. Water will be less hard when the new plant is online. The new plant will have a 10,000-gallon bulk salt storage tank. Mr. Chadwick discussed all of the testing requirements. There is also discussion of additional land needed for the WWTP.
2. Commissioner Bryan will bring us a sample flag for everyone to inspect. If everyone approves, the order will be \$825 dollars. A motion was made by Commissioner Bryan to go ahead with the flag order, if approved, for a maximum of \$900. Commissioner Barbee seconded the motion and all were in favor.

D. Town Clerk/Finance Office – Toni Floyd

1. Check Register, BvA, Cash Report, Bank Reconciliation for March 2025 were distributed to the board prior to the meeting and will be included in the minutes book. The board also received BvAs for all of the Grant Funds.
2. Budget Amendments for approval 2025-19: Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the budget amendment with a second from Commissioner Robles. All were in favor.
3. Other? We require a Grant Project Ordinance for the AIA Water project because we found out it was funded through ARP and could not be part of the regular budget. Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Robles seconded the motion and all were in favor.
4. Budget: A first draft of the 2025-2026 budget was presented to the board. We are still waiting on new utility revenue projections. Mayor Bender asked for the board to allow him, Commissioner Henderson, and <s. Floyd to meet to discuss the budget and bring something back to the entire board in May. The board approved by general consensus.

E. Beautification/Economic Development – Commissioner Barbee

1. None

F. Planning and Zoning – Mayor Bender:

1. Update from Andy Thomas, Code Enforcement Officer: Still working on the Third Street property. He is also working on a junk vehicle ordinance.
2. One of the FEMA houses has been demolished and the next one is underway. Contractors have been talking to people in town about new housing in town and near town.

G. Attorney-David Baxter

1. None

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. None

X. New Business

- A. None

XI. Public Comment

- XII. Closed Session NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) (6)
Commissioner Robles made the motion to enter closed session with a second from Commissioner Henderson. All were in favor.
Commissioner Barbee made the motion to exit closed session with a second from Commissioner Banks. All were in favor.

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

- XIII. Announcements
Town Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 13, 2025

- XIV. Adjournment
Commissioner Banks made the motion to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Barbee. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Floyd, Town Clerk

Approval Date 5/13/2025