

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Alderman  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Rusty Barr, Alderman Phil Absher, Alderman Brian Blanco, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman David Miller, and Alderwoman Beth Shelton.

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Assistant Town Manager Rebecca Eldreth, Police Chief Brad Jordan, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, Fire Captain Lambert, and WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick.

Several other residents of the community also attended.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Barr called to order the meeting of the Board of Alderman. After the Mayor offered an invocation, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the March 2, 2026 Agenda** – With no changes, Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Absher seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Public Hearing**

**Public Hearing** – Mayor Barr stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed rezoning of 50 Short Street. The public hearing opened at 6:02pm. With no comment, Mayor Barr closed the public hearing at 6:03pm.

**Regular Session**

**Public Comments** – none

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes** – With no discussion, Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Rezoning Parcel 192967627587** – Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to approve the rezoning of parcel 192967627587 located at 50 Short Street from Medium Density Residential to Highway Commercial. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Statement of Consistency** – Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to approve the statements of consistency as presented. Alderman Absher seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration for 2026 Farmers Market Lease** – Farmers Market Vice President Wayne Pitts along with Farmers Market Manager Tina Hubbard came before the board to renew the annual lease for the Farmers Market location. Mr. Pitts gave a brief overview of the success of the 2025

market sharing the market had 56 vendors with over \$750,000 in sales for the season. Mr. Pitts requested the town to continue the \$2,000 contribution to the food assistance programs, SNAP and Double Up Bucks programs for the 2026 season. Alderman Blanco made the motion to approve the 2026-2027 Farmers Market lease and the \$2,000 contribution to the food assistance programs. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of 2026 Antique Fair** – Keith Woodie came before the board to request the street closure for the 2026 Antique Fair. The Antique Fair will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> annual event on Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19. David Miller made the motion to approve the 2026 footprint. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of EMS Tax** – Commissioner McNeill asked the board’s consideration for approval on a \$0.02 tax per \$100 in value for the EMS service since the county will be taking the service over in the future. This will be in addition to the \$0.004 per \$100 in value tax for the rescue squad. Currently, the \$0.024 tax is added to all county tax bills except for West Jefferson, Jefferson, and Lansing. The tax amount could be added to either the West Jefferson or County tax bill. The Board took no action on this matter at this time.

**ABC Report** – Justin Jones gave the quarterly ABC report to the board. Sales for the quarter are down 5.5% with the store seeing 1,157 less customers compared to last quarter. The town was delivered a quarterly distribution check of \$62,500.

**Consideration to Award Golden Leaf Backstreet and Long Street Project to Carolina Grading** – Carolina Grading was the low bidder for the Golden Leaf stormwater project to install storm drain piping and catch basins on Backstreet and Long Street. Golden Leaf has approved reducing the project to connect the underground detention basin as the Burley Market and to run to Jefferson Avenue for the funds available for construction of \$172,000 and total grant amount of \$210,000. With no discussion, Alderman Green made the motion to award the project to Carolina Grading. Alderman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Resolution for Sale of Personal Property at Public Auction** – With no discussion, Alderman Blanco made the motion to approve the sale of personal property as public auction. Alderman Absher seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Downtown Flowers** – Town Manager Price presented the quotes for flowers in downtown to the board for approval. With no discussion, Alderman Blanco made the motion to approve the downtown flowers for 2026. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

**Discussion of Budget Meeting** – The board agreed to meet Monday, March 23 at 5:30pm.

**Police Report** – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month. A total of 215 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 11 motor vehicle crashes, 2

larcenies, 1 drug case, 1 fraud case, 2 damage to property, 5 trespasses, 13 minor citations, and other miscellaneous calls. The Board thanked Chief Jordan for his report.

**Water/Wastewater & Maintenance Report** – WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. Rain totals for the month were reported at 2 inches. The flow of treated water going into the creek has improved since two pumps for the sand filters at the wastewater treatment plant have been replaced. The remaining two sand filters will be replaced next week. Both filters are running at the filter plant and are producing about 80,000 gallons per day. The board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Fire Report** – Fire Captain Matt Lambert gave his report to the Board. A total of 82 calls were recorded for the month. The department has been working on preplans and short term rental inspections. The board thanked Captain Lambert for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. Monthly totals were reported with 31 locate tickets, 1 water leak, and 2 sewer issues. The sewer line at High Vista apartments was identified to have a tree limb in the sewer line. The line was cleaned and lined to prevent a leak. The sewer line installation on Ridge Avenue has resumed. The bucket truck is back in service while the sweeper truck is still out for service. A load of salt has been delivered. The department continues to work on general maintenance. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

**Town Managers Report** – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the board. The town has received the permit to begin work on North Church that was damaged during Helene. Hopefully other permits will be received in the next 60 days. Funds in the amount of \$67,000 to reimburse admin cost has been obligated for Category Z. Completion date on the sewer line install on Ridge Avenue is now weather dependent. The UV system has been installed at the wastewater treatment plant but still waiting on pumps to be delivered. An order has been placed for 2 generators for the wells with delivery expected before June 30. The town was awarded \$1,327,900 through the NC Department of Commerce SmBIZ grant for sidewalk repair, sewer lining, and a water tank project at the filter plant. Taxes collected to date total 94.2% of the levy. Sales tax for the month of December shows a 2% decrease. Year to date sales tax is up 4% over prior year. Paddy Mountain trail had 300 visitors in February. The Great Mother's March will be in the area on March 29 and 30 with 30 to 50 participants. They will be using the Burley Market as headquarters. The funding for an engineering study on US Highway 221 Business was not accepted. The Town of Andrews visited the area on February 27 and really enjoyed their time spent in town. Heritage Iron Club will host cruise ins on April 3, May 16, June 20, July 17, August 21, September 20, and October 18 from 5pm to 8pm. The Shriner's will hold their annual paper drive the first weekend in May. Ebenezer Share-a-Thon is scheduled for June 12. Brantley will be attending the Main Street Conference next week. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Aldermen Comments** – The Board thanked all those in attendance.

**Closed Session** – Alderman Absher made the motion to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Shelton.

**Return to Regular Session** – The Board returned to regular session.

**Adjournment** – With nothing further, Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Absher. A vote of 5-0 in favor.

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Rusty Barr, Mayor

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Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk