

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2025 | 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Mayor Tom Hartman, Alderman Rusty Barr, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman John Reeves, Alderwoman Beth Shelton, and Alderman Stephen Shoemaker

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

At 6:00 pm Mayor Hartman called to order the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. After the invocation was given, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of August 4, 2025 Agenda – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Public Hearings

Consideration of Annexation – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed annexation for Maria Vasquez with Americas #1 Investment Inc located at 1988 NC Highway 163. The mayor opened the hearing at 6:03pm. With no comment, Mayor Hartman closed the public hearing at 6:03pm.

Regular Session

Approval of Minutes – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Annexation – Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to approve the annexation. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

ABC Report – Justin Jones General Manager of the ABC Store presented the quarterly report to the Board. Highlights included that sales were only down \$267 from previous year but net income was up \$23,000. A check in the amount of \$62,500 was delivered to the town in addition to the \$50,000 year end bonus check. Yearly the sales of the store are up 3% with mixed beverage sales up 5%. The flooring in the store is currently being refreshed. The Board thanked Justin for his report.

Consideration of Resolutions for Street Closures – With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the resolutions for the road closures of the holiday parade and homecoming parade. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of TDA Appointment – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve Jerrita Roark for her second term on the TDA. Alderman Green seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Planning Board Appointment – Alderman Green made the motion to approve Rusty Barr and Rick Price for an additional term on the planning board. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of September Meeting Date – The Board agreed to meet on Monday, September 8.

Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date – The Board agreed to meet Monday, September 8 at 5:30pm.

Police Report – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month. A total of 236 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 14 motor vehicle crashes, 5 larcenies, 1 DWIs, 21 minor citations, and other miscellaneous calls. A reminder was given for the police department to close the cemetery gates at night. The Board thanked Chief Jordan for his report.

Water & Wastewater Report – Wastewater Superintendent Brandon Patrick gave his report to the Board. A total of 4.5 inches of rain were reported for the month. A new blower was wired in at the wastewater treatment plant. The company will be in tomorrow for startup. The filter plant is producing about 40,000 gallons per day. The Board thanked Brandon for his report.

Fire Department Report – Fire Captain Matt Lambert gave his report to the Board. A total of 77 calls were received for the month. The department has been completing preplans with the businesses, painting fire hydrants, and flow testing hydrants. The department received a grant to fund a new side by side. There is no match requirement for the grant. The Board thanked Matt for his report.

Maintenance Report – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. Monthly totals were reported with 36 locate tickets, 3 water leaks, 2 sewer issues, and 2 water and sewer taps. Paving for the year has been started. The sewer extension on Independence is 50% completed. The sewer line install for the new middle school has began but stalled due to the incorrect manholes being delivered. The department has been working on picking up junk, and other 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 contracted Padco Paving for the repair on North Church Ave. However, Padco does not have proper permitting to complete work in the creek. The permitting process will take eight weeks. Padco will request all permitting necessary to complete the remainder of the projects. Total received from FEMA is \$117,800 for labor, equipment, and videoing the sewer line. Sewer lines are 50% complete on Independence and Liberty then will move to Ridge Ave. The wastewater treatment plant upgrades are scheduled for September. Taxes collected to date total 98% of the levy. Sales tax is up 19% from the previous year for the month of May with year to date at a 7% increase. The trail at Paddy Mountain had 1200 visitors in the month. The August addition of Our State features a twenty-two-page photo essay of West Jefferson. Brantley then read an email from Candace Barker with Ashe Medic commending the lifesaving work of both Josh Walters and Matt Lambert. They were first on scene by two minutes and administered CPR until medics arrived. The patient has now been extubated and is following commands so he will be considered a “save” for the county with this being only the third “save” in the county in 17 years. Since the incident eight AEDs have been install in the fire trucks. The alleyway behind

Parsons will not be paved instead it will be graded and graveled. The fire department picnic is on August 24th at WJ park. The fire department received a \$94,000 grant to purchase a side by side and compressor. The NC League of Municipalities has estimated the population of West Jefferson 2023 at 1429 up from 1370 the year before. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Public Comments – April Sommers with the Tartan Wholly shared her experience with the cruise ins being held on Sunday. She informed the board that cones are being placed in all the parking spaces with her customers being told not to park in the spaces along with access to her business being blocked by chairs. The Mayor informed the police chief to have his guys on watch Sunday to remove any cones blocking parking. Kyle Hall expressed his delight with the lights in the trees throughout the downtown area. The board agreed to for the extra lights to remain in the trees until it is time to trim the trees.

Aldermen Comments – The board thanked everyone for their attendance.

Adjournment – With nothing further, Alderman Barr made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Reeves with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Tom Hartman, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk