

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 8, 2025 | 6:00 pm**

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

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, Town Attorney Jak Reeves, Police Chief Brad Jordan, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, 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 September 8, 2025 Agenda** – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a reschedule date for the board of adjustment meeting. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Public Hearings**

**Consideration of Text Amendments** – Mayor Hartman stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed text amendments in Medium Density and Special Uses. The Mayor opened the hearing at 6:03pm after a brief introduction of the proposed development on Jefferson Avenue. Several members of the community brought their questions including Janette Rose, Nancy Beth Weaver, Mary Wells, Maria Whaley, Gerry Hazlewood, April Sommers, Shelly Elliott and others. John Moore and Michael Brown spoke on behalf of the development and addressed the questions from the attendants. Mayor Hartman closed the public hearing at 6:39pm.

**Regular Session**

**Approval of Minutes** – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Green seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Text Amendments** – Town Attorney Jak Reeves read the amendments to the board for a slate vote. Alderman Barr made the motion to approve all four proposed text amendments. Alderman Green seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Statements of Consistency** – Alderman Barr made the motion to approve all four proposed text amendments. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Approval for West Jefferson to Jefferson Sidewalk Feasibility Study Report** – Kimley Horn has finalized the sidewalk feasibility study to connect Paddy Mountain to Jefferson and Mount Jefferson. With no discussion, Alderman Barr made the motion to approve the feasibility study. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Discussion of Paving Backstreet and Second Street** – After approved paving was completed, three areas have been identified that need attention. The areas include Backstreet at the West Jefferson Hotel, Backstreet and Second Street near the farmers market, and the portion of the road that leads to the well off Oakwood Road. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the additional paving. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Fire Truck** – Fire Department members shared options for purchasing a new fire truck. The plan will be to use \$300,000 of the on hand cash for the down payment and budget an addition \$100,000 per year for three years since delivery for the truck is three years out. The additional amount for the truck will be financed. The fire department would like the Pierce custom truck at \$1,073,000 with an additional \$150,000 to equip the truck. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the purchase of the truck. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Discussion of Fire and Police Tower of Honor** – A discussion to place a tower in honor of fire and police who have served the town was lead by the Mayor. Town Manager will have examples available at the next meeting.

**Discussion of Skateboarding** – Town Attorney Reeves lead the discussion to clarify where skateboards may be ridden.

**Discussion of Board of Adjustment Date** – The Board agreed to meet Monday, October 6 at 5:30pm.

**Tax Releases** – With no discussion, Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to approve the tax release. Alderman Barr seconded the motion with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

**Police Report** – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month. A total of 220 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 9 motor vehicle crashes, 9 larcenies, 4 drug cases, 1 DWI, 13 minor citations, 1 trespass and other miscellaneous calls. A reminder was given to monitor speeds on Jefferson Avenue. The Board thanked Chief Jordan for his report.

**Water & Wastewater Report** – absent

**Fire Department Report** – Fire Captain Matt Lambert gave his report to the Board. A total of 79 calls were received for the month. The department has been working on water points and flowing hydrants. Captain Lambert and Chief Miller attended the South Atlantic Fire Rescue conference where Ronnie Hopkins was recognized for his 50 years of service. The Board thanked Matt for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. Monthly totals were reported with 69 locate tickets, 4 water leaks, 3 sewer issues, 2 hydrants raised and 1 new hydrant installed. The maintenance crew has been assisting KRG with smoke testing the sewer lines to identify leaks, repairing road edges, and mowing right of ways. The sewer line install on Freedom and Independence is complete. 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 Avenue and are still waiting for permits to complete the repair. We have received a total of \$152,100 from FEMA. All but 3 projects have been obligated with total cost for all projects at \$1,131,000. The sewer line extension is complete of Freedom and Independence with Ridge Avenue scheduled to start in the next couple of weeks. There is a potential for extra funds from Golden Leaf to fill in for the project at maintenance and the park. Taxes collected to date total 98% of the levy. Sales tax is up 19% from the previous year for the month of June with year to date at a 7% increase. Visitor spending was up in 2024 by 10% in Ashe County per Visit NC. A one year post Helene celebration is scheduled at Family Central on September 27. There will be a joint church service with Mount Jefferson Presbyterian, First Baptist Church, and West Jefferson Methodist on October 5, where a portion of Second Street will be closed for safety with people crossing the street.

**Public Comments** – Lou Zeller with the Ashe Chapter of Downhome spoke about affordable housing for working class families. Mark Gilbert raised concerns about the flooding issues on US Highway 221 Business. The Mayor informed Mr. Gilbert that the NC DOT is working to fix the issue. The Dark Sky Coalition spoke about light pollution. Kyle Hall approached the board about speeding down Jefferson Avenue in addition to loud muffler noises and skateboarding. Jeanne Noblett recommended speaking to the skateboarders individually.

**Aldermen Comments** – The board thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Closed Session** – Alderman Barr 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, Alderman Barr made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Green with a vote of 3-0 in favor.

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Tom Hartman, Mayor

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Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk