Town of West Jefferson - Board of Alderman
Special Meeting Minutes
July 7, 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, 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. The Mayor invited those in attendance to participate in a moment of silence to remember former Alderman Stephen Shoemaker followed by the invocation. Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the July 7, 2026 Agenda – Mayor Barr added a resolution of approval for the submission of the CDBG-DR application to the agenda. Alderman Absher made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Public Hearing

Consideration of Submission for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief – Mayor Barr stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the application for the CDBGDR funds for placing a sidewalk from E Buck Mountain Road to Beaver Creek School Road. The public hearing opened at 6:03pm. Judson Blevins with the High Country Council of Government gave an overview of the project and informed the group of the public comment period that will be open until July 23rd at 5:00pm. Mayor Barr closed the public hearing at 6:09pm.

Regular Session

Public Comments – Town resident Jerry Brown asked the board to consider installing a memorial for former Alderman Stephen Shoemaker. Public comment was closed at 6:12pm.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes – With no discussion, Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2026 regular meeting. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution of Approval for the Submission of the CDBG-DR Application – With no discussion, Alderman Blanco made the motion to adopt the resolution for the submission of the application. Alderman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Rezoning Parcel 192967396178 & 192967398269 at 1267 NC Hwy 194N – Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the rezoning of the two parcels to allow for the installation of a manufactured home on each parcel. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The Lewis family thanked the board.

Consideration of Statements of Consistency –With no discussion, Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the statement as presented. Alderman Absher seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Resolution to Accept SRF Helene Funds – The town received assistance from the HCCOG in applying for funding for two projects through DWI State Revolving Funds. The funding for the Downtown Sewer Lining in the amount of $1,100,698 and for the Supplemental Water Tank at the Filter Plant in the amount of $366,812 have both been awarded. To accept the funding, the resolution will need to be adopted for each project. Alderman Blanco made the motion to adopt the resolution for the sewer lining. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor. Alderman Absher made a motion to adopt the resolution for the supplemental water tank. Alderman Green seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Proclamation for Blue Ridge Conservancy Trails Month – Blue Ridge Conservancy is celebrating the month of July as BRC Trails Month and partnering with dozens of local businesses in the High Country to participate in a month long round up program. All proceeds will fund BRC trail projects. As part of the initiative, BRC would like the town to adopt a proclamation in support of BRC Trails Month. Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to adopt the proclamation. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Rezoning Parcel 192967628650 Beside 50 Short Street – With no discussion, Alderwoman Shelton made the motion to approve the rezoning to highway commercial. Alderman Absher seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Fire Contract Addendum – An annual addendum between the WJ Fire Department and the County of Ashe was given to the board to review. The contract specifies certain criteria for the WJ Fire Department and is updated each year. Alderman Green made the motion to adopt the addendum as presented. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Golden Leaf Park & Maintenance Stormwater Capital Project Ordinance – A revision to the Capital Protect Ordinance was made after receiving additional funding for the project. The original funding was $250,000 with increased funding due to the project coming in over budget is now $562,858. With no discussion, Alderman Blanco made the motion to approve the revision to the project ordinance. Alderwoman Shelton seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Order to Collect Taxes – Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the order to collect taxes. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Discussion of State Street – Mayor Barr opened the discussion about the flow of traffic from State Street entering Jefferson Avenue. The board considered making right in and right out only off State Street and remove the no parking signs from the northside of East Ashe Street. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the changes discussed. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consideration of Planning Board Member Appointment – Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the reappointment of Bob Adams for an additional 3 year term. Alderman Absher seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Police Report – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month. A total of 256 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 13 motor vehicle crashes, 5 larcenies, 2 drug cases, 3 trespasses, 133 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 2.5 inches which is only 25% of the rainfall for the year. The annual inspection by the state was completed with good findings Both filters are producing 40,000 to 50,000 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 65 calls were recorded for the month. The department is preparing for the 9S inspection which is scheduled for August. Alderman Absher requested annual call numbers for the department. 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 27 locate tickets, 3 water leaks, 2 sewer issues and 6 water taps. The department changed the valve at the woods well, made 2 trips to the landfill, repaired 2 sink holes and other general maintenance. The Board thanked Eric for his report.

Town Managers Report – Brantley Price, Town Manager gave his report to the board. Padco has completed the work on most of the water points and have done a great job. Work on the detention pond in the park continues with the underground detention at the maintenance shop to be completed next. Taxes collected to date total 97% of the levy. Sales tax decreased 2.5% over last April with year to date up 2% over prior year. Paddy Mountain trail had 688 visitors for the month. ABC store manager says sales are down 2% in June. Sales have been reported down across the state. Brantley extended a thank you for all town employees who assisted with Christmas in July stating it was a great festival and could not have happened without the support of town maintenance and police. Brantley reminded Alderman Blanco and Green to complete the

required ethics training. Public comment for the BUILD grant will be held at town hall on July 23rd from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

Aldermen Comments – Alderman Green asked for the no parking signs on Backstreet to be replaced or refreshed so that patrons would know the hours that parking is restricted for street sweeping. Alderwoman Shelton thanked the town for their support during the Christmas in July Festival. Mayor Barr and Alderman Absher echoed the comments of Alderwoman Shelton about the festival. Alderman Absher inquired about burning regulation within the town. Alderman Miller praised the police for a job well done. Alderman Blanco commended the fire department for fighting 3 back to back fires.

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

_____ _____

Rusty Barr, Mayor Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk