**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Alderman**
**Meeting Minutes**
**September 8, 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 (absent).

**Town Staff Present:** Town Manager Brantley Price, 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. Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance after the invocation was given.

**Approval of the September 8, 2026 Agenda** – Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

## Public Hearings

**Consideration of Annexation of Paddy Mountain Property** – Mayor Barr stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments on the annexation of 489 Ridge Avenue. The public hearing opened at 6:10pm. With no comment, the public hearing closed at 6:10pm.

## Regular Session

**Public Comments** – none

**Approval of the August 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes** – With no discussion, Alderman Blanco made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2026 regular meeting. Alderman Absher seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Presentation of Town Park Transformation Project** – Derek Goddard with BREC presented the park transformation plan to the board. Additions included an amphitheater, additional shelter with restrooms, extra parking, paved area for food truck, pickle ball courts, community garden, dog park, splash pad, year-round sledding run, and inclusive playground equipment. The Board thanked Derek for his plan.

**ABC Report –** Justin Jones presented the quarterly ABC report to the board. The cost of goods sold has decreased by reducing inventory, allowing gross profit to increase. The Board thanked Justin for his report.

**Consideration of Resolution in Support of Improvements on US Highway 221 Business** – North Carolina DOT has notified the town of their plan to correct the drainage issue on US Highway 221 Business and have asked for a resolution in support to assist with securing the funding for the project. Alderman Miller made the motion to approve the resolution. Alderman Blanco seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Pre-Regulatory Landfill Property Access request** – A letter was received from NCDEQ regarding the property on Wade Bare Road that was previously a landfill. NCDEQ is requesting permission to access the property to conduct testing to assess potential risks and recommend remediation. The letter was shared with the board. Alderman Blanco made the motion to give NCDEQ access to the property. Alderman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Consideration of Annexation for Paddy Mountain** – With no discussion, Alderman Absher made the motion to approve the annexation of Paddy Mountain. Alderman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

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

**Tax Releases** – With no discussion, Alderman Absher made the motion to approve the tax releases as presented. Alderman Miller seconded the motion with a vote of 4-0 in favor.

**Police Report** – Chief Jordan gave his report to the Board for the month. A total of 211 calls were dispatched through the communications center including 16 motor vehicle crashes, 2 larcenies, 5 drug cases, 3 DWI, 21 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 to be over 7.5 inches. The town has been pumping 20,000 to 30,000 gallons per day more than what should be pumped. Greenfield Campground used almost 200,000 gallons in a 13 day period so there are multiple leaks on the property that the department is attempting to locate. The filter plant averaged between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons per day. The board thanked Brandon for his report.

**Fire Report** – Fire Chief Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. A total of 66 calls were recorded for the month. The 9S inspection was completed with results expected in 6 months. Alderman Absher shared his approval of the fire department using the ATV throughout the community. The board thanked Chief Miller for his report.

**Maintenance Report** – Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller gave his report to the Board. Monthly totals were reported several locate tickets, 4 water leaks, and 1 water tap. The department repaired 4 water leaks on our side, lowered the sewer connection at the new Taco

Bell, resolved an issue with neighbors of the new development on North Jefferson Avenue, and completed general maintenance. Eric will have a guardrail quoted for High Drive. The stormwater project at the park and maintenance lot is complete. 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 then will move to the repairs to the culverts at Mike's Mufflers. The detention pond at the park is complete while the underground detention system at the maintenance shop is almost complete. The stormwater project on Backstreet and Long Street should begin in October. Taxes collected to date total 71% of the 2026 tax levy with 2025 at a 98% collection rate. Sales tax decreased by 0.3% over last June with year to date up 2% over prior year. Per the new state budget, the town will lose an estimated $6,800 of the sales tax distribution to fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program SNAP). Paddy Mountain trail had 775 visitors for the month. Certified population data has been distributed with West Jefferson at 1,422 which is a 4.2% increase over 2024 and an 8.1% increase since 2020. A log of the fire calls were provided to the board per their request. Manager Price informed the board that the incentive agreement for GE is not due until 2028 so that a budgeted amount of $100,000 of fund balance will not be required. The application for the BUILD grant to connect Paddy Mountain and Mount Jefferson has been put on hold since Jefferson's board is no longer in agreement to downsize the 4 lane road to a 3 lane road. The town budgeted $7,600 for this project but was only billed $600. The Antique Fair will be held on September 18 and 19. Stomp and Brew has requested to close 2 parking spots in front of the Grape and Grain for an event that benefits Shoes for Kids on October 11 from 5-7pm. The Board thanked Brantley for his report.

**Aldermen Comments** – The board thanked those in attendance.

**Adjournment** – With nothing further, Alderman Miller made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Blanco. A vote of 4-0 in favor.

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Beth Shelton, Mayor ProTem Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk