

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Session Board Meeting
December 15, 2025
5:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Mayor Michaels Speight. Members in attendance were Mayor Speight, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Commissioner Patrick Bridgers, Commissioner-elect Peggy Walker, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Public Works Director Chevy Taylor, and Attorney Michael Franchi. Guests in attendance were Ben Farmer (UCP COG), Deborah Lewis, Charles Lewis, Daniel Cochrun and Robert Cochrun.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles offered the invocation, and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from November 10th regular session and public hearing. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles took the oath of office with her family present. Mayor Speight took the oath of office.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to appoint Commissioner Wooten-Jiles Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about the draft zoning ordinance. It was agreed to have a separate meeting about the zoning ordinance to discuss.

There were no citizen concerns at this time.

Mrs. Etheridge reported that the newly elected commissioners will need to attend the class in February. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that she may want to attend the class.

Mrs. Etheridge went over the balance sheet included in the commissioner's packet. There were no questions from the board.

Mr. Taylor began speaking about the services in town. The debris collection is caught up. The plant has been an uphill battle with several pump issues. Pearson Pump is suggesting to clean out the influent station. Mr. Taylor has gotten a price on a used pump from the company that we are renting a pump from to try to save the town some money. Mayor Speight asked Chevy to get more prices on pumps. The pump that was rented failed over the weekend causing the lines to freeze up. Mr. Taylor is getting prices to have a company come out and vacuum out the influent station so Pearson Pump can clean all the lines.

Mayor Speight asked Mr. Taylor to check the light poles through town as there are several that need to be changed out. Mr. Taylor stated that he has asked Town Administrator about grant opportunities to help with replacing the poles. He also stated that there was a transformer that has no power to it due to the lightening arrestor being blown apart.

Mayor Speight asked if there were any more quotes for the Cale Town project. Mr. Taylor stated that there is a couple that he is waiting to hear from. There is approximately 540 feet of line that will need to be installed. Mayor Speight asked if either of the other guys were interested in getting their certifications. It was asked if it could be a requirement for the position to acquire the certifications.

All the board commended Mr. Taylor on his hard work. Mr. Taylor mentioned asking Austin Wooten about coming back since he has his water certifications. It was stated that the town could not afford what Mr. Wooten would require for his salary. Mr. Taylor stated that the guys got the lights installed outside the town hall.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles mentioned that there needs to be an ice machine at the community building. It was stated that there were several extra inspections that would be needed if we had one installed. She asked if it was possible to get quotes on the machine, installation, and upkeep on one. She stated that the blind in the ladies' bathroom at the community building needed to be replaced. Mr. Taylor asked if the board wanted to replace all the blinds to make them match. The board agreed to replace the blinds in the bathrooms for now.

Commissioner Braxton asked about the holes in the roads that have not been filled yet. Mr. Taylor will get a list of the remaining holes.

The board recognized Mr. Ben Farmer to speak about the CDBG-NR grant. He stated that the board needed to adopt resolutions to approve the minutes from November 11, 2023, and November 13, 2023. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adopt the resolution to approve the November 11, 2023, and November 23, 2023, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried. It was stated that all minutes need to be signed by the mayor and sealed by the clerk.

The roofing quotes for the Town Hall was being discussed. Pro Construction will remove the old roof material, Roofing Solutions will not remove the old material. It was discussed to acquire another quote to compare evenly. It was mentioned that the quotes received were not comparing "apples to apples". Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to table the item and acquire another quote. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mr. Albert Joyner had previously asked the town about a location for his sign. Mrs. Etheridge reported that Mr. Joyner has come to an agreement with Mr. Liebech and he will be installing his sign on one of Mr. Liebech's properties.

The interior cameras were brought up and Mrs. Etheridge discussed the two quotes received. It was asked where 8 cameras would be put. It was mentioned that four cameras would probably be enough. Commissioner Bridgers mentioned someone in Tarboro that does cameras. It was asked what the monthly fees would be. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to table until the January meeting. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried. Mr. Taylor mentioned that there may need to be one installed in the meeting room for safety purposes.

Commissioner-elect Peggy Walker arrived and took the oath of office. Commissioner Lewis stepped down and Commissioner Walker took her place at the table.

The board began discussing the new business items. First to be discussed was the connection fee for new electric service. Mr. Taylor has talked with Tarboro and he is waiting to hear back from them. The town commercial deposits are \$1800 for water and electricity. Mayor Speight asked if the board could vote to lower the commercial deposit amount. Mrs. Etheridge explained that the commercial bills are higher than residential accounts. She recommended that the board decide on a case-to-case basis. The attorney suggested an across-the-board amount for commercial accounts. It was agreed to table the matter until some other towns are contacted to see what they charge.

Commissioner Braxton began discussing her concerns. She spoke with Mr. Taylor regarding the heater at the shop. She also asked about the gazebo repairs. Mayor Speight has received two quotes to repair it and wants to get another. The two quotes ranged from \$6800 to \$7000.

Commissioner Braxton asked about the audits and Mrs. Etheridge reported that RH called last week requesting some more information – The town administrator sent the requested information to RH.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles wanted to speak on the Christmas Tree Lighting and make sure that thank you letters were sent to Eagles Baptist and Webbs Chapel. She also asked about one of Mr. Weaver's rentals – There are possibly some illegal activities going on – there are cars coming in and out at 2:00 and 3:00 am. Mayor Speight will contact Mr. Weaver about this. Attorney Michael Franchi asked if there was any code enforcement. Possibly send an enforcement letter. Mayor Speight stated that his concerns are regarding the light poles – coming into town and by Mr. Ronnie Lewis' home. Mr. Taylor stated that some of the poles in town are jointly owned with Bright Speed and Spectrum. He stated that he will try to contact them.

Mayor Speight asked if there was a decision regarding the cleaning of the building.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.