

Town of Macclesfield
September 8, 2025
Board Meeting

Mayor Speight called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Speight, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter, Public Works employee Chevy Taylor, and Town Attorney Gabriel DuSablou. Special guests in attendance were Engineer Rich Moore (McDavid Associates), Joe Dooley (UCP COG), and citizen Deborah Jenkins.

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 Wooten-Jiles asked that the minutes be amended to report that the Administrative Reports be moved to after the citizen concerns to alleviate any extra questions. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed session meetings of June and July and the August regular session meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion to approve the minutes, with the amendment; and with none opposed the motion carried.

Rich Moore, McDavid Associates, was recognized to address the board. He reminded the board of the first bids received for the WWTP project with TA Loving having the low bid of \$13M – far beyond the project budget. The bid was re-advertised. Eberhart Construction was won the bid with \$10.2M. He explained that the issues were currently having only one clarifier and having to enter confined space to work on the pumps with a few other needs as well. Do not demolish the building or touch the tertiary or add the secondary oxidation ditch. They will rebuild the bar screen, add a second clarifier and grit chamber, and possibly replace the chlorination equipment and generator if money is left. The first thing will be the second clarifier Eberhart Construction is willing to work with the town and get the most out of the grant money. Construction should begin around the end of this year. When asked the cost of a generator, it will be approximately \$85,000. There are two resolutions for the board to approve and adopt – a tentative award of construction and a capital project budget ordinance. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the resolution for tentative award of construction to Eberhart Construction for the negotiated amount of \$4M. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion; and with none opposed the motion carried. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adopt the capital project budget ordinance. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion; and with none opposed the motion carried.

Joe Dooley, UCP COG, stated that last month Ms. Eva Allen, DEQ, visited and stated that the policies were incomplete. Helen Stanford has worked with Town Administrator, Jennifer Stanley, to correct the policies. The board needs to approve them.

Town Hall repairs – the roofing issue has two quotes submitted – one from Pro Construction and the other from Roofing Solutions. After discussion it was decided to get a clearer quote from Pro Construction. Mayor Speight will contact and get an updated quote. Attorney DuSablon reminded the board that anything over \$30,000 is subject to the Public Bidding Law.

Concerning the grapple truck – Mayor Speight's neighbor, John Underwood, is still working on finding the parts needed.

There have been no updates on the audits.

It was discussed that there was a need for cameras in the town hall for safety and for video evidence if needed. There was a customer claiming that the town staff took money from one of the payment envelopes. This customer typically puts the check just through the after-hours payment slot in the door. When the envelope was opened there was only one check enclosed. Town staff tried to contact the customer when the envelope was opened. It was explained that the staff cannot cash a check written to the town. It was suggested that there be cameras pointed at the door and at the counter for video evidence. The customer never responded after being told to check with their bank to see if the alleged check had cleared their bank. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked if anyone checked on the fake cameras to help deter speeders. It was agreed to check with Will Burge on the cameras for the town hall. It was mentioned again that the commissioner emails through the town do not work.

Discussion began on the proclamation to declare November 20, 2025, as World Pancreatic Cancer Day. It was discussed to have a table with information available, maybe a banner or brochure as well. We can check with cancer society for any available information and advertising. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion; and with none opposed the motion carried.

Discussion began on the accounts of any deceased citizens with outstanding bills and no estate to pay the bill. After discussion, it was decided to write it off as bad debt.

Fall festival was discussed regarding the entertainment. It was asked if Bobby Horne might come play some music like last year. Commissioner Braxton asked if the town needs to continue doing the Fall Festival. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles will get pricing from Mr. Horne. Mrs. Etheridge stated that Bobby Steinbeck, with Tanner Oakley band, called wanting to play – It would be \$800 for three hours. The fall festival banners are going up this week. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked for Barbara Williams to be sent a vendor form.

The technical service agreement for the AIM program was discussed. It is sponsored by the League of Municipalities to provide financial training and assistance to the staff free of charge. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to approve the technical service agreement for the AIM program. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion; and with none opposed the motion carried.

Discussion began on South Moore Street – the town street between Mayor Speight and Mrs. Sharon Poling's home. The mayor has gotten quotes for rocking the street or paving it. The slope of S Moore Street causes the water to drain into Mrs. Poling's garage. It was asked if there needed to be a storm drain as well. The best thing to do is to pave it but the town needs to consider installing a storm drain as well to alleviate any other drainage issues. There were quotes from Jefferey's as well as WW Landscaping and Pro Clean. The money will come out of Powell Bill monies that the town receives from the state. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to go with Pro Clean for \$9100 to pave S Moore Street. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion; and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Speight, Commissioners Lewis and Braxton went to the community building to look at what needs to be done to it. It needs paint, doors replaced, siding repairs, glue coming up through the flooring, the building needs to be pressure-washed, and the soap and toilet paper dispensers need to have keys ordered. Mayor Speight has received a quote from MDE for the repairs listed. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the quote from MDE for \$5800. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion; and with none opposed the motion carried. There needs to be coordination with the rentals to complete the work.

Commissioner Lewis has recommended that the town host the Trunk or Treat again. It was mentioned that it could be put on the bills to advertise. None of the local churches have anything. There would be volunteers needed to set up to give out candy to the children. It was agreed that it would be held on Friday, October 31st from 5-7 pm.

Mrs. Etheridge gave the finance report. Interest earned for the past month was \$2,666.11, expenditures totaled \$87,555.20 and revenues totaled \$124,263.82. The board packet also included the current budget to actual.

Chevy Taylor reported that they had met with Wilson Energy regarding the power to Cale Town. Wilson Energy will not complete the work. The town will need to hire a contractor to complete the work. Transformers will have to be moved, and transformers will need to be set. Cale Town water has a 2-inch dead-end main and will likely cause issues when more homes are added. There will need to be another 2-inch main added to supply the houses in the middle of the circle. This work will need to be contracted out. The electric policy presented is in regard to commercial and residential electric service. Attorney DuSablou will examine the policy and make any needed changes before approval by the board. The town debris amounts have quadrupled and with the fall approaching the yard debris will likely double – please be patient as the guys work diligently to keep up. There was a water main issue last week at Cale Town – it has been repaired and service restored. There is another issue at the plant – Gear box #2 is broken down and will require all hands to repair. Public Works should have a gear box on hand to repair. It was asked if there are any funds available to assist with grass cutting. Mrs. Etheridge will look at the budget. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked if the town could contract with Marty Hobgood again. This will be added to the agenda for the October meeting. Mr. Lassiter reported that the spray fields have been removed, the inlet pipe has been capped and filled with concrete. According to the inspector, the transformer at the plant will need to be removed. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about the CDBG Grant and the minutes that cannot be found. It was mentioned that Tyra and Terrance should have had those minutes in their files.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles thanked the town for filling the pothole near her home. There is a no parking sign that needs to be replaced in that same area. She has also noticed that the grass has been cut at Jack Coley's.

Attorney DuSablou informed the board that they need to discuss former Commissioner Taylor's resignation in open session. It was told to Mayor Speight that the board needs to advertise the open seat in the newspaper or on the website. Attorney DuSablou confirmed that the board can nominate and appoint someone to fill the vacant seat. ~~There is a gentleman that Mayor Speight mentioned,~~ Mr. Patrick Bridgers, Mrs. Elizabeth Long and Mrs. Deborah Jenkins are interested in the vacant commissioner seat.. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles mentioned that there needs to be resumes submitted from the candidates. The vacant seat will be tabled until next month. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept Jason Taylor's resignation. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion; and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Speight mentioned that the hiring decision to fill the Public Works Director position has been tabled until Thursday, September 11, 2025, so there is no need for a closed session at this time.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, October 13, 2025.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

It was asked of Attorney DuSablou if there was anything that needed to be done regarding pausing the CDAB committee with there not being a chair or secretary anymore. It can be paused and resumed later on.

Mr. Lassiter asked what will be done concerning the ORC of the WWTP once he leaves and stated that should Chevy have any questions about the plant after he is gone, he will need to contact whoever is appointed the ORC. He also stated that he needs to report to the state that he will no longer be the ORC upon his departure. Mayor Speight informed him that Mrs. Stanley is taking care of the ORC paperwork.