



**TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306  
January 21, 2025

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Gilead Fire Department, 106 East Allenton St, Mt Gilead, NC 27306, for the regular monthly business meeting. Present Mayor Sheldon P. Morley, Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley, Commissioner Mary Lucas, Commissioner Vera Richardson, Interim Town Manager Michael Ferris, Police Chief Talmadge LeGrand, Public Works Director James Wahoo McCormick, and Town Clerk Lessie D. Jackson. Conference called in Commissioner Paula Covington,

**ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER** **(Mayor Morley)**  
*Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**ITEM II. CONSENT AGENDA** **(Action)**  
A. Adoption of the Agenda  
B. Adoption of December  
C. Staff Reports  
D. Mohawk Industrial Permit  
❖ Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adopt the consent agenda amendment to add the swearing in of Michael W. Sward, and a presentation of a certificate for Austen B. Morton. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
Reading of the Rules for Public Comment **(Town Manager Michael Ferris)**  
❖ Patricia Laracuate-305 Stanback St.-Mrs. Laracuate came before the Board to speak on the violence in our community, and gang issues. Mrs. Laracuate just had a lot to say about issue that she see within the town.

**ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Proposed Social District Public Hearing** **(Public Hearing)**  
➤ *Commission Richardson made the motion to open up the floor for a hearing on the proposed social district. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

- ♥ Sue Haithcock-100 Highland Ave.-Came before the Board to stress her concerns about having a social district.
- ♥ Alane W. Brown-201 S. Wadesboro Blvd.-Came before the Board to give reasons why she is for the social district.
- ♥ Patricia Laracuate-305 Stanback St.-Came before the Board to give reasons why she believe we do not need a social district.
- ♥ Aaron Byrd-303 E. Allenton St.-Spoke to the Board as to why he is in favor of having a social district.
- ♥ Mary Poplin-201 S. Main St. - Spoke in favor of the social district.
- ♥ Rebecca Neubauer-110 N. Main St.-Spoke in favor of the social district.
- ♥ Michelle Haywood-409 Stanback St.-Spoke against social district.
- ♥ Darcia Alt-108 W. Allenton St.-Spoke in favor of the social district.
- ♥ Jack Jordan-117 E. Allenton St.-Spoke in favor of the social district.
- ♥ Brittney-104 N. Main St.-Spoke in favor of the social district.
- ♥ \*\*\*Commissioner Richardson made a motion to close the public hearing and go back into the regular meeting. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**B. Proposed Social District** **(Action)**  
*\*The floor was open for the Board to have discussing. Each Board member gave their opinion on how they feel the social district would improve the foot traffic in downtown, and one commissioner gave the opinion of the citizens.*

- \*\*\*Mayor Pro Tem McAuley made a motion to approve the proposed social district ordinance. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried, 3-Yes and 1-No.

**ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation from Auditor**

*Denael Bennett of J.B. Watson & Company review the audit findings with the Board. The Board had no questions for Mrs. Bennett.*

- \*\*\*Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve the audit report. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. The Motion Carried.

**B. Offer to Purchase Property**

**(Action)**

Interim Town Manager informed the Board of an offer made to purchase property from the town from Mr. Aaron Byrd. Mr. Byrd is offer to purchase the parcel, which is currently undeveloped and served with no sewer, but would require a sewer extension to serve the lot. He is offering the town \$2,000 for the lot. The location map is from the county GIS system and indicates an assigned tax value of \$8,640. After discussion with the Board, Commissioner Richardson made a motion to table the discussion until the Board Retreat. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**C. Discussion of Water Leak at Fire Station**

Interim Town Manager Michael Ferris informed the Board of a water leak in the Fire Department service line that needs immediate attention. Mr. Ferris went over the two options with the Board. After in depth discussion with the Board about the project and the cost. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley made a motion to go with option #2 for the water line replacement. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**D. Mt. Gilead Fire Department Annual Award Dinner**

\*\*\*Saturday January 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Tillery Traditions Club House-214 Tradition Dr.

**ITEM VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Community Garden**

Mary Poplin came before the Board to give an update on what is going on new at the community garden.

**ITEM VII. MANAGER REPORT**

Interim Manager Michael Ferris thank the Board for giving him the opportunity to for the town an he updated the Board on the different projects employees of the town is working on.

**ITEM VII. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

\*Mayor Poplin gave his report on continued work with the Montgomery County Partnership for Children. He has also joined a group call the C.O.R.E Program, ways to get tourism into Mt. Gilead. At the end he commit on some of the discussion from tonight meeting.

\*Commissioner Covington request the dates for the retreat as soon as possible.

\*Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

\*Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to come out of closed session and go back into regular session. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

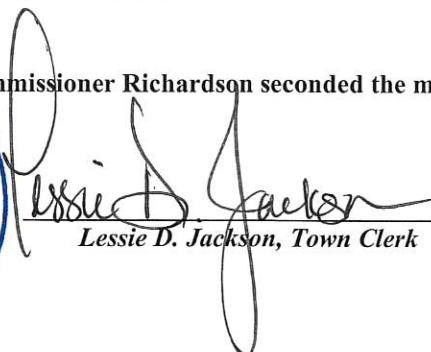
**ITEM IX. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to NC GS 143-33c to discuss Personnel**

**ITEM X. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

  
Sheldon Poplin, Mayor



  
Lessie D. Jackson, Town Clerk