

November 18, 2025

The Mooresville Town Council met in regular session on November 18, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Mooresville Government Center.

Council members present were Tom Warthen, Greg Swinney, Jeff Cook, Josh Brown, and Kirk Witt. Attorney Chou-il Lee was also present.

Tom Warthen gave the invocation and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2025 – Councilman Brown motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Councilman Witt. Motion carried 5-0.

Unfinished Business- There were none.

Councilman Warthen opened the meeting with a discussion regarding the ongoing issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He outlined the abnormal chemical levels entering the system and the coordinated efforts with industry experts and IDEM to identify the source of the problem and restore proper operations. He reiterated the Town's commitment to restoring stable operations and protecting the community's wastewater infrastructure.

Councilman Warthen requested that the Council authorize Taft Law to amend the 1989 sewer use ordinance. He noted that the current rate structure for industrial discharge requires updating. It was recommended that a committee be formed consisting of industry experts working on the project and two assigned council members. It was suggested that Tom Warethen be designated as the signatory for purchase approval to ensure the process does not become held up waiting for a council meeting.

Councilman Brown motioned to authorize Taft Law to begin drafting the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Witt. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Swinney motioned to authorize Council President Tom Warthen as a signatory, seconded by Councilman Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Swinney motioned to appoint Councilmen Cook and Warthen to serve on the committee, seconded by Councilman Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments- An unidentified individual expressed her frustration regarding the sewer treatment plant.

Unfinished Business- There were none.

New Business - John Larrison with Holloway Engineering came before the council to discuss the 121 Merriman Road annexation request and sewer connection. It was mentioned that the address would carry an address of 107 Merriman Road in a separate parcel for the proposed house. Council members determined that annexation should include the entire property, rather than only the subdivided lot. Holloway will go back to the property owner with the proposal.

Misty Eyer discussed the street closure permit for the December 6th Victorian Christmas. The Town will provide two trucks for the event, and the applicant has arranged dumpsters and trash cans. Mooresville Towing will provide two towing trucks to assist with blocking streets. On behalf of the organizers, they are requesting a donation of \$2,500 from the Town to support this event. The exact amount of the contribution will be determined later.

Councilman Brown motioned to approve the street closure permit for December 6, 2025, seconded by Kirk Witt. Motion carried 5-0.

Keylee Wright, Executive Director of the Kendrick Foundation and Lead of the Morgan County Mental Health Task Force, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak again. She introduced Allie Merritt, the Kendrick Foundation Project Coordinator, who supports the Mental Health Task Force and manages the local opioid settlement fund grants. She noted that a presentation was prepared and available for reference, but invited the Council to ask any questions, as much of the information had been shared in previous conversations.

The Morgan County Mental Health Task Force, a coalition of 50-plus community organizations, is helping the county distribute local opioid settlement funds through a competitive process. In January 2025, \$600,000 was awarded to 11 programs, several of which serve Mooresville.

The Kendrick Foundation is asking Mooresville to appoint a council member to the Work Group that reviews proposals (no financial commitment required). Optionally contribute a portion of Mooresville's own settlement funds into the joint county process.

Councilman Brown motioned to approve Councilman Witt to serve on the Work Group, seconded by Councilman Swinney. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Brown motioned to approve \$15,000 for 2026 and \$15,000 for 2027 with a total contribution of \$30,000, seconded by Councilman Witt. Motion carried 5-0.

The Redevelopment Commission 2026 Annual Spending Plan Report is required by state law. It outlines what the RDC is permitted and obligated to spend funds on. Councilman Warthen stated the only action needed is to acknowledge that the council members received the report.

The Parks Department presented a request to advertise for additional appropriation of \$50,000 from the General Operating Fund reserves. The shortfall in the general operations budget was due to higher- than -expected expenses.

Councilman Brown motioned to approve the additional appropriation request, seconded by Councilman Swinney. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 25-2025 was presented, listing the six Ford Explorers along with their VIN, year, make, mileage, and approximate values. Adoption of this resolution is required to formally declare the vehicles as surplus and authorize their disposal.

Councilman Brown motioned to approve Resolution 25, 2025, seconded by Councilman Swinney. Motion carried 5-0.

The council members were notified before the last meeting of an upcoming vacancy on the three-member Police Commission. The vacancy is for the Republican-appointed seat, which would have expired at the end of the year. The council agreed to extend the application process to the last meeting of December to allow the position to be filled for a full term starting in January 2026. Several applications have been received; however, no interviews or discussions with applicants have occurred at this time.

Department Head Reports- Chief Pascal Arnes stated Jordan Carpenter is returning to the shift as of tomorrow and wanted to publicly thank him for his assistance during a challenging time. The ISO rating review date has been moved to February 17, 2026, and updates will be provided as they become available. The Assistant Fire Chief position will be opened soon, with postings for resumes and cover letters. Council was asked to approve the surplus of the department's old ladder and engine. Neither vehicle is in running order.

Councilman Cook motioned for legal counsel to draft a surplus ordinance, seconded by Councilman Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

Assistant Police Chief Forbes provided the department report. The department is moving forward with hiring two individuals. Four 2026 Fords have been ordered at \$48-52K each, about \$5K cheaper than Chevy's this year.

Phil Cornelius, Park Superintendent, updated the council on the restroom HVAC project and the deconstruction of the barn. The tree lighting will take place at the conclusion of Victorian Christmas festivities, beginning at 4 PM, with the tree lighting at 6 PM.

Brian Moore, Street Superintendent, reminded everyone that December 5th is the final day for leaf pick up. He also reported that the crew is preparing the trucks for winter. Additionally, Brian Moore was asked to increase the pace of routine sewer line maintenance.

Legal Counsel – There were none.

Public Comments- Melissa Stanley expressed concern about the upcoming Main in Motion project, specifically regarding road closures that may impact access to her business. She stated that she and other business owners have not received clear information about how and when access will be restricted.

Councilman Warthen stated that Chelsie Manns would call her directly to provide clarity regarding the project and its impact on local businesses.

Approval of Claims- A motion to approve the payment of claims for \$597,0322.27 was made by Councilman Swinney, seconded by Councilman Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Payroll Clearing- A motion to approve the payment of payroll clearing for \$224,993.87 was made by Councilman Swinney, seconded by Councilman Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

The next meeting of the Mooresville Town Council will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Mooresville Government Center.

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Brown with a second from Councilman Witt. Motion carried 5-0.



Tom Warthen, Council President



Dianna Wamsley, Clerk-Treasurer