

Minutes of Meeting

April 20, 2026

6:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Old Fort Board of Aldermen was held in the Board Room located in Town Hall on April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Governing Board Members present: Mayor Protem Iretha Hancock, Alderman James Grindstaff, Aldermen Wayne Stafford, Alderman Melvin Lytle and Alderman Erin Adams.

Visitors: See attached sign in sheet

Meeting was opened by: Mayor Protem Iretha Hancock

Prayer: Opening prayer was led by Alderman Wayne Stafford

Pledge of Allegiance: Alderman James Grindstaff led the pledge of allegiance

Approve the Minutes:

Alderman Melvin Lytle made the motion to approve the prior month's minutes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wayne Stafford and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Public Comments:

Nathan Smith with Seeker Coffee was inquiring why he did not receive an email notification about the water disruption that will occur tomorrow evening, April 21st beginning at 8:00 p.m. Renee' Taylor explained to him that the property owners of the businesses being affected are the ones who receive the email notifications, and if the property owners do not mind to add the tenants email addresses, the owners just need to come by Town Hall and let Gail know it is alright to add the tenants email addresses for future emails.

Mason Black with the Old Fort Library will be having a reading program this summer for kids and adults. Dinosaur books will be the theme for the kids this summer. Friends of the Library are back as a community group, meeting on a regular basis.

J.W. Kelley, President at MTCC, gave a presentation of an overview of the college programs and students. He has already given this presentation to the City of Marion council and the McDowell County Board of Commissioners. His goal is to give an updated presentation annually to keep everyone on board of what MTCC has to offer. Handouts were provided to board members (attached).

Gene Sandlin and Ian Quate, owners of the property located at 203 Catawba Avenue, addressed the Board with their proposed drawing (attached) of how they are wanting the

parking for their patrons once they have developed their property. Mr. Sandlin gave a brief overview of their plans but wants to wait until a more definitive design is done before presenting to the Board.

Cathy Moore gave updates on the 250 Committee and Waiting on the Train. This past Saturday was a successful event welcoming back Norfolk Southern's first train since Helene.

On May 7th at 6:00 p.m., there will be a speaker, John Lewis, at the Old Fort Depot to give a talk on his book written about Colonel Adams. The books will be at a cost of \$10 each, and Mr. Lewis will be doing book signing.

Aldermen reports:

Alderman Erin Adams	-	None
Alderman James Grindstaff	-	None
Alderman Iretha Hancock	-	None
Alderman Melvin Lytle	-	None
Alderman Wayne Stafford	-	None

Staff Reports:

Town Administrator – Renee' Taylor

Alderman Wayne Stafford made the motion to approve the budget amendments (attached). The motion was seconded by Alderman Melvin Lytle and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Melvin Lytle made the motion to adopt the Resolution to Approve Disaster Recovery Memorandum of Agreement With North Carolina League of Municipalities. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wayne Stafford and approved 5 - 0 vote.

Police Report:

None.

Old Business:

Ann George gave a handout with the details from the Beautification Committee's April 14th meeting at Town Hall. She said so far the committee has about 15 volunteers willing to help serve.

New Business:

Alderman Wayne Stafford wanted the Town to be aware of some streets which need patching or repaving due to large pot holes. He mentioned John F. Bynum Road, North

Cemetery Street and Maple St extension. Renee' Taylor told Alderman Stafford that all of these locations are already on the list to be fixed.

Alderman Wayne Stafford made the motion to go into closed session as permitted by NCGS 143-318.11 (4). The motion was seconded by Alderman James Grindstaff and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Wayne Stafford made the motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Erin Adams and approved 5 – 0 vote.

At 7:45 p.m., Alderman Wayne Stafford made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Melvin Lytle and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Mayor, Town of Old Fort

Attest:

Renee 'Taylor, Town Administrator