

Minutes of Meeting
August 17, 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 August 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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 Wayne Stafford made the motion to approve the prior month's minutes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Melvin Lytle and approved 4 – 0 vote.

Casey Dolan with Withers & Ravenal gave a presentation on the Asset Inventory Assessment (AIA) & Asset Management Plan (AMP) for the Town's water and sewer system. Their firm has been gathering information and data for the past 1 ½ years. The plans are available anytime at Town Hall. The plans also include a 10- year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as well as a rate study. Alderman James Grindstaff made the motion to accept the plans and rate study presented by Withers & Ravenal and adopt the Resolution By Governing Body of Recipient Closeout of Old Fort Water AIA-D-ARP 0270 & AIA-D-0271 And Closeout of Old Fort Sewer AIA-W-ARP-0252. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wayne Stafford and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Public Comments:

Linda Lyndsey with the historic foundation for the Overmountain Victory Historical State Trail invited the public and Town board to an event at the McDowell House on September 27th.

Bryant Lyndsey is requesting that the Board preserve the house at Davidson Fort when making a decision on the future plans for the property.

Dr. J.W. Kelly, President of MTCC, wanted to be sure the Town Board is aware the college is having some employee changes at the Old Fort Campus. He also shared that some of the eating establishments in Town give a 10% discount to the college students.

Mason Black with the Old Fort Library stated the summer reading program went very well with about 2,200 hours logged for reading time. The library is preparing for school to start back.

Ann George with the Old Fort Beautification Committee reminded everyone of their meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. A work day for weeding, etc is planned for this coming Saturday, August 22nd, with college students from Warren Wilson College.

Cathy Moore said the 250 Committee is winding down since July's events. There wasn't much to report on Waiting on The train.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The September meeting date needs to be changed from the 21st to the 14th. Mayor Protem Iretha Hancock asked Mike Conley to be sure to publish this in his article for tonight's meeting and for Alderman Erin Adams to post it on the Town's website.

Alderman Wayne Stafford made the motion to adopt the Resolution of Intent to Consider Amending the Town's Charter regarding House Bill #1035 and that a public hearing be held at the Town's September 14th meeting at 6:00 p.m. before the Ordinance can be adopted to amend the Town's Charter. The motion was seconded by Alderman James Grindstaff and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman James Grindstaff made the motion to adopt a Resolution Authorizing The Town of Old Fort Administrator To Sign And Submit the Renew NC CDBG-DR Pre-Screening and Full Applications For Hurricane Helene Recovery. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wayne Stafford and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Wayne Stafford made the motion to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between Foothills Regional Commission and the Town of Old Fort. The motion was seconded by Alderman James Grindstaff and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman James Grindstaff made the motion to adopt the Resolution to accept the Funding Offer for the Lead and Copper Service Inventory. The motion was seconded by Alderman Erin Adams and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Erin Adams made the motion to approve the Engineering Services Agreement Between Town of Old Fort and Harvin Engineering, PLCC for Scope of Service to Lead and Copper Service Inventory. The motion was seconded by Alderman James Grindstaff and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Iretha Hancock made the motion to approve the Amendment to Owner-Engineer-Agreement, Modifications with Municipal Engineering effective August 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Alderman James Grindstaff and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Erin Adams made the motion to go into closed session as outlined 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 James Grindstaff and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Melvin Lytle made the motion to go ahead with Chonzie's bid for the sewer repair (Retap) at Fire Dex. The motion was seconded by Alderman Iretha Hancock and approved 5 – 0 vote.

At 9:15 p.m. Alderman Iretha Hancock made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman James Grindstaff and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Mayor Protem, Town of Old Fort

Attest:

Renee 'Taylor, Town Administrator