

Minutes of Meeting
September 14, 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 September 14, 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 Erin Adams 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:

Terry Valentino with McDowell Tech inquired if the Town would like to have a Christmas market at the College building on December 5th which is also the same day as the Town's Christmas parade. The lineup for the parade is at 4:00 p.m. and begins at 5:00 p.m. All board members were in favor of the Christmas market.

Mason Black with the Old Fort Library brought some handouts of the activities going on at the library (attached).

Robert Spasobski requested the name of a contact with DOT so that the businesses can put up a banner that will let the public know that businesses in town are open during the closure of Catawba Avenue while the streetscape is in its completion.

Ann George with the Old Fort Beautification Committee gave an update of all the tasks that have been going on throughout the Town. Mayor Protem Iretha Hancock recognized the Old Fort sign coming into town off exit 73 has been refurbished and painted by members of the committee, and it looks like a new sign. The next task the committee has planned is to take out the flowers in the clay pots around town and replace them with winter flowers. The committee is currently doing a fundraiser to get sponsorship for the flowers to keep down costs.

Cathy Moore gave an update on Waiting on the Train. The video of the trains coming back to Old Fort has won 2 awards (handout attached).

Old Business: None

New Business:

Case Neal with Destination by Design was present to answer any questions on the streetscape project as it is nearing completion. Michael McGeary with Euda Wine requested more signage for Commerce St. He also inquired if there could be a possibility to keep the traffic arm signals on Commerce St after Catawba Avenue is back open.

Catawba Avenue in front of Town Hall was closed this morning and will remain closed until the construction on the streetscape is done around the 1st week of October, weather permitting and dependent upon soil testing results. Business owners have asked to be kept informed on any changes.

Alderman Erin Adams made the motion to open the Public Hearing for the intent to change the Town's Charter for our municipal elections. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wayne Stafford and approved 5 – 0 vote. The Town's elections have always been held on odd numbered years, but in the February meeting of this year, the Board voted to accept the State Board of Election's recommendation and hold our elections on even numbered years, same as the primary elections. Alderman Erin Adams made the motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wayne Stafford and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Monica Murray with the NCSECU presented a design the Credit Union is willing to fund to upgrade the frontage of their building. This includes a designated handicap parking space, repairing the sidewalk and new railing to the entrance of the building. (design attached). They will be back in touch with the Town to see what the Board's feelings are on their proposal.

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 Erin Adams and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Alderman Iretha Hancock made the motion to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Melvin Lytle and approved 5 - 0 vote.

Alderman Iretha Hancock made the motion to refund Jerry Lewis the amount he paid for the water and sewer fees for his new kitchen business behind his residence due to issues of not being able to locate the main water line. The motion was seconded by Alderman Erin Adams and approved 5 – 0 vote.

At 8:45 p.m., Alderman Melvin Lytle made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Iretha Hancock and approved 5 – 0 vote.

Mayor Protem, Town of Old Fort

Attest:

Renee 'Taylor, Town Administrator