

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
WORK SESSION
March 23, 2026

PRESENT: Mayor Fleta Byrd, Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers David McGowan, Doris Riley, Tim Brown, and Carolyn Dobbins.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Leighanna Worley and Town Clerk Emily Matthews.

CONVOCATION: Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

Departmental Reports: Mayor Byrd referenced the Events report and said she attended the Winter Warm-up event at the park recently and it was very successful. She reminded Council of the Touch-a-Truck event on April 25th. Councilmember McGowan asked if Council will have an information table at the event and Mayor Byrd said yes. Councilmember McGowan asked if we have received any applications for the soon to be vacant Events Coordinator position and Town Administrator Leighanna Worley said yes and she will be conducting interviews soon. Councilmember McGowan asked if there will be an American and North Carolina flag in the Chambers and Administrator Leighanna Worley said yes, they have been ordered and will be setup behind the dais.

Finance Director Connie Lassiter asked if there were any questions about her report. Councilmember Brown said the part-time salaries are currently at 118% and asked how much they plan to increase before the year is over. Ms. Leighanna Worley said the high percentage is due to the Police Department not being fully staffed for part of the year and the part-time officers having to fill in for the full-time. Councilmember Brown asked about the software purchases in the Police Department and Ms. Leighanna Worley said those purchases are for additional software in Central Square. She said Central Square is the software the officers use to communicate through CAD. Councilmember Brown asked about the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance line being higher than anticipated. Public Works Director Patrick Moore said there were recent HVAC problems in the Public Works building and new ducts had to be run which cost around \$2,700.

Mayor Byrd asked Human Resource Director Jenny Martin how the new time clock system is working and Ms. Martin said everyone is starting to transition to clocking in and out on the TimeTrex system. She said we are currently working with our financial software, FMS, to coordinate payroll with the TimeTrex system.

Mr. Moore referenced his report in Council's packets and asked if there were any questions. Councilmember McGowan asked the reason for replacing the swings at the Community Park and Mr. Moore said the old swings were getting old and worn. Mayor Byrd said she was pleased the Caren M. Triplett Dog Park was recently recognized on the news. Councilmember McGowan commented on the tennis ball dispensers at the Dog Park and Ms. Leighanna Worley said all proceeds from the dispensers are going to the local animal shelter.

Councilmember Carolyn Dobbins asked if the body that was found several months ago was ever identified and Chief Williams said yes, but a statement has not yet been released. Councilmember Tim Brown asked if the cameras at the Community Park all are working. Chief said 23 out of 24 cameras in town are working. Chief said there was a recent domestic incident in the subdivision

next to the park. Our cameras were able to catch the culprit going into the Ives Landing Subdivision. He said Mr. Moore recently built a collection bin for aluminum cans at the Police Department and all proceeds from the collection will go to a local charity. Councilmember McGowan asked if we have had any problems with the Share Shed since it has moved to the park and Ms. Leighanna Worley said not that we are aware of.

Councilmember Brown asked Mrs. Wendy Oldham if the residents waiting on water and sewer from the County are still getting a good response. Planning Director Wendy Oldham said the County has started with reviews and are in the process of contacting developers now. Councilmember Brown asked how long it would take to contact a developer and get everything sorted. Mrs. Wendy Oldham said it depends on the size of the development but it is usually an average of 30 days. Councilmember McGowan asked for an update on the street takeover in The Cottages subdivision. Mrs. Wendy Oldham said there were some family issues within the company but the grandson of the original developer is now taking over. She said she had been talking to him and he plan to do an inspection and submit the takeover paperwork.

Budget Discussions:

Town Administrator Worley passed out spreadsheets showing the projected revenue for the upcoming budget. The spreadsheet also showed columns of the adopted current budget and the amended budget as of today. She said this will be the format for all budget worksheets moving forward so Council can see the changes. She said the biggest change in the budget is the ad valorem levy which has increased from 208 million to 3.3 million. She said the reason for the increase is due to their evaluation and new home built in the last year. She said the revenue replacement ends this fiscal year. She said the adopted 25/26 budget was 4.3 million and the amended budget is 4.5 million and the proposed budget for FY 26/27 is 4.8 million. We are waiting on projections from the League of Municipalities to better determine the final budget. She said the current numbers are estimated based on what we have collected this year.

Councilmember McGowan asked if the county is raising taxes this year and Ms. Worley said not that we are aware of. Councilmember McGowan asked if our Powell Bill funds will increase once we take over the streets in The Cottages. Ms. Leighanna Worley said it wouldn't increase by very much because there are less than 2 miles of streets in the subdivision. Councilmember McGowan stated the planning fees increased from \$90,000 to \$150,000 and asked if that is still based on developments happening in town. Mrs. Oldham said yes, when everything in the development were placed on hold due to the sewer, we were not collecting a lot of fees and plan to make up for that in the coming year. She said developments are continuing and we have also raised our fees.

Councilmember McGowan asked what the biggest expenditures will be and Ms. Leighanna Worley said the salary grades. Councilmember McGowan asked if we will have any paving projects this year and Mr. Moore said we looked into paving Johnston Farms but we do not have enough Powell Bill funds at this time. Mayor Byrd asked if we can pave only part of the roads in Johnston Farms at this time. Mr. Moore said they are all in desperate need of repaving. He said we have tried to patch the roads but it doesn't last long. Ms. Leighanna Worley noted the more streets we take in the more Powell Bill funds we will receive. She said due to lack of new streets in recent years there has been a lag in the funds we receive. She said now that we are taking in more new streets, we should expect more Powell Bill funds. Councilmember Brown asked if there is a process in which we categorize which streets are in need of paving. Public

Works Director Patrick Moore said he and his employees drive around town and keep notes of the streets in need. Ms. Worley said it might be a good idea to come up with a process in which we prioritize which streets to pave first.

Councilmember McGowan noted the ticket violation fees decreased from \$5,550 to \$1,700. Ms. Worley said those numbers are based on the fees we have collected so far this year. Mayor Byrd asked about open space fees and Ms. Worley said we don't usually budget for open space but if we get any open space fees we can do a budget amendment.

Ms. Worley asked Council if they would like to hold another budget session prior to their work session on April 27th. After discussion it was the consensus of Council to hold a budget session on Monday April 13th at 5:00pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to call a budget session meeting for April 13, 2026 at 5:00pm in the Wilson's Mills Council Chambers to further discuss the upcoming fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Doris Riley to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.



ATTEST:


EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC
Town Clerk


FLETA A. BYRD, Mayor