

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
WORK SESSION
May 26, 2026

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

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 5:02pm.

Departmental Reports: Mayor Byrd referenced the Finance report and said she likes the breakdown of accounts that was included this month. Councilmember McGowan asked about the formatting of the report and asked if departments could be listed at the top rather than the bottom. Finance Director Connie Lassiter said the report is how it is printed from the system and it unfortunately cannot be changed. Councilmember Brown asked about software purchases and Town Manager Leighanna Worley said both the Planning and Police Departments have software purchases in their budget for the needed software in their departments. Mayor Byrd asked about the S G James tree endowment the Town received years ago and asked if the funds can be used for trees on town property. Ms. Worley said the original contract was for the first 10 years and it is now 12 years old. Mr. James passed away last year but the endowment still stands and was moved to a trust. She said she has talked to Attorney Du Sablon on how we can use the funds. She said the endowment was \$25,000 but we are only allowed to use the interest. Ms. Worley said at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year we can see if we want to use the interest or let it continue to build. Councilmember Brown asked for further information on how we received this endowment. Ms. Worley said Mr. James gave endowments to each town in Johnston County and the total for Wilson's Mills was \$25,000 in an interest bearing account. She said stipulations were placed on how the interest could be spent and where the trees could be placed. Mayor Byrd said it is definitely worth Attorney Du Sablon looking into.

Councilmember McGowan asked about the food donation budget and if we will be moving the remaining funds to next year's budget. Ms. Worley said Mrs. Young at the Elementary School reached out recently and our new Events Coordinator will be speaking with her about how we can make sure the students will benefit from donations over the summer. Mrs. Lassiter said she has contacted the auditors that Council awarded the contract to but she has not heard back from them yet.

Councilmember McGowan asked if we had an exit interview process before Human Resources Director Jenny Martin came to work for the Town and Ms. Worley said no. Councilmember McGowan asked who conducts the exit interview and Ms. Martin said she does. Councilmember McGowan asked who sees the answers to the interview and Ms. Martin said she makes the responses in the interview generalized in order to make sure no specific names are listed. She said she then talks to Manager Worley and the supervisors of the employee who left. Mayor Byrd asked if the Patrol Sergeants have been hired in the Police Department and Ms. Martin said yes, they were internal hires. Councilmember Brown T asked if any valuable information, both good and bad, was determined by the interviews and Ms. Martin said yes.

Councilmember McGowan asked about the added strobe lights in the Events

vehicles and why they were needed. Ms. Worley said they are used when the Events Coordinator is out putting up or taking down signs for events. Councilmember Brown asked what the process for the community service workers. Ms. Worley said it is not our preferred way to receive help because it can be inconsistent. Councilmember Brown expressed concerns about workers with certain charges being at the Community Park and Chief said there are some people with certain charges we do not accept. He said the community service is court ordered and we have the ability to turn down any workers we do not want to take. Councilmember McGowan asked if the service hours are determined by us or by the worker. Chief said it is up to the worker to work with Mr. Moore on when they will get their needed hours in.

Councilmember McGowan stated he is concerned about the low number of vehicle stops and he said he thinks there aren't as many stops per officer as needed. Chief said he doesn't put quotas on officers and some officers like traffic stops more than others. Councilmember McGowan said he is still concerned the total number of stops is low. Councilmember Brown asked if the accidents at the intersection of I-42 and Wilson's Mills Road have increased. Chief said no but there are fewer due to there no longer being a traffic light there.

Councilmember Brown asked if the County is being cooperative about servicing areas in town with utilities. Mrs. Oldham said they are doing what they said they were going to do. She said they are reviewing the ones they said they would and they are releasing some. Councilmember Brown asked for updates on Midtown and Mrs. Oldham said we are still waiting on preliminary plans and the developer said they plan to make changes to the plans. Councilmember Brown asked about the land clearing near Raleigh Brewing and Mrs. Oldham said she is not sure what they are planning but it is being cleared for Andrew's Grading and Paving. She said she plans to look into it and we tried to get the owner to annex into town but he didn't want to. Mayor Byrd asked about the Wellons property that will be connected to Wilson's Ridge subdivision and asked if the connection is only for the homes or for commercial developments as well to be connected to Wilson's Ridge. Mrs. Oldham said it will all be connected together, but the Wellons property will not be part of the subdivision. She said the developer is working with DOT to get a driveway out to Swift Creek Road to allow for an additional entrance. Councilmember Brown asked if the commercial will be beneficial to the citizens and Mrs. Oldham said hopefully so but she had not heard what they are planning to put in the commercial area. In the Eason Creek subdivision Mrs. Oldham said we are just waiting on build out and then we can start the process to take over the streets. She said the roads were built to DOT standards, we are just waiting on final paperwork. The Cottages subdivision has issues that need to be fixed before we can take it over. The SCM inspection has been completed. Councilmember McGowan asked if any more retention pond break-ins have happened and Mrs. Oldham said not that she is aware of.

Town Manager Worley said the Closed Session can be removed from the agenda because there are no updates to provide. She said she will email Council with any updates she receives before their next meeting. Ms. Worley said she has a meeting with our Department of Transportation engineer on May 28th and she plans to discuss the intersection of Wilson's Mills Road and Fire Department Road. She said she will also be speaking with them about the work out in front of Town Hall. She said we will be using part of the grant money for the sign in the front and she will be talking to them about right of way issues. She said she

has a call with Studio 310 on Friday to finalize the punch list and closeout dates. Councilmember Riley asked if we can get Wilson's Mills flags or banners to be placed on the light poles lining the driveway into Town Hall. Manager Worley said we can look into it and the poles should be equipped to hold banners. She also said Council has talked about having flag poles at the front of Town Hall with the United States, North Carolina, and Wilson's Mills flags.

Mayor Byrd expressed concerns about the County not taking us seriously regarding the utilities agreement. Ms. Worley said we expect to have an answer by end of week.

Budget Discussions:

Manager Worley said nothing has changed regarding the budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year since Council's meeting last Monday. She said a public copy of the budget is available at Town Hall.

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.

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ATTEST


EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC
Town Clerk


JC TRIPLETT, Mayor Pro-tem