

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
August 17, 2026

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Leighanna Worley, Town Clerk Emily Matthews, and Town Attorney Gabriel Du Sablon.

CONVOCATION: Mayor Pro-tem Triplett declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

PLEDGE: Mayor Pro-tem Triplett led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked for a moment of silence in honor of Mayor Fleta Byrd who passed away.

INVOCATION: Town Manager Leighanna Worley gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked for approval of the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Proclamation Honoring
the Life and Service of
Mayor Fleta A. Byrd:**

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett read the following proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF
MAYOR FLETA A. BYRD**

WHEREAS, Fleta A. Byrd dedicated much of her life to the Town of Wilson's Mills and its residents, giving generously of her time, knowledge, talents, and heart to help shape the community she loved; and

WHEREAS, since the Town's incorporation in 1996, Fleta served the Wilson's Mills community in numerous capacities, beginning as a dedicated volunteer supporting recreation activities, community programs, and Town events, and continuing her service as the Town's part-time Planning Director from 2006 through 2012, where she played a foundational role in establishing the Town's planning framework and was instrumental in creating Wilson's Mills' first planning ordinances, helping lay the groundwork for the Town's future growth and development; and

WHEREAS, Fleta continued her public service as a member of the Wilson's Mills Town Council from 2013 until 2017, bringing her knowledge of the Town, its people, and its history to the Council table; and

WHEREAS, Fleta was subsequently elected to serve as Mayor of the Town of Wilson's Mills beginning in 2021 and continued serving until her passing, carrying out the office with dedication, compassion, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to the community and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Fleta's service and compassion extended far beyond her official municipal responsibilities, as she demonstrated visionary leadership and

unwavering faith during the foundational stages of welcoming Hope Center Ministries into the Wilson's Mills community and was instrumental in establishing the first Hope Center house in Johnston County, opening doors of hope and transformation for women in need; and

WHEREAS, Fleta and her husband, Donald, devoted their time, hearts, and lives to pouring love, grace, faith, and support into the women of the Wilson's Mills Hope Center, generously opening her greenhouses on Wednesdays and offering the women a place to work, learn, connect, and experience therapeutic fellowship surrounded by nature; and

WHEREAS, through her gentle spirit, exceptional ability to listen, and genuine compassion, Fleta became a trusted confidant and sounding board to the women she served, consistently offering wise, faith-filled encouragement and guiding each woman toward spiritual growth, healing, and a renewed sense of hope; and

WHEREAS, through this quiet and deeply personal ministry, Fleta demonstrated that her greatest legacy was not found solely in the offices she held, but in the lives she touched through her faith, compassion, generosity, and willingness to serve others; and

WHEREAS, throughout her years of service, Fleta became widely known as the Town's unofficial historian, preserving stories, memories, traditions, and knowledge of the people and events that shaped Wilson's Mills and ensuring that the Town's history would not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Fleta witnessed and contributed to the growth and evolution of Wilson's Mills over nearly three decades, leaving her mark not only through the offices she held, but through the countless relationships she built and the lives she touched, because her commitment to Wilson's Mills extended far beyond any title or elected office; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilson's Mills recognizes that the loss of Fleta is felt deeply by her family, friends, fellow public servants, and the entire community she served so faithfully. Her faith, compassion, and devotion to others are enduring parts of her legacy, and her contributions will remain a meaningful part of the story and history of Wilson's Mills for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Mayor Pro Tempore and Town Council of the Town of Wilson's Mills, on behalf of the entire community, hereby honor and celebrate the life and extraordinary public service of Fleta A. Byrd, and express our deepest gratitude for her nearly three decades of service, leadership, friendship, faith, compassion, and devotion to the Town of Wilson's Mills.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that in recognition of Mayor Byrd's dedicated service to the Town of Wilson's Mills and in mourning her passing, the Town Council has determined that all flags displayed at Town facilities shall be lowered to half-staff and shall remain at half-staff through sunset on the day of her burial — August 19, 2026 — as a visible expression of the Town's profound respect, gratitude, and sorrow at her passing.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Town Council respectfully requests that residents, businesses, organizations, and other entities throughout

the Town of Wilson's Mills join in honoring Mayor Byrd's life and service by lowering their flags to half-staff through the day of her burial, as a community-wide expression of respect, gratitude, and remembrance.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Town of Wilson's Mills extends its heartfelt condolences to Fleta's family and loved ones and recognizes that her legacy will live on in the community she helped build, the history she helped preserve, and the people she so faithfully served.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation shall be entered into the official records of the Town of Wilson's Mills as a lasting tribute to Fleta A. Byrd, whose life of service helped shape the Town of Wilson's Mills and whose memory will forever be a part of its history.

**APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked for approval of the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett opened the public hearing at 6:40pm.

Ordinance to Extend
Corporate Limits –
Wilson's Mills Fire
Department Station
3 – Parcel ID
05105022A- Satellite
Annexation:

Mrs. Oldham said an annexation application was received from the Wilson's Mills Fire Department to annex Station 3 on Gordon Road. She said the annexation ordinance and map of the location is in Council's packets.

With no one else wishing to speak Mayor Pro-tem Triplett closed the public hearing at 6:43pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Doris Riley adopt the following Ordinance to Extend Corporate Limits – Wilson's Mills Fire Department– Parcel ID 17J07022A via satellite annexation. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWM #206

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF
THE TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS, NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilson's Mills Town Council has received a petition under G.S. 160A-31 for satellite annexation of the area described below; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilson's Mills Town Council has directed the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk has certified the sufficiency of the petition and a public hearing on the question of this annexation was held at the Wilson's Mills Town Hall, 4083 Wilson's Mills Road, Wilson's Mills, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on August 17, 2026 after due notice by Johnstonian News on August 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilson's Mills Town Council finds that the petition meets the requirements of G.S. 160A-31;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Wilson's Mills, North Carolina that:

Section 1. By virtue of the authority granted by G.S. 160A-31, the following described territory is hereby annexed and made part of the Town of Wilson's Mills, as of August 17, 2026.

The areas proposed for annexation are described as follows:

BEGINNING at a rebar set in the northern right-of-way line of Gordon Road and runs thence North 07 degrees 11 minutes 12 seconds East 285.00 feet to a new rebar; thence, running North 10 degrees 50 minutes 54 seconds West 245.65 feet to a new rebar set in the southern right-of-way line of GLP One Way; thence, running along the southern right-of-way line of GLP One Way the following courses and distances: North 67 degrees 22 minutes 29 seconds East 140.00 to a NC Department of Transportation monument, along a curve having a radius of 1190.00 feet, arc length 81.99 feet, chord bearing North 68 degrees 20 minutes 23 seconds East 81.97 feet, and North 64 degrees 07 minutes 54 seconds East 168.00 feet to a new rebar; thence, running South 16 degrees 03 minutes 33 seconds East 754.60 feet to a rebar set in the northern right-of-way line of Gordon Road; thence running along the northern right-of-way line of Gordon Road the following courses and distances: North 86 degrees 25 minutes 19 seconds West 262.00 feet, along a curve having a radius of 3000.00 feet, arc length 113.76 feet, chord bearing North 85 degrees 19 minutes 54 seconds West 113.75 feet and North 84 degrees 14 minutes 58 seconds West 180.79 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING and containing 6.436 acres, excluding the highway right-of-way, more or less, and recorded in Plat Book 92, Page 416, Johnston County Registry.

Section 2. Upon and after August 17, 2026, the above-described territory and its citizens and property shall be subject to all debts, laws, ordinances, and regulations in force in the Town of Wilson's Mills and shall be entitled to the same privileges and benefits as other parts of the Town of Wilson's Mills. Said territory shall be subject to municipal taxes according to G.S. 160A-58.10.

Section 3. The Town Clerk of the Town of Wilson's Mills shall cause to be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Johnston County, and in the office of the Secretary of State at Raleigh, North Carolina, an accurate map of the annexed territory, described in Section 1 above, together with a duly certified copy of this ordinance. Such a map shall also be delivered to the Johnston County Board of Elections, as required by G.S. 163-288.1.

Councilmember David McGowan said he wanted to note on the record that the parcel that is pending annexation is not a data center.

With a motion on the table, motion carried unanimously.

Unified
Development
Ordinance Article
10.1.10 Food Trucks

Planning Director Wendy Oldham said Council called a public hearing for this month regarding the Unified Development Ordinance Article 10.1.10 Food Trucks. She said the appropriate advertising for the hearing was not done in time so the hearing will need to be postponed until next month.

1st OPEN FORUM

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett opened the 1st Public Forum at 6:44pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Pro-tem Triplett closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:45pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR PRO-TEM JC TRIPLETT:

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said he plans to do his best to fill in as Mayor until a new Mayor can be appointed.

Councilmember David McGowan said he and other members of Council are willing to help Mayor Pro-tem Triplett with anything he may need.

**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT – Leighanna
Worley:**

**Discussion of Joint
Draft RFQ with
Johnston County for
Utility Master Plan:**

Ms. Worley said in Council's packets there is a joint draft RFQ with Johnston County Public Utilities. She said this comes from the agreement recently adopted from Johnston County. One thing listed in the agreement was the town is required to create a Master Utilities Plan. We would work with the County in order to create the plan because they maintain and bill for our utility lines. She said there is a meeting on Friday but the County went ahead and sent the RFQ for review. The funds for the Master Utilities Plan is in this year's budget and the County offered to split the cost of creating the plan since they are the ones that asked to put it in the agreement. She said this isn't for approval tonight, she just wanted Council to be aware of the RFQ before the meetings on Friday.

**Review of Town Hall
Monument Sign
Renderings:**

Ms. Worley said the copy of the sign renderings that Council has tonight is the same as the ones they received at their last work session. She said Council gave a mixed opinion on what they wanted the design to be but they need to come to an agreement so he can let the company know what was decided.

Councilmember David McGowan said he likes option C with the logo instead of the seal. Mayor Pro-tem Triplett and Councilmember Riley agreed. Councilmember Dobbins said she likes option D but the white brick could be hard to clean, she also likes option C. Ms. Worley reminded Council that the sign will be 2 sided and placed in a V shape. Councilmember Tim Brown said he also likes option C. Councilmember Doris Riley asked if there will be any color in the logo and Ms. Worley said she doesn't think so but she can ask.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Doris Riley to move forward with option C with the Town logo for the Town Hall sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember David McGowan asked if there is any estimate on when the sign will be done and Ms. Worley said now that a decision has been made she should know an estimate completion date by tomorrow afternoon.

**PLANNING DIRECTOR
– Wendy Oldham:**

**Appointment of
Planning Board
Member – Seat #4:**

Mrs. Oldham said Donald Byrd and Jim Uzzle are resigning from the Planning Board and they need to be replaced. She said the Planning Board recommended Bennie Cherry for seat 4 and Alvin Hardy for seat 8.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked if the applicants were present and would like to address Council.

Alvin Hardy said he has lived in Wilson's Mills for 10 years, is a retired police officer, and minister. He said he enjoys analyzing data and is looking forward to doing so on the Planning Board. Councilmember David McGowan asked if

Mr. Hardy would be able to attend the meetings on a regular basis and Mr. Hardy said yes. Councilmember Tim Brown noted that Mr. Hardy has been coming to the Council meetings for the past few months and he appreciates him wanting to be involved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to appoint Bennie Cherry to the Planning Board Seat 4. Motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of
Planning Board
Member – Seat #8:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Doris Riley to appoint Alvin Hardy to the Planning Board Seat 8. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked who will be the Planning Board Chairman now that Donald Byrd has resigned and was serving as the Chairman. Mrs. Oldham said at their August 3rd organizational meeting the Planning Board appointed Jay Mouser as the chair and Marvin Dodd was re-appointed as the co-chair.

Councilmember David McGowan said he appreciates Donald Byrd and Jim Uzzle's dedication to the town during their time on the Planning Board.

**Request to Change
Time for Planning
Board Meetings:**

Mrs. Oldham said at their last meeting the Planning Board discussed changing their meeting time from 7:00pm to 6:30pm. She said the meeting night may need to change due to the Planning Board also meeting on the same night as the Council Work Session. Mayor Pro-tem Triplett suggested tabling the discussion of the time change until Planning Board can discuss moving their meetings to Tuesdays rather than Mondays. Mrs. Oldham said she will take it back to Planning Board at their next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Doris Riley to table the discussion of the Planning Board time change until after Mrs. Oldham is able to speak to the Planning Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCILMEMBER
COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Tim Brown asked if there have been any updates on when the signs on Highway 42 will be placed. Ms. Worley said she doesn't have any updates but can ask for an update at the next meeting.

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett asked about the procedure for appointing a new Mayor. Ms. Worley said Council can discuss the process at their Work Session next week. Councilmember Tim Brown asked if there was any specific timeline we need to follow legally and Attorney Du Sablon said non, it is at the pleasure of the Council.

2nd OPEN FORUM

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:14pm.

Jim Uzzle of 138C Uzzle Industrial Drive said he is proud of how the Town is growing. He expressed concerns about the grass along I-42 and asked the Town to contact DOT about it.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Pro-tem Triplett closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:18pm.

**MOTION TO GO INTO
CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to go into Closed Session at 7:17pm pursuant

to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) “...economic development...” and invite Planning Director Wendy Oldham into the Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO COME
OUT OF CLOSED
SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to come out of Closed Session at 7:34pm and stated Planning Director Wendy Oldham was present for the Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.



ATTEST:


EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC
Town Clerk


JC TRIPLETT, Mayor Pro-tem