

TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 20, 2026

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

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

ABSENT: Mayor Fleta Byrd

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.

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 Tim Brown to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Pro-tem Triplett opened the 1st Public Forum at 6:32pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Pro-tem Triplett closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:33pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

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

**Ordinance to
Change the Speed
Limit on Various
Streets Within
Subdivisions in the
Town of Wilson's
Mills:**

Town Manager Leighanna Worley referenced the ordinance in Council's packets. She said the reason for the ordinance is due to concerns from residents about the speed limits in 2 subdivisions in town. She said the ordinance would change the speed limit in all subdivisions to 15 miles per hour. Right now they range from 15 to 25 miles per hour, and some subdivisions do not have any posted speed limits at all. She said she has been asked about placing speedbumps in the subdivisions but speedbumps can be costly and we would like to try this method first. Councilmember McGowan asked who will pay for the signs and Ms. Worley said Powell Bill funds will pay for the signs since they are considered safety signs. Councilmember Dobbina asked if the speedbumps will be removed in the subdivisions that already have them. Ms. Worley said they are only in Lockwood so we will maintain those but do not want to put any others in.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adopt the following Ordinance to Change the Speed Limit on Various Streets Within Subdivisions in the Town of Wilson's Mills. Motion carried unanimously.

**AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE SPEED LIMIT ON
VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN ALL SUBDIVISIONS
IN THE TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council of Wilson's Mills to act to approve the appropriate ordinance to revise the speed limit on various streets within all Subdivisions to 15 MPH;

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

Section 1. The following streets in all Subdivisions in Wilson's Mills are revised to a speed limit of 15 MPH.

- 1) The following streets in Ives Landing Subdivision:
 - a. Westchase Drive
 - b. Woodglen Drive
 - c. Windchime Court
 - d. Imperial Drive
 - e. Springmoor Drive
 - f. Hanford Drive
 - g. Spring Forest Lane
- 2) The following streets in Mill Creek Subdivision:
 - a. Maple Tree Lane
 - b. Forest Bend Way
- 3) The following streets in Poplar Creek Subdivision:
 - a. Poplar Drive
 - b. Pear Tree Lane
 - c. Hickory Street
- 4) The following streets in East Hampton:
 - a. Alliance Drive
 - b. N. Rose Hill Drive
 - c. S. Rose Hill Drive
 - d. Flying Point Lane
 - e. Memorial Court
 - f. Roundview Circle
 - g. Select Court
- 5) The following streets in Lockwood Subdivision:
 - a. Lockwood Drive
 - b. Bent Creek Court
 - c. Twin Pines Court
 - d. Apple Court
- 6) The following streets in Ole Mill Village:
 - a. Stoneview Circle
 - b. Yellow Stone Lane
 - c. Copperstone Circle
 - d. Stoney Creek Circle
 - e. Stone Ridge Drive
- 7) The following streets in Johnston Farms Subdivision:
 - a. Johnston Farms Drive
 - b. Marlin Lane
 - c. Waterview Way
 - d. Windy Hill Lane

- e. Rocks Edge Lane
- f. Hearth Lane
- g. E. Abbey Court
- h. W. Abbey Court
- 8) The following streets in The Homeplace Subdivision:
 - a. Antler Drive
 - b. Deer Flag Lane
 - c. Parker Street
- 9) The following streets in Cardinal Glen Subdivision:
 - a. Pricket Lane
 - b. Roe Lane
 - c. Coriander Lane
- 10) The following streets in Parrish Ridge Subdivision:
 - a. Rivercamp Street
 - b. Norris Creek Drive
 - c. Haymaker Drive
 - d. Benjamin Court
- 11) The following streets in Cottages Subdivision:
 - a. Hanover Court
 - b. Wicklow Court

Section 2. The Planning Director is hereby authorized and directed to ensure that all streets within future Subdivisions shall also have a speed limit of 15 MPH.

Section 3. The Public Works Director of the Town of Wilson's Mills is hereby authorized and directed to cause the appropriate speed limit signs to be erected.

Section 4. The Chief of Police of the Town of Wilson's Mills Police Department is hereby authorized and directed to cause the enforcement of the foregoing provisions to be implemented.

Section 5. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

**Endowment
Termination:**

Ms. Worley said Council discussed at their last Work Session the James George endowment funds and Council's desire to dissolve the endowment. She said Attorney Du Sablon has researched the process on dissolving it. Attorney Du Sablon said the email he sent to Ms. Worley is in Council's packets. He said the agreement doesn't specify the term of the agreement or have any language about termination. He said we could upon reasonable notice, terminate the agreement and an amendment to the agreement would be the best way to terminate. Attorney Du Sablon said since Mr. George has passed away he would need to contact his family. Councilmember McGowan asked if the town has benefited at all from the endowment and Attorney Du Sablon said due to the town only being able to use the interest and the rate is so low, there isn't much available to the town. Councilmember Dobbins asked how much we currently have that we can spend and Mrs. Lassiter said we have about \$3,700 accumulated over the course of the endowment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Doris Riley and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to table the discussion until Attorney Du

**Resolution
Requesting
Additional Traffic
Studies and Safety
Improvements:**

Sablon can contact the family of Mr. George and speak with them about moving forward. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember McGowan asked how long it will take for Attorney Du Sablon to have an answer about moving forward and Attorney Du Sablon said if he can get the correct contact information he should have an update by next month's meeting.

Ms. Worley said DOT suggested a resolution requesting an additional traffic study at the intersection of Wilson's Mills Road and Fire Department Road.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to adopt the following Resolution Requesting Additional Traffic Studies and Safety Improvements.

Councilmember Brown asked if the resolution will be available for the public to view so they will know we are taking action on this and Ms. Worley said yes. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett stated concerns about the traffic in the area when Wilson's Mills High School has all grades rather than just freshmen like in the coming school year. He said he wishes the study would take place after the opening of the high school. Ms. Worley said Mrs. Oldham has coordinated meetings with Johnston County Public Schools, the Police Department, and the Fire Department but DOT representatives were not able to attend the last meeting but should be there in September when they meet. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked if there will be someone directing traffic when school starts back. Councilmember Brown said he doesn't think it would be safe for one of our officers to be out directing traffic and we should have the study done at a specific time, when school traffic is high. Ms. Worley said we requested a specific time last time the study was done and we can request the same this time. She said the DOT email from last meeting did state the study didn't take place during school time. Councilmember McGowan asked about having the Police Department get involved and possibly having a traffic safety division of volunteers to direct traffic during school hours and also at town events. Ms. Worley said she is unsure what the liability would be with having people directing traffic. Councilmember Brown and Councilmember McGowan said it is worth looking into what other departments do and asked Sergeant Peedin to contact other departments to get input.

Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett asked when construction on Wilson's Mills Middle School would begin and Mrs. Oldham said last she heard, the plan was to start construction when the high school has all 4 classes attending.

With a motion on the table, motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING
ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC STUDIES AND
IDENTIFICATION OF SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
AT THE INTERSECTION OF
WILSON'S MILLS ROAD AND FIRE DEPARTMENT ROAD**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Wilson's Mills recognizes that protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and visitors is one of its highest responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Wilson's Mills Road and Fire Department Road is a major intersection within the Town of Wilson's Mills and is owned and maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT); and

WHEREAS, this intersection serves residents, businesses, emergency responders, Wilson's Mills High School, and Wilson's Mills Elementary School, resulting in significant daily traffic volumes, particularly during school arrival and dismissal periods; and

WHEREAS, the Town continues to receive concerns from residents regarding traffic congestion, lengthy delays, restricted sight distances, turning conflicts, and the overall safety of motorists entering and exiting the intersection; and

WHEREAS, NCDOT engineers have studied and evaluated this intersection and have determined that the current fatal traffic volumes, crash history, and warrant analyses do not meet the criteria necessary to justify funding for the installation of a traffic signal, all-way stop control, or roundabout at this time; and

WHEREAS, while the Town understands NCDOT's engineering standards and warrant requirements, the Town Council believes that the absence of qualifying crash statistics should not preclude continued efforts to proactively improve safety and traffic operations before more serious incidents occur; and

WHEREAS, the Town has worked cooperatively with adjacent property owners and has reviewed available right-of-way conditions in an effort to identify opportunities for future improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council remains committed to partnering with NCDOT to identify practical, data-driven, and cost-effective solutions that will improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, enhance safety, and accommodate future growth within the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Wilson's Mills that it respectfully, but strongly, requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation continue evaluating the intersection of Wilson's Mills Road and Fire Department Road through additional traffic studies, operational analyses, and engineering reviews.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town requests NCDOT identify and recommend feasible short-term and long-term improvements that can be implemented to enhance traffic flow and improve public safety, including, but not limited to, geometric improvements, turn-lane modifications, access management strategies, signal warrant reevaluations, operational changes, or other engineering solutions deemed appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town requests NCDOT continue monitoring traffic volumes, crash data, and future development impacts so that additional traffic control measures may be reconsidered if engineering warrants are met in the future.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Town of Wilson's Mills stands ready to work collaboratively with NCDOT, regional transportation partners, Johnston County, the Johnston County Public Schools, and other stakeholders

to identify and implement practical solutions that improve the safety and mobility of this important intersection for the benefit of current and future residents.

**Manager
Comments/Updates:**

Ms. Worley said the company that will be constructing the sign for the front of Town Hall contacted her and before moving forward Council needs to decide if they want the town seal or the town logo on the sign. She said the seal is the official emblem of the town and will never change and the logo was approved about 2 years ago and can change in the future. Councilmember Brown and Councilmember McGowan said they would like to use the logo. Ms. Worley said she can have some options at the next Work Session for Council to decide on a final design.

Ms. Worley reminded Council of the town's Founder's Day on August 22nd and said we will be celebrating 30 years of the town being incorporated. Councilmember David McGowan asked if we can have the setup more welcoming to the public and have only one or 2 members of Council and staff at the Town's table at a time. Ms. Worley said she will talk to the Events Coordinator about the setup.

**PLANNING DIRECTOR
– Wendy Oldham:**

**Approval of
Purchase of
Plotter/Printer:**

Mrs. Oldham said a plotter/scanner was approved for her department in this year's budget but the numbers have increased since approval so it needed to come back to Council for approval before moving forward with purchasing. Councilmember McGowan asked how much was originally approved and Mrs. Oldham said \$7,654 but the updated price is in Council's packet and the total for the plotter/scanner, paper, and ink cartridges is \$7,713.88. She said she removed extra cartridges and paper from the order in order to lower the price. Ms. Worley said if those items are needed in the future, they can be taken out of the departmental supplies line.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the purchase of the plotter/scanner, ink cartridges, and paper for the total of \$7,713.88 allowing for fluctuation in prices. Motion carried unanimously.

**Call Public Hearing
– Unified
Development
Ordinance Article
10.1.10 – Food
Trucks :**

Mrs. Oldham explained the need for the amendment to the UDO. She said there is a need for an update regarding food trucks and PB has already looked at the amendment. She said attached in Council's packets is the property owner consent form and proposed amendment. Councilmember McGowan asked who will determine if the guidelines are not being met and who will be enforcing the fines. Mrs. Oldham said the Code Enforcement Officer would be in charge of enforcing fines based on if the guidelines are met. Councilmember McGowan asked if the first offense could be a written warning and then fines could be enforced if the behavior continues. Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett said he agrees with a warning but it shouldn't be registered as the first offense, and rather the owner should have a verbal warning. Mrs. Oldham said they can discuss the specifics further at the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to Call a Public Hearing for August 17, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Wilson's Mills Council Chambers to discuss amending the Unified Development Ordinance Article 10.1.10 – Food Trucks. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution Directing
the Clerk to**

Mrs. Oldham said she received an annexation petition for Wilson's Mills Fire

Investigate Petition
of Annexation -
Wilson's Mills Fire
Department Station
3 – Parcel ID
05105022A:

Department Station 3 on Gordon Road. She referenced the resolution in Council's packets as well as the supporting info.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Doris Riley to adopt the following Resolution Directing the Clerk to Investigate Petition of Annexation -Wilson's Mills Fire Department Station 3 – Parcel ID 05105022A Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE
A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-31**

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of 1 parcel described in said petition was received by the Town Clerk; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 provides that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Town Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Wilson's Mills deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation.

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

The Town Clerk was hereby directed at the July 20, 2026 Council Meeting to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described petition and to certify at the August 2026 meeting to Town Council the result of her investigation.

Certificate of
Sufficiency -
Wilson's Mills Fire
Department Station
3 – Parcel ID
05105022A:

Mrs. Oldham referenced the Certificate of Sufficiency in Council's packets and said it was signed by Town Clerk Emily Matthews.

Resolution Fixing
Date of Public
Hearing on
Annexation -
Wilson's Mills Fire
Department Station
3 – Parcel ID
05105022A:

Mrs. Oldham referenced the resolution in Council's packets calling for a public hearing at their August 17th meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to Adopt the following Resolution Fixing Date of Public Hearing for the Annexation of Parcel ID 05105022A on August 17, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Wilson's Mills Council Chambers. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION
OF ANNEXATION PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-58.2**

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of the satellite area described herein has been received; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has by resolution directed the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition; and

WHEREAS, certification by the Town Clerk as to the sufficiency of the petition has been made.

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

Section 1. A public hearing on the question of annexation of the satellite area described herein will be held at the Wilson's Mills Town Hall Council Chambers, 4083 A Wilson's Mills Road, Wilson's Mills, North Carolina, at 6:30 p.m. on August 17, 2026.

Section 2. The area proposed for annexation is described as follows and can be identified as Parcel ID: 05I05022A:

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.

The property described hereon is subject to all easements, rights-of-way and restrictions of record.

Section 3. Notice of the public hearing shall be published once in the Johnstonian News, a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Wilson's Mills, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing.

**POLICE CHIEF – AZ
Williams:**

Contract – Axon
Enterprises – Body
Cameras:

Sergeant Peedin referenced the contract with Axon for Body Cameras for the Police Department. Councilmember McGowan asked about the shipping address and Sergeant Peedin said the address as originally Lieutenant Hilliard's house but it has since been changed to Town Hall's address of 4083 Wilson's Mills Road. Councilmember Brown asked if the cost of the body cameras were included in the budget and Ms. Worley said yes, it was in budget and above her approved threshold but it is also a contract and had to come to Council for approval. Councilmember McGowan asked the difference between the pro license bundle and the basic license bundle. Sergeant Peedin said the pro-license bundle allows for administrative permissions in the department. Councilmember McGowan asked who we have now for body cameras and Sergeant Peedin said Wolfcom. Councilmember Brown asked how long we have had Wolfcom and Sergeant Peedin said 3 years but the contract with Axon

is 5 years with new equipment every 3 years.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and second by Councilmember Tim Brown to approve the Axon contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Purchase of Chevrolet Tahoe:

Councilmember McGowan said he thought there was no need for a new vehicle in the Police Department this year. Ms. Worley said one vehicle was approved in the budget but ordinarily 2 vehicles were ordered.

A motion was made by Councilmember Doris Riley and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the purchase of the 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe. Motion carried unanimously.

RedSpeed:

Sergeant Peedin said on October 1st 2025 the General Assembly approved speed cameras in school zones. He said anyone caught speeding in a school zone will be charged a civil fine. Councilmember Brown asked how the speed I detected and Sergeant Peedin said it is determined by a radar camera and the equipment is provided by RedSpeed. Councilmember Brown asked how often the cameras are calibrated. Sergeant Peedin said they are automatically calibrated every few months. Councilmember Brown said he is not in favor of it and Councilmember McGowan said he is concerned it says the program is free and thinks at some point it will cost the Town. He said he is supportive of the program but wants more information on how it is enforced. He also said he is concerned if the town will be pulled in if the equipment were to be damaged. Councilmember McGowan also said the information mentioned having a hearing officer to hear any cases that may come up. He said he is worried about the job of hearing officer would take away officers from their other duties. Sergeant Peedin said he can have a RedSpeed representative come to Council's next meeting with more information. Councilmember Brown asked Ms. Worley what she thinks of the program and she said she hasn't had a chance to research it but she agrees it seems to come with a lot of administrative responsibilities.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to table the discussion of RedSpeed until a representative can come. Voting in favor of the motion were Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmember David McGowan, Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin, and Councilmember Doris Riley. Voting in opposition was Councilmember Tim Brown. Motion carried 4 to 1.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilmember McGowan asked about the Council meeting agendas being posted online and Ms. Worley said they usually are posted but with the transition in the Communications Specialist position we have had to catch up. Councilmember McGowan asked if there are any early retirement initiatives for officers and Ms. Worley said the personnel policy states anyone with 20 consecutive years will maintain their benefits with the town after retirement. She said it is for all employees including officers.

Councilmember McGowan asked about the resurfacing on Wilson's Mills Road and when it will be taking place. Ms. Worley said she is unaware of resurfacing on Wilson's Mills Road but it may be discussed at the next DOT meeting.

Councilmember McGowan mentioned some issues that have happened in the Town of Carry and asked if council could receive a summary of the report so they can see any problem areas we need to avoid in the future. Ms. Worley said

she can try to get a summary of the report.

Councilmember Brown said he would like to see more welcome signs like the one on Fire Department Road near Country Valley Place. He said he knows they are costly but he would like for us to try to look into it in the coming fiscal year.

2nd OPEN FORUM

Mayor Pro-tem Triplett opened the 2nd Public Forum at 8:02pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Pro-tem Triplett closed the 2nd Open Forum at 8:03pm.

**MOTION TO GO INTO
CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to go into Closed Session at 8:04pm pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) "...economic development..." and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) "...personnel..." 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 9:11pm and stated Planning Director Wendy Oldham was present for the Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.

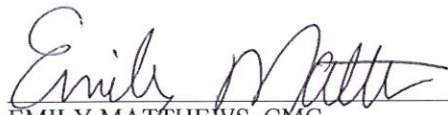
ADJOURN:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.



ATTEST:


EMILY MATTHEWS, CMC
Town Clerk


JC TRIPLETT, Mayor Pro-tem