



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 7, 2026

Board of Commissioners Present:

Charles Bost, Mayor
Morgan Mehler, Commissioner
Hunter Smith, Commissioner
Lee Alexander, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners Absent:

Ryan Merrill, Mayor Pro Tem

Staff Present:

Athina Williams, Town Manager
Sharon Niemann, Town Clerk
Norwood Blanchard, Town Attorney

Others Present to Address the Board:

None

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Charles Bost called the BOC Special Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., a quorum was present.

ACTION – Mayor Charles Bost **MADE THE MOTION** to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Merrill from the meeting. Mayor Bost acknowledged that Mayor Pro Tem Merrill has signed a waiver to allow the BOC Special Meeting in this absence, indicating he is in favor of the Resolution of Intent. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION - Commissioner Hunter Smith **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Agenda. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION – Commissioner Morgan Mehler **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the BOC Regular Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2026. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**



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ITEM #4 – DISCUSS A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO AMEND THE TOWN'S CHARTER.

Mayor Charles Bost described the reasoning behind the consideration of the Resolution of Intent to Amend the Town's Charter. He outlined various rationales in support of the resolution including:

- Increase voter turnout at the polls
- Achieve cost savings of about \$3,500 per voting cycle
- Prevent voter fatigue
- Allow our leaders more time to accomplish their goals, as the election cycle monopolizes a candidate's time

The Commissioners are elected for a four-year term, and he never understood why the Mayor is different.

Town Manager Athina Williams mentioned that the Brunswick County Board of Elections recommended this to our Town and other Towns, explaining that an added benefit is having satellite early voting free of charge, and closer to our area. She indicated that Town Staff supports Resolution R26-13, hoping that voter turnout will be greater as more voters participate during a general election than a municipal one.

R26-13 Resolution by the Belville Board of Commissioners Expressing the Intent to Amend the Town's Charter to Change the Municipal Election Year from Odd to Even Years to Align with the General Election and to Extend the Duration of the Mayor's Term from Two Years to Four Years to Be consistent with the Commissioners' Current Terms.

Mayor Charles Bost also stated that the legislature is in favor of the change, to increase voter turnout. They are pushing for municipal elections to be the same year as general elections and even considered making them partisan, but indicated, it is better to keep politics out of the equation.

Commissioner Morgan Mehler opined that he is definitely in support of the resolution and clarified that all current terms will be extended by one year. The Commissioners who were due to expire in 2027, Commissioner Tilita Lee Alexander and myself (Commissioner Morgan Mehler) will be extended to 2028, which will be the same election cycle as Mayor Charles Bost. The other two Commissioners expiring in 2029 (Commissioner Hunter Smith and Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Merrill) will be extended to 2030.



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Commissioners Lee Alexander agreed that this change makes sense and will save the Town money and make us better stewards.

Commissioner Hunter Smith is also in support of this change, mentioning this has been a topic of discussion for a while, and that the terms will still be staggered, so everyone does not expire at the same time. He believes the Brunswick County Board of Elections encourages change, and it seems like the right move for our municipality.

Mayor Bost asserted that Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Merrill is also in support of the Resolution and asked for a motion.

ACTION – Commissioner Morgan Mehler **MADE THE MOTION** to adopt Resolution **R26-13 Resolution by the Belville Board of Commissioners Expressing the Intent to Amend the Town's Charter to Change the Municipal Election Year from Odd to Even Years to Align with the General Election and to Extend the Duration of the Mayor's Term from Two Years to Four Years to Be consistent with the Commissioners' Current Terms. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Mayor Charles Bost asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ACTION – Commissioner Hunter Smith **MADE THE MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Minutes Compiled by Sharon A. Niemann

SIGNED:

Charles Bost, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk

