



**BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**November 20, 2025**

Board of Commissioners Present:

Charles Bost, Mayor-Elect  
Ryan Merrill, Mayor Pro Tem-Elect  
Morgan Mehler, Commissioner  
Hunter Smith, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Athina Williams, Town Manager  
Sharon Niemann, Town Clerk  
Brenda Williams, Deputy Town Clerk/ Finance Clerk  
Chad Staradumsky, Town Planner  
Ian McLeod, Event & Outreach Coordinator  
Greg Bannerman, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor  
Ashton Locklear, Intern  
Norwood Blanchard, Town Attorney  
Adrienne Harrington, Planning Consultant  
Daniel Terry, WithersRavenel Planning Consultant (via telecommunications)

Others Present to Address the Board:

Amanda Halbert, GIS Analyst, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Abbey Lorenzo, Deputy Director, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

**ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER /INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/  
APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor-Elect Charles Bost called the November 20, 2025, BOC Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. held at the temporary location of the NC Highway Patrol Training Room, welcomed all. A quorum was present. Mayor Pro Tem-Elect Ryan Merrill led the invocation asking for guidance and wisdom to make the right decisions for the Town and all its citizens. Mayor-Elect Bost informed all that we have a few changes to the Agenda. We are moving the introduction of our Intern, Ashton Locklear to 4a). Our WMPO presentation, will be 4b), and following that, we will have the Closed Session. All of these modifications are to accommodate schedules.



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**ACTION** – Mayor Pro Tem-Elect Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Agenda with the changes. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

**ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of the October 28, 2025, BOC Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Tax Collector Report
- c. Finance Report
- d. Planning Department Report and Code Enforcement Report
- e. Special Events Report – Park Maintenance Report
- f. R25-47 Resolution Designating November as Diabetes Awareness Month
- g. R25-48 Resolution Recognizing November as Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month
- h. Addendum to R25-41 Resolution in Support of National suicide Prevention Awareness Month, to include programs in support of suicide prevention including the American Legion’s ***‘Be the One’*** program, the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ ***‘Change Direction’*** program, and the Veterans Affairs’ ***‘National Strategy For Preventing Veteran Suicide’*** program.

Mayor Elect, Charles Bost, informed all that we added an addendum to Resolution R25-41 in Support of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month to include the programs from the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION** – Commissioner Morgan Mehler **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

**ITEM #3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**ACTION** – Mayor Elect, Charles Bost, asked if anyone would like to speak during the Public Comments. There was no one present who wished to speak.

**ITEM #4 – PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Town Manager, Athina Williams introduced our new Intern Ashton Locklear, who is pursuing her Masters in Policy Administration at UNCW. One item Ms. Locklear will be working on with the Town Manager and Commissioner Hunter Smith is establishing a volunteer recognition program.

Ms. Ashton Locklear greeted everyone, and relayed that she will be looking at some volunteer recognition program models from other towns, and working to develop a program customized for



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our Town. Ms. Locklear is hoping to present some options to the Town at the end of her research. Mayor Bost encouraged Ms. Locklear to pursue her desire to be in the Airforce.

b. Ms. Amanda Halbert, a GIS analyst for the Wilmington Urban Metropolitan Planning Organization summarized the 'Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050' report that was recently finalized. Her overview focused on the region's transportation needs for the next 25 years. This report is updated every five years. She explained how the plan developed, and the ways in which they collect Public Input. The WMPO plan focuses on five different transportation modes, forecasts funding projections, and identifies typical and alternative funding sources. They also give recommendations for implementing this plan. One page of the plan particularly concentrates on Belville priorities.

Town Manager Athina Williams inquired about more about 'driving alone.' Abbey Lorenzo, Deputy Director, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization explained that 'driving alone' implies that the majority of individuals driving have only one person per vehicle, and we are looking to provide other alternatives. Mayor Elect-Charles Bost stated he recognizes all the work involved in completing this plan, and thanked the WMPO representatives for their presentation.

**ITEM #5 – CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor-Elect Charles Bost read the statute to go into Closed Session.

- a. **N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)** – To consult with the attorneys including litigation Urban Smart Growth 15 CVS 1217 and **N.C.G.S. § 160A-240.1** acquisition of property.

**ACTION** – Commissioner Morgan Mehler **MADE THE MOTION** to go into Closed Session. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

**ACTION** – Commissioner Morgan Mehler **MADE THE MOTION** to come back into Open Session. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Attorney Norwood Blanchard confirmed that we discussed Urban Smart Growth and possible property acquisition, and a couple of possible claims, but no action was taken in the closed session. Attorney Norwood Blanchard exited the meeting.

**ITEM #6 – OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Update on Belville Riverwalk Project



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Daniel Terry Planning Consultant from WithersRavenel, and Project Manager for the Belville Riverwalk Extension gave an update. Our contractor TD Eure has sending in submittals, some which are describing the pylon driving plan. These are under review. We have also begun hand clearing for the alignment of the natural surface trail, identifying trees to be removed, and modifying the trail to keep any trees we deem worthy. Tomorrow morning, we will all meet out there to discuss the trail alignment.

Mayor Bost reported that Duke Energy was out at the Multi-use Path to remove the guide wire, and that project is just about finished up.

1. Upcoming Events - Event and Outreach Coordinator Ian McLeod reported on:
  - **Trunk or Treat** – 1100 people and 18 vendors.
  - **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Belville Classic Golf Tournament** held Monday at Magnolia Greens. We had 27 teams, we are still working on our proceeds to see how much can be donated to Belville Elementary.
  - **Veterans Day** - We partnered with the VFW to hold the first Veterans Day afternoon event, the National Guard, Leland Fire Department and Brunswick County Sherriff's Office all participated with he VFW, and it was a great turnout for the event. They already expressed interest in having it again next year.
  - **Glow Night** is scheduled for this weekend, it's a new event, and will be Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It's sponsored by the Golf Barn and is the first of its kind in the area, they will have glow in the dark games, food trucks, a DJ, a beer and wine garden, and some surprise glow games.
  - **Christmas Festival** - We are also working to put up Christmas lights in the park and replace the storyboards on the trail. Our Christmas event will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December. 10:00 am to 3 p.m., then Tree lighting from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. New this year, Mayor Bost will read ***The Night Before Christmas*** to the kids.

Mayor-Elect Bost thanked Ian and commented that all the events have been fantastic. Commissioner Hunter Smith mentioned that he was very impressed with and really enjoyed Veteran's Day, and the Golf Tournament.

Greg Bannerman, Parks Maintenance Supervisor reported on maintenance activities at the Riverwalk, and shared a presentation depicting some of the rotten trees that were removed, railings that have been replaced and improvements made to the Veterans Memorial, which now has raised planters and flowering plants, including azaleas and camelias. He also discussed stricter enforcement of the dog leash and dog clean up laws. Mr. Bannerman relayed that



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received many compliments from the Veterans about the park, and Mr. Bannerman acknowledged that staff also cleared the area next to the Veteran's Memorial.

Mayor Bost thanked Greg Bannerman for keeping the park in such immaculate condition, and for doing due diligence on the dangerous trees. Mayor Bost mentioned that the seal of the US Marine Corps needs to be replaced, which is an action item.

**ITEM #7 - REGULAR AGENDA**

**a. Transportation and Project Updates**

Mayor Bost reported that the Cape Fear Bridge Replacement does not have a solution.

Planning Consultant Adrienne Harrington gave the Project Update report, a synopsis of which follows:

- ***Multi-Use Path*** – Construction is now complete, we are receiving the final invoices. A Ribbon Cutting will be planned soon.
- ***0.2 Mile Gap*** – We are hopeful the engineering for this project should start around March.
- ***NC133 Crossing*** - We hope to submit a request for bids for engineering design soon. This will include the redesign of the parking lot.
- ***Stormwater Feasibility Study*** – This study is almost complete. Five major areas were identified, all five need drainage ditch improvements. We submitted FEMA grant application through the state, for engineering services only. The hazard mitigation part costs are high in the area of \$4.45 million. We have requested \$334,650, the State could possibly provide a local match of \$111,550 for construction.

Mayor-Elect Charles Bost encouraged citizens to remove debris from their culverts. We really need cooperation from the citizens, so we can partner with them to correct the problems. Both Mayor-Elect Bost and Adrienne Harrington concurred that we are working with Representative Rouzer to help us get some funding.

Town Consultant Adrienne Harrington suggested we have a Public Information/Education Meeting so that we can discuss property owner rights and responsibilities, help educate them, and explain what part can be done by others. Mayor-Elect Bost agreed that this would be beneficial, and thanked Ms. Harrington for her report.



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**b. Approval of the Calendars**

1. Parks and Recreation Board
2. Planning Board and Board of Adjustment

Town Manager Athina Williams relayed that the Parks and Recreation Board and the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment have their proposed calendars, and are looking for your approval. The Board approved the Parks and Recreation calendar, the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment 2026 proposed calendars.

3. Board of Commissioners – Discussion ensued on the proposed dates and time of the proposed meeting. Mayor Charles Bost would like to move the meetings to the fourth Tuesday, instead of Monday. Town Clerk Sharon Niemann asked if we could move the meetings to 6:00 p.m. Discussion ensued. We will change to Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. pending agreement with our Town Attorney, Norwood Blanchard.

**ITEM #8 – OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

**a. Town Attorney - None**

**b. Board of Commissioners** – Commissioner Hunter Smith wanted to thank everyone for their work at the recent events: Veterans Day, Golf Tournament, and Commissioner Morgan Mehler agreed.

**c. Mayor Pro Tem-Elect** Ryan Merrill stated he has been talking with our Town Manager about working with Brunswick Community College partnering with the Access to Achievement program – a volunteer program for students with intellectual and Developmental disabilities.

**d. Mayor** – Mayor-Elect Bost mentioned that working here has given him a little eye-opening experience into the amount of work the events entail, and he appreciates everyone's hard work.

**e. Town Manager – None**

**ITEM #9 - ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION** – Mayor Pro Tem-Elect Ryan Merrill **MADE THE MOTION** to adjourn. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**



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**Minutes taken by Sharon A. Niemann**

**SIGNED:**

Charles Bost, Mayor-Elect

**ATTEST:**

  
Sharon A. Niemann, Town Clerk