

July 2025 Town Council

Meeting minutes

The Town of Unionville held its regular meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in Unionville Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom and Commissioners Andrew Benton, Jeff Broadaway, Gene Price and Chad Simpson were present. Commissioner Jaren Simpson and Attorney Ken Helms were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag

Invocation

The invocation was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Andrew Benton.

Welcome and Call to Order

Mayor Randy Baucom welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

Mayor Baucom opened the floor for public comments. No citizens came forward to speak.

Consideration of the minutes of the June 16, 2025 public hearings and regular meeting

The Council reviewed the minutes of the June 16, 2025 budget public hearing, text amendment public hearing and regular meeting.

Gene Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025 public hearings and regular meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Andrew Benton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – Darrell Baucom

Finance Officer Darrell Baucom presented the financial report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. He noted that the town's cash balances are approximately \$200,000 ahead compared to the previous year. He explained that the financial report reflects the purchase of Noel Williams Park, which is why the total assets appear significantly larger than the previous year.

Mr. Baucom reviewed page 3 of the report, comparing the actual figures for 2024-2025 to the amended budget. Total revenue was \$3,800,000, with \$3,100,000 being the donated property received from Noel Williams Park. He indicated that both income and expenses were favorable compared to budget. The actual revenue over expenses was \$3,381,000 primarily due to the donation of the park property.

On page 5, Mr. Baucom reviewed transactions since the last meeting, including payments to Helms Law Group, Piedmont Recreation reimbursements, salaries, donations to Council on Aging and the Unionville Community Center, cyber liability insurance renewal, payment to First Call Junk Removal for the Old Camden property, payment to Miles McClellan, and Union County payment for the Piedmont convenience site.

Mr. Baucom then presented the pending bills, which included expense reimbursements, salaries, retirement payroll amounts, payment to Refined Outdoors for approximately 3.5 months of lawn maintenance, reimbursement to Piedmont Recreation, and dues to the School of Government.

Gene Price made a motion to pay the bills. Chad Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Charitable Contribution Requests

American Red Cross

Sheila Crunkleton from the American Red Cross addressed the Council. She began by complimenting the town's new facilities. Ms. Crunkleton discussed the Red Cross' busy year, particularly in response to Hurricane Helene which affected nearly everyone in the state. She explained that her entire paid staff team was deployed at different times, and she was part of the leadership team that was brought in two days before the storm and remained for a week following.

Ms. Crunkleton shared a story about how the Mayor had contacted her regarding a request from someone in Unionville inquiring about Ashe County, and she was proud to report that the Red Cross had already delivered six box trucks of requested supplies to the area. Through her follow-up call with the contact, she learned about additional needs related to washed-out driveways, and she was able to connect the community with Ron Brown, a state utility contractor, who sent crews for several weeks to repair driveways.

She emphasized the importance of community presence and connections in disaster response. Ms. Crunkleton noted that house fires continued to occur even during Helene, and she said that the Council may rest assured that the Red Cross is contacted when citizens are impacted by disasters such as house fires, flooding or tornadoes. She mentioned that the Red Cross offers various resources, including fatality benefits when applicable.

Ms. Crunkleton also discussed the smoke alarm program, explaining that not having a working smoke alarm increases the chance of dying in a house fire by about 50 percent. The Red Cross provides smoke alarms free of charge and works with fire departments to distribute them, regardless of income level.

She concluded by mentioning that the Red Cross was already responding to Hurricane Chantal, which had caused damage in Eastern North Carolina. Ms. Crunkleton requested a \$4,000 donation, stating that the funds would directly support local disaster victims, particularly those affected by house fires.

Mayor Baucom inquired about hands-only CPR classes. Ms. Crunkleton explained that the Red Cross has trained instructors who can teach 30-45 minute classes on hands-only CPR, basic first aid, and choking prevention. She provided her contact information and encouraged the Council to reach out to schedule classes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrew Benton made a motion to donate \$4,000 to the American Red Cross. Gene Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Turning Point – vote August 18, 2025

No representative from Turning Point was present. This item will be voted on at the August 18, 2025 meeting.

Consideration of Planning and Development Regulation/Certification for Zoning Official

Deputy Clerk Melody Braswell presented information about a course offered through the North Carolina School of Government. Upon completion of the course, she would sit for the Certified Zoning Official (CZO) exam. Ms. Braswell requested the town's support for this professional development opportunity. She noted that she would not be attending the municipal clerk conference this year due to scheduling conflicts in the office but felt this certification would be useful in her role.

Jeff Broadaway made a motion to support Melody Braswell in this educational opportunity. Chad Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Finance Officer Darrell Baucom brought up the need to determine capital expenditures or capital projects for the park. He noted that there is \$15,000 in unspent funds and reminded the Council that they need to move forward with planning. Mayor Baucom clarified that the funds were for a park master plan.

The Council discussed reaching out to design companies. Mayor Baucom noted that there were three companies being considered, including one in Concord and another in Fort Mill. Mr. Rick Cantwell stated that he would check with Dallas Greene on the status.

Mr. Baucom mentioned that while there was no specific timeframe for utilizing the funds, they should proceed with planning and design. He added that the town had budgeted approximately \$200,000 for improvements and had funds available to do more if needed.

Mayor Baucom thanked Mr. Cantwell for following up with Dallas Greene regarding the design companies.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Baucom declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy
Clerk

Approved as to form:

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney