

# January 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting

## Meeting minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville held its regular meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom, Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Benton, Jeff Broadway, Lana Kirkpatrick, Gene Price, Jaren Simpson, and staff were present. Attorney Ken Helms was absent.

### Welcome and Call to Order

Mayor Randy Baucom called the January 19, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### Administration of Oaths of Office by Mayor Randy Baucom

Mayor Baucom administered oaths of office to:

- Melody Braswell, who was sworn in as Clerk, Land Use Administrator, and Tax Collector for the Town of Unionville
- Sonya Gaddy, who was sworn in as Deputy Clerk for the Town of Unionville

### Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

### Consideration of minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting

*Motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting as presented.*

*Motion by: Gene Price Second by: Jeff Broadway Vote: Passed unanimously*

### Financial Report – Darrell Baucom

Finance Officer Darrell Baucom presented the financial report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, noting that the town's cash position remains strong although interest rates are slightly lower due to the general interest rate environment. The report showed total income of approximately \$450,000 year-to-date, with ad valorem taxes at \$219,000 of a budgeted \$228,000. Total expenses were \$292,000, resulting in an excess of income over expenses of \$157,000 for the year so far.

Mr. Baucom reported significant activity during the month, including numerous tax deposits as residents paid their taxes before year-end. Notable payments included expenses to N-Focus, the Union County Board of Elections for November election expenses, Piedmont Recreation reimbursement, and sick leave for Sonya Gaddy.

Upcoming expenses included payments to Piedmont Recreation Association and expenses related to the 250th celebration (referred to as the sesquicentennial/semi-quincentennial), including \$1,500 for a drone light show

and \$5,300 for children's activities. A payment to N-Focus included expenses for the Unified Development Ordinance.

*Motion to pay the bills as presented.*

*Motion by: Gene Price Second by: Andrew Benton Vote: Passed unanimously*

## 2025 Delinquent Tax List as of 01/12/2026 – Melody Braswell

Melody Braswell presented the 2025 delinquent tax list as required by General Statute 105-369 part A, which mandates that municipal tax collectors report unpaid taxes on real property to the governing board by the second Monday in February. She noted that the list was printed on January 12th and some taxpayers had made payments since then.

Ms. Braswell explained the color coding on the list: blue headings separated real taxes from personal property taxes, while green indicated prior years' unpaid taxes. In response to Councilman Jaren Simpson's inquiry, she stated that the current real property tax delinquency amount was approximately \$15,000, with personal property tax delinquencies around \$2,100.

Ms. Braswell indicated she would be sending letters to all real property owners with outstanding taxes by February 1st and would email the Council the final delinquent list on February 9th. No action was required from the Council on this item.

## Consideration of Palmetto Exterminators Proposal – Tabled from December Meeting

Mayor Baucom reported that he had inspected the moisture barrier underneath Town Hall and found everything to be dry with no tears in the barrier. Based on his inspection, he recommended not proceeding with Palmetto Exterminators' proposal to redo the moisture barrier.

The Council agreed by consensus to take no action on the proposal at this time.

## Updates on America's 250th Celebration – Gene Price

Councilman Gene Price provided an update on the town's 250th celebration, which is five months away, on June 27, 2026. He reported that contracts had already been signed for the band, Chairmen of the Board, inflatables for children's activities and for a patriotic drone light show to be presented at dark.

Mr. Price explained that much planning remains to be done, including arrangements for food vendors, cooling stations, security, portable toilets, and post-event cleanup. He requested Council approval to form a volunteer committee to help coordinate these details, noting his hope that the event would attract several thousand attendees.

*Motion to approve the formation of a volunteer committee to help coordinate the 250th celebration activities.*

*Motion by: Jaren Simpson Second by: Lana Kirkpatrick Vote: Passed unanimously*

Mr. Price also discussed the need to pursue corporate sponsorships to help offset the celebration costs. He requested authorization for the committee, once formed, to approach businesses about advertising opportunities at the event in exchange for sponsorships.

*Motion to authorize the committee to pursue corporate sponsorships for the 250th celebration.*

*Motion by: Jeff Broadaway Second by: Lana Kirkpatrick Vote: Passed unanimously*

## Request for Charitable Contribution

## Union County American Legion Baseball (vote February)

No representative from the American Legion was present. This item will be addressed at the February meeting.

## Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters with Attorney

Councilman Jeff Broadaway noted that the town attorney had informed him that the Council could proceed with the executive session to discuss personnel matters without the attorney being present.

*Motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters.*

*Motion by: Gene Price Second by: Jaren Simpson Vote: Passed unanimously*

The Council entered into executive session.

Following the executive session, the Council returned to open meeting.

*Motion to close executive session.*

*Motion by: Andrew Benton Second by: Gene Price*

## Other Business

No other business was brought before the Council.

## Adjournment

Mayor Baucom declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Braswell  
Clerk/Tax Collector/Land Use Administrator

Approved as to form:

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R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney