

MAYOR
Jessie Bellflowers

MAYOR PRO TEM
Hope Page

TOWN MANAGER
Chancer McLaughlin



TOWN BOARD
Cynthia Hamilton
Grilley Mitchell
Bryan Marley
Lisa Tremmel

TOWN CLERK
Ashley Wyatt

TOWN OF HOPE MILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Agenda – January 20, 2026
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Mayor Bellflowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed those in attendance.

NOTE: Commissioner Marley arrived at 8:03pm

ABSENT: Commissioner Lisa Tremmel

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Chancer McLaughlin, Town Clerk Ashley Wyatt, Deputy Town Clerk Coronda Regan, Police Chief Stephen Dollinger, Director of Planning Emily Weidner, Town Planner Xavier Robinson, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Parks and Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, and Town Attorney Dan Hartzog.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bellflowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Hope Page moved to add item number 9 for a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(A)(6) to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and the agenda was approved unanimously as amended.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

Town Manager Chancer McLaughlin provided the following updates:

- Upcoming FAST stakeholder conversation on January 29th regarding regional transportation, including discussions about rideshare locations and a potential second FAST hub
- Hope Mills Cottontail Trail vendor opportunities
- Hope Mills Homelessness Committee activities in partnership with Continuum of Care Foundation
- Emergency services year-in-review statistics (2,123 total calls for fire department)
- Police Department appreciation for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day support
- Hope Mills Area Land Use Plan progress, explaining this is a 9-12 month process currently at the halfway point

- Grant program successes, noting \$630,000 received from the Municipal Accounting Services (MAS) Program.
- Infrastructure improvements including sidewalk installation near Waldos Beach, Camden project, Rockfish and Golfview Road widening, and the Legion Road closure (expected to last six weeks)
- Residential construction updates on The One apartments, Sweetwater, Pembroke subdivision (7 of 79 houses built)
- Commercial construction progress on The Hive in Hope Mills, which will feature underground electrical lines for food trucks

Commissioner Hamilton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Hope Page congratulated Hope Mills Parks and Recreation for receiving a \$10,200 grant for "Have a Seat in Hope Mills" at the lake.

Mayor Bellflowers highlighted the large turnout of approximately 1,200 people who attended the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the Crown.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Recognizing National School Choice Week

Mayor Bellflowers read into the record the proclamation recognizing January 25-31, 2026, as National School Choice Week in Hope Mills.

Historic Preservation Commission - Certified Local Government Status

Town Manager Chancer McLaughlin explained the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, which was established when Congress amended the National Historic Preservation Act in 1980 to include local governments in the national historic preservation framework.

The Historic Preservation Commission representatives explained that two requirements for CLG status include having two commission members, one staff member, and one governing board member attend CLG training annually. It was the consensus of the board for Commissioner Marley to attend on behalf of the board.

The HPC also discussed their plans for Charter Day, marking the town's 135th anniversary. They explained this would be a town-wide event, not just an HPC event, and requested assistance in coordinating the celebration at Heritage Park.

The Town Manager agreed to establish an event review committee to meet prior to the February 2nd meeting to develop a concrete plan.

PUBLIC HEARING

A2025-011 LYING in Rockfish Township, near Hope Mills, Cumberland County and North Carolina this subject property being bounded on the north by Lots 116 – 120 Sheffield Farms North, Section Two as described and recorded in Plat Book 118, Page 93, Cumberland County Registry; bounded on the east by property conveyed to John McNeill Ray, Jr. and Robert Neal Ray as described and recorded in Deed Book 9887, Page 305, Cumberland County Registry; bounded

on the south by the northern right of way margin of Muscat Road (S.R. 1119) and bounded on the west by the eastern right of way margin of Fairhaven Trail.

Emily Wiedner, Planning Director presented the annexation request for 2.44 acres adjacent to Sheffield Farms.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Page to open the public hearing for Annexation case A2025-011, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and carried unanimously.

Larry King, representative for the applicant made himself available for questions.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell to close the public hearing for Annexation case A2025-011, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, and carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Page to approve annexation of A2025-011 and authorize staff to begin the initial zoning process to designate the property as R-7.5 residential district. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included:

Approval of 2026 Parks and Recreation Meeting Schedule

Consideration and approval of the Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes January 5, 2026, Special Meeting and January 5, 2026 Regular Meeting

Adoption of Ordinance No. A2026-001 Cumberland County Parcel 040-38-57431 and containing 2.44 acres

Motion by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to approve consent agenda items A, B, and C. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Budget Amendment #18 for the Police Department in the amount of \$1,500

Police Chief Stephen Dollinger explained the funds would support the department's initiative to send all lieutenants and above to the West Point leadership program for leadership training.

Mayor Bellflowers noted the excellent return on investment from this program.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Page, to approve budget amendment number 18 for the police department in the amount of \$1,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorizing the Town Manager to negotiate and execute an amendment to the original Lease Agreement with the T.J. Robinson Life Center and approval of corresponding Budget Amendment #19 in the amount of \$4,600

Parks and Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison explained that the additional funds were needed because the recreation program had added four more teams since the original agreement, requiring more practice time at the T.J. Robinson Life Center. He noted that the program currently uses four facilities (Southview Middle, Hope Mills Middle, T.J. Robinson Center, and the town's rec center) but still needs more time at T.J. Robinson Center to accommodate practices.

Mr. Morrison also provided a brief update on the damaged basketball court, following a vandalism incident. He noted that replacing of fencing, trash receptacles, and benches already totaled approximately \$12,000, with final estimates pending. The original court cost was around \$56,000. He stated he would have a complete update at the February 2nd meeting, including potential insurance coverage information.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Page, to authorize the town manager to negotiate and execute an amendment to the original lease agreement with the T.J. Robinson Life Center and approve a corresponding budget amendment #19 in the amount of \$4,600. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11(A)(6)

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hope Page, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, to conduct a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(A)(6) to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned from closed session.

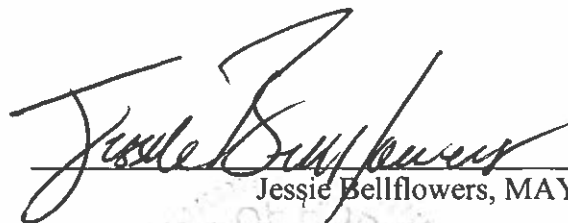
Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hope Page to seal the minutes of the closed session until such time as the release of the information would no longer frustrate the purpose of the closed session and further no action was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

ADOPTED this 16th Day of February 2026.


Jessie Bellflowers, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Ashley Wyatt, MMC Town Clerk

