

# Town of Unionville

## March 2026 Regular Council Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville held its regular meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom, Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Benton, Jeff Broadaway, Lana Kirkpatrick, Gene Price, Jaren Simpson, and staff were present. Clerk Melody Braswell was absent.

#### Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### Invocation

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrew Benton led the invocation.

#### 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 public comments were made.

#### Consideration of minutes of the February 16, 2026, regular meeting

Mayor Baucom asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16th meeting.

*Andrew Benton moved to approve the minutes. Jaren Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### Financial Report – Darrell Baucom

Finance Officer Darrell Baucom presented the financial report, noting the town continues to maintain a strong cash position. He reported income of approximately \$542,000 versus a budget of \$704,000, with total expenses of \$372,000, resulting in a net positive of about \$170,000. Major expense items included salaries and UDO implementation. Baucom reviewed transactions since the last meeting, including payments to N-focus, Parker Poe for Griffin landfill consulting, Union County for critical intersection design, and reimbursements to Piedmont Recreation. He also presented pending bills, highlighting major items including Piedmont Recreation reimbursements, N-focus UDO payments, Benesch for park-related planning, VC3 catch-up charges totaling \$5,400, and \$7,500 for Glyphics drone show for the June 27th celebration.

*Gene Price moved to pay the bills. Lana Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## Consideration of Amendment to Contract to Audit Accounts – Darrell Baucom

Darrell Baucom explained that J.B. Watson experienced staffing issues again this year, preventing them from submitting the audit report to the Council of Government on time. The audit is essentially complete but missed the deadline. J. B. Watson & Co. has assured us they will address staffing to meet deadlines for next year. This amendment adjusts the timing requirements for audit submission.

*Gene Price moved to approve the amendment to the audit contract with J.B. Watson. Andrew Benton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## Consideration of Catalis for payment processing – Darrell Baucom

Baucom reported receiving numerous inquiries about electronic payment options including debit cards and Venmo. Town Clerk Melody has researched options and recommended Catalis as a payment processing company. The system would allow customers to pay property taxes, zoning fees, and other bills electronically without requiring separate account setup like Venmo. Fees would be \$2.95 minimum per transaction or 5% of the transaction amount paid by the consumer. There would be no cost for the town except potential future consulting expenses.

*Jeff Broadaway moved to proceed with Catalis for payment processing. Jaren Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## Consideration of Participation in 2027 Deer Urban Archery Season

Mayor Baucom explained this agreement extends the deer hunting season by one month using archery equipment, as the town has participated in previous years. He noted there are plenty of deer in the area.

*Jaren Simpson moved to continue participation in the 2027 Urban Archery season. Gene Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## Consideration of Strategic Planning/Budget Retreat – Gene Price

Councilman Gene Price noted that budget retreat discussions have occurred in previous years but never progressed beyond the talking stage. He proposed holding a budget retreat for a couple of hours at Town Hall to work on the upcoming budget and streamline planning for the coming year. Price explained the budget is typically assembled in May and voted on in June, making a late April retreat appropriate. The retreat would include council members, Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, Town Clerk Melody, and Deputy Clerk Sonya. Attorney Ken Helms confirmed the meeting would need to be advertised and open to the public. After discussion about scheduling, the council settled on Monday, April 27th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

*Gene Price moved to hold a budget retreat on Monday, April 27th at 7:00 PM. Lana Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## Consideration of Personnel Compensation and Possible Amendment of Prior Action – Andrew Benton & Jeff Broadaway

Andrew Benton acknowledged making an error in his motion from the previous month regarding salary versus hourly rates. He clarified the correction needed for personnel compensation structure.

*Andrew Benton moved to set the pay rate for the clerk at \$43.50 per hour and make the finance officer a salary position at \$22,500. Jeff Broadaway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

Gene Price reported on the committee meeting held the previous Tuesday at the park, with nine attendees. The group decided on locations for parking, the stage, and food trucks, and discussed potential sponsors. They have a meeting planned for next month and successfully resolved parking arrangements for the event. Price noted the extensive planning required for such an event and mentioned they will be mailing letters to potential sponsors seeking financial support, labor, or product donations.

Price also discussed presentation of colors with John Brewer, who recommended presenting all eight colors representing all branches of service rather than just the American flag. This would take approximately eight minutes, and the American Legion would handle the presentation. The council expressed support for presenting all eight colors.

## Consideration of Deputy Clerk working one-two days a week – Gene Price

Gene Price explained that working with Town Clerk Melody over recent months has revealed how busy she is and how much work is required to keep the town running. Melody also attends multiple training sessions, including one on the evening of this meeting. Price suggested that Deputy Clerk Sonya could help Melody a couple of days a week when needed.

Jeff Broadway noted that Council had already approved the deputy clerk position and pay rate, so no formal action was needed. He suggested Melody and Sonya could coordinate between themselves regarding when help is needed and when Sonya is available. Broadway emphasized wanting to keep the arrangement flexible for Sonya. Mayor Baucom confirmed this approach, and Sonya indicated she would be glad to work one day a week.

## Request for Charitable Contribution

### Union County American Legion Baseball (vote tonight)

Head Coach Brad Elwood presented the request for Union County American Legion Baseball. He explained that American Legion Baseball is the organization's number one youth program and represents local veterans. The team provides free admission to veterans, post members, and American Legion affiliates at all games. Elwood noted the program's costs have increased due to inflation and mentioned they are seeking support from multiple municipalities. He highlighted that Unionville resident Joe Ellis and his family were instrumental in helping grow the program last year, and they hope to have him involved again. The team plays at Wingate and provides a platform for the community to watch quality baseball games nightly.

Mayor Baucom noted attending games last year and commented on the quality of baseball played. The team confirmed they would likely play at Wingate again this year through a handshake agreement.

*Gene Price moved to grant the \$2,000 request for American Legion Post 535 baseball. Jaren Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Union County Council on Aging (vote April)

No representative was present to speak on this request.

### Unionville Lions Club (vote April)

Elizabeth Moore, event chair committee member, and Jeanie Pitoniak, club president, presented for the Unionville Lions Club. Moore explained that the club is a volunteer organization focused on bringing the community together, particularly through organizing the July 4th festival that has become a family tradition. However, after reviewing several years of financial records, new leadership discovered the festival consistently loses money rather than serving as a fundraiser. The club goes into debt each year hosting the festival for the town.

This year is especially significant as America celebrates its 250th anniversary, and the Lions Club wants to make it special by offering free entertainment, with families only paying for food and optional vendors. They

hope to attract families from nearby communities to choose Unionville over surrounding towns for their celebration. Without town partnership, the club would need to charge elevated prices due to financial constraints and the reality that grocery bills, gas prices, and other costs have increased for families.

Moore noted the aging membership of the Lions Club makes it increasingly difficult to find volunteers for the event. She provided Melody with a detailed proposal and vendor list, mentioning they currently have \$1,500 in sponsorship from Union Power for July 4th and about two-thirds sponsorship for the April 23rd Too Much Sylvia concert. The club is actively seeking additional sponsorship.

Mayor Baucom suggested contacting Duke Energy and mentioning Union Power's contribution as leverage. Moore confirmed she would contact anyone willing to help. The proposal includes various vendors and entertainment, including a family entertainment vendor offering ventriloquism, magic, and family comedy separate from the main concert, as well as an axe-throwing experience with safety measures, including suction cup axes for children 13 and under.

Finance Officer Darrell Baucom recommended having the axe-throwing vendor name the Lions Club as additional insured on their policy. The club confirmed Tickle My Ribs would continue providing food service with half chickens and pulled pork plates, working with the Lions Club on pricing and scaling back portions based on the previous year's leftovers.

The Council indicated they would review the proposal over the next month before making a decision.

## Other Business

No other business was presented.

## Adjournment

Mayor Baucom declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Braswell  
Clerk/Tax Collector/Land Use Administrator

Approved as to form:

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R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney

Note: These minutes were drafted with the assistance of Clerk Minutes by HeyGov. All content was reviewed and approved by the Clerk/Tax Collector/Land Use Administrator prior to submission.