

AURORA TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2026
Aurora Town Hall
All Items Are for Discussion and Possible Action

1. The mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Curt Hendrix opened with a prayer and Commissioner Reed led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officials Present: **[x]** Curt Hendrix, Mayor

Commissioners Present: **[x]** Steve McCormack, Mayor Pro Tem
 [x] Galene Williams
 [x] Jamea Reed

Staff Present: **[x]** Rhonda Stallings

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to accept agenda was made by Commissioner Reed and seconded by Commissioner Williams.

3. Public Comment

Denise Bonner noted that Aurora Night Out would be held Aug 22 and requested town support. The mayor commented that until the budget was determined as well as new state forms provided, that would have to wait.

Georgetta Williams questioned why the limbs, and overgrown properties had not been taken care of. The mayor replied that the town was not compliant with the state guidelines for limb removal, and we need to come up with a plan to address this issue.

Joe Holland, of Community Watch, urged adoption of the medical vending machine request. It was pointed out that County, Rescue Squad, and other medical personnel had been contacted and no one is in favor of this idea.

Debbie Guthrie requested that the Town change the meeting date in order to permit attendance at County Commission meetings. This is not a viable option currently as Town Charter stipulates the meeting date. Although, it is possible to change the meeting time.

Nancy Hubbard brought up why speed bumps had not been installed. The mayor recalled that during the town hearing on this matter, no body with children

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actually attended the meeting. Additionally, there are specific criteria from the state to be followed. That the surveys were not returned with acceptance with people living in the affected areas.

Bev Horvath said that fire hydrants were blocked downtown whenever the fossil festival was held and requested action to address this to improve safety concerns. The mayor will investigate this.

4. Consideration of Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of June 1, 2026, was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Jamea Reed.

5. Old Business

Briefly reviewed the eight grants currently in process by the Mid-East Commission.

6. Financial Report

Financial report is not available due to poor recordkeeping of former Financial Officer. However, it was agreed to hold a Budget Hearing on June 11 to begin finalization of the Budget.

7. New Business

Sherri Hollister was recommended to replace the Commissioner seat vacated by Coley Jordan. Commissioner Reed made a motion to accept, and Commissioner McCormack seconded the motion which was approved by the Board. The mayor swore in Sherry Hollister as a new Commissioner.

8. Staff Reports

Rhonda Stallings gave a run down on the department's activities.

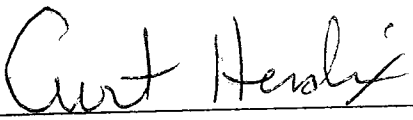
9. Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (6).

Motion to come out of closed Session was made by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Reed.

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10. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Reed to close the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Williams.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Curt Hendrix", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Curt Hendrix

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steve McCormack", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Steve McCormack

Interim Clerk

- RFQ will be advertised for engineering, permitting, and construction management services on 5/29 with responses due 6/26.
- **Unfunded Fall round NC Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) application (no update since last month)**
 - CDBG-I: Water lines/fixtures and sewer manholes in residential area of NE section of town. \$2,990,200 application amount.
 - This was not funded due to the town being behind on audits. The income surveys are valid for 18 months from completion. Mid-East can resubmit the application for the town at no charge in the fall round (usually Sept. 30th due date). It is important for audits to be caught up by this point.
- **Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) Phase 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant project (wetland restoration, berm improvement, sludge removal)**
 - This project was awarded by RCCP with 100% grant. \$1,071,250 total project budget.
 - Wetland cell one has been completed. We held an on site meeting on 5/18. RK&K was happy with the results.
 - At that meeting, after conferring with RK&K and town staff, we believe it is best for the plants in wetland cell one to be well established to ensure they are providing full treatment capacity before beginning cell two restoration. Additionally, there were concerns with planting in heat of summer. Determined that fall restoration of wetland cell two would be best. Requesting extension from grant agency until 10/15.
 - Sludge removal from the holding ponds was supposed to begin the week of 5/26. As of 5/28 it has not begun yet. Will follow up with contractor on timeline.
- **NC Land and Water Fund Baileys Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvements**
 - This project was awarded by NC LWF with 100% grant. Total project budget \$704,809.
 - Surveying and initial planning/fieldwork has been completed. RK&K has completed 30% designs (attached).
 - Requesting that RK&K attend to present 30% designs to board in July. Will confirm if this works with their schedule.
 - On site meeting was held with permitting agencies on 5/27.
- **Drainage Ditch and Tributary Maintenance and Easement Plan**
 - Ready for implementation grants (for engineering or combination engineering/construction applications).

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- RCCP is an option and applications open again in August. Would need to start with Phase 3 application for engineering/design and include one of the green projects.
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities Program (BRIC) was restored. Applications are due July 23rd. However full BRIC program (which previously funded both engineering/design and construction) is only allowing shovel ready projects now per the NC Dept. of Public Safety (the state agency FEMA applications are submitted to). BRIC Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) application is possible for engineering, but with long wait times for FEMA applications and more complicated application process, it will be more beneficial to get engineering done through RCCP Phase 3. Then we can look at FEMA BRIC when we have shovel ready project(s) which may exceed the maximum construction application amount under RCCP Phase 4 (which is around \$500,000 to \$1 million depending on funding availability in the round).
- Mid-East Commission grant writing cost for RCCP Phase 3 application is \$2,500. Will bring project recommendations and grant writing contract for consideration at July board meeting.
- **Water and Sewer System Resilience Assessment and Sewer System Expansion Assessment**
 - The town applied for a BRIC grant in 2023 to fund this project. It had passed the first round of review and was still being considered for funding when the program was canceled. Per NC DPS staff, the application is now being considered for funding again (although FEMA staff who work this program are currently out until DHS is funded by the federal government). We expect the application to be funded since it passed the first round of review, although it can be a lengthy process.