

Mayor

Doris Underwood

Commissioners

Christopher Carlson

Edward Lowery Jr.

Daniel McColl

Tony McVickers

Benjamin Mahaffey

Attorney

Sarah Price



Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Raymie Day

Utility Clerk

Lana Penfield

Interim Chief of Police

John Micheals

Public Works Director

Joe Penfield

Code Enforcement Officer

Tina Odom

MEETING MINUTES September 2, 2025

Called to order by Mayor Underwood 6:59PM

Invocation by Tony McVickers

Pledge of allegiance led by Mayor Underwood

The following members of the board of commissioners were present:

Mayor Underwood

Commissioner Carlson

Commissioner Lowery

Commissioner McVickers

Commissioner McColl

Commissioner Mahaffey

Overview

- Meeting minutes for **August 4th and 19th** approved.
- Upcoming **RMCA meeting** to be hosted October 28th at First Missionary Baptist Church.
- Discussion on **potential speakers** for RMCA, including law enforcement and water/sewer experts.
- Plans for a **Meet the Candidates** event with structured Q&A and time limits scheduled for October 7th.
- Update on **maintenance building** (no new info), **sewer project** (awaiting DOT/engineer feedback), and **food truck event** (no update).
- Public concern raised about **unsafe playground equipment** at the county park; action to coordinate complaints and photos to county.
- Department reports.
- Legal update on **bequeathed property**: town ownership subject to estate debts; possible sale to cover claims.
- Proposal for a **new general healthcare facility** in Parkton under review.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve meeting minutes for August 4th and August 19th requested by Mayor Underwood. Commissioner Lowery motioned for the approval of the minutes. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

New Business

Planning for October RMCA Meeting and Speaker Selection

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- RMCA bi-monthly meeting scheduled for October 28th, 7 p.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church.
 - Discussion held on selecting a speaker; previous speaker at St. Paul's meeting discussed local water resources.
 - Not all commissioners have attended previous meetings and are encouraged to attend; attendance varies due to other commitments.
 - Discussed potential speakers for next month's meeting: Chief Braden (former Fayetteville Police Chief), current county Sheriff Wilkins, or a state expert on water/sewer challenges John Malone.
 - County sheriff previously spoke on local issues; Kem Braden considered as first choice if available.
 - John Malone suggested as a speaker addressing water and sewer challenges affecting municipalities. John Malone (state rural water expert) proposed as an alternative speaker.
 - Decision will be to finalize speaker based on availability and topic relevance.
 - Mayor Underwood to oversee catering the meeting.

Meet The Candidates

- Mayor Underwood to oversee catering for approximately 40 people.
- Considered Olive Garden as a catering option and is estimated at \$400–\$500 for 40–50 people.
- Discussed local catering alternatives (e.g., Jackson).
- Discussion was made that each candidate will have 3-5 minutes to speak.
- Mrs. Penfield made the suggestion to have a list of questions ready for each candidate.
- As long as other candidates are available start time to begin approximately 6:00PM/6:30PM. Town hall meeting to immediately follow meet the candidates.

Old Business

- Maintenance Shop Update – No new update at this time. Still waiting to hear back from Robeson County.
- Sewer Project Update – No new update at this time.
- Food Truck Event – No new update at this time. Citizen has not responded to our attempts to contact.
- Ruritan Property Update – No new update at this time.
- Police Chief Update
 - 23 applications received, 6 candidates selected for interviews on Thursday 9/4/2025 and Friday 9/5/2025; decision expected after final interview.

Public Comments

- Local citizen Mrs. Smith raised concerns about the state of the current park here in Parkton.
- Mrs. Smith stated the public park playground is hazardous, outdated, and a safety concern by many residents and called for urgent replacement and swift action.
- Commissioner McVickers stated that the park in Parkton is maintained by the county and is county responsibility.

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- The clerk's email was given to Mrs. Smith so that she may email the concern and the town will forward the concern to the Parks and Rec Department at Robeson County.
 - Commissioner McVickers and other members of the board encouraged her to use a softer approach with the county and to make sure she includes photos in her email as evidence of the issue.

Department Reports

Public works

- 8 new accounts, 12 cut off list only 2 shut off but immediately corrected, and 1 eviction.

Police

- 8 traffic stops, 5 citations, 4 warnings, 2 breaking and entering, 2 disorderly conducts, 2 check on subject, 1 auto accident, 1 automatic crash notification, and 1 alarm call.

Admin

- Provided updated financial spreadsheet for all accounts.
- Grant reimbursement pending; expected within 10 days; amount varies and a meeting with DWI is scheduled for 9/3/2025.

Legal

- Town named beneficiary of property in Caroline Hughes' will; property vests automatically at death but there is a lien on the estate.
- It is unclear which assets may be sold to pay debts. Town owns property as of decedent's passing, but sale possible if needed for debt payment.
- Insurance covers events (only trunk or treat or 4th of July) on town property.
- No structures are allowed to be built until the estate is settled.

Zoning

- 1 fence and 1 new business (consisting of zoning, signage, water and registration)

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner McColl stated that his time on the board is ending and it was a pleasure to serve with everyone on the Town of Parkton board.
- Proposal for new general health care facility (ages 12+) in Parkton was presented to Commissioner McVickers and Mayor Underwood.
- Commissioner McVickers stated they are in the development of creating an incentives package for the Nurse Practitioner interested in having the clinic here in Parkton.