

TOWN OF BAILEY MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – 9/15/2025

The Regular Meeting of the Bailey Town Board was held at Bailey Town Hall on September 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

The following Board members were present: Mayor Owen H. Strickland II, Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Walter Wells, and Commissioners Richard Wilson, Dillon Bissette, and David Evans. Commissioner Ervin Powell was absent.

Also present: Town Administrator/Town Clerk/CFO Joel Killion, Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer Shawn Lucas, Police Chief Adam Gelo, and Town Attorney Mark Edwards.

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearings:

None

Acceptance of meeting minutes and financials:

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 18, 2025, and Commissioner Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Evans: Aye, Wells: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye.

The Board of Commissioners accepted the Deposit Accounts Balances Summary from Southern Bank, the Accounts Summary from KS Bank, and the Budget vs Actual Report for 9/12/2025.

Agenda:

Ms. Annie Anderson, Director & Curator of The Country Doctor Museum: Ms. Anderson opened by thanking the Town of Bailey for its support. She then provided a summary of prior and upcoming events. Afterward, she shared that ECU had recently announced that it is facing financial challenges and that they are expected to cut \$25 million from their budget over the next three (3) years. And, as a result, they determined that they will no longer have funding to operate The Country Doctor Museum. This means that ECU is looking for new stewardship to take over ownership and operation of the museum. ECU would like to gift the museum to a governing entity, including the land, the buildings, and the collections. The governing body – the new steward – of the museum could be on a state level, a regional level, etc., and the museum is asking for help from the community to look at different options.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells added that ECU's funding for the Museum is in place until July of 2026, providing about 9 months to figure this out.

Mr. Mark Boykin, Chairman of the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments: Mr. Boykin, in leading up to his main point, shared a little history about Bailey, including its various accomplishments, businesses, community offerings, attractions, etc. He then shared his concerns regarding the future of the Bailey Public Library (Wesley Privette Memorial Library) and invited Ms. Ann-Marie Brown, who is on the Board of Trustees for the Library, to join him at the podium. Together, they communicated the desperate need for more regular visitors to the Library and discussed with the Board and some members of the public, who were present, various ideas and solutions to help raise the visitor numbers so the Braswell Memorial Library sees how much Bailey values its Library.

2019 CWSRF Sanitary Sewer Project: Mr. Joe McKemey (Engineer with McDavid Associates Inc.) directed the Board's attention to the Capital Project Ordinance, the Final Adjusting Change Order, and the Certificate of Substantial Completion documents provided in their packets. He reviewed these documents and stated that he was there to get approval for Change Order No. 4 and for the Capital Project Ordinance.

Commissioner Wells made a motion to approve the amended Capital Project Ordinance for the 2019 CWSRF Project dated September 15, 2025, and Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Wells: Aye, Evans: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bisette: Aye. [Note: Mayor Strickland asked for votes by the raising of hands.]

EnviroLink: Mr. John Greer (CFO for EnviroLink) summarized the recent inspection by the DEQ of the collection system that went very well. He then shared some background information regarding a recent Electronic Reporting Violations document from the DEQ that was addressed to EnviroLink (not Bailey) and received by the Town (and several other towns/entities) and explained that it was due to a clerical error that had already been discussed with the DEQ.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells then passed to the Board members a document entitled "Report for Engagement of Partner Services to Perform Water and Sewer System Operational Reviews, Analyses and Recommendations for The Town of Bailey – August 21, 2025". He provided a summary of this final report, explaining how the Town utilized Partner Services' expertise to understand the operations at the wells and the sewer treatment plant, including meter readings, processes, and operations. He also shared that this report provides the findings and conclusions associated with this engagement. He then added that this report had been provided to EnviroLink, which is now acting on the recommendations of the report. Moreover, he stated that this engagement last about 90 days and that the final billing from Partner Services was in May of 2025. With all that said, he said that further engagement had been halted, pending any more requests the Town may have.

Commissioner Evans directed the Board's attention to the first page, where it explains why the Town of Bailey was placed on the sewer moratorium in the first place. He said that most people

do not know why the Town was originally put on the moratorium, but this reports makes it plain.

Top Notch Lawn Care: Mr. John Thompson (Owner/Operator) provided a summary of landscaping work recently done in Town, at the Cemetery, and at the wastewater treatment facility.

Mayor Strickland had Town Attorney Mark Edward introduce a new Associate at Fields and Cooper Law Firm, Attorney Nick Berry, to the Board. And Mr. Berry then spoke at the podium, providing a brief synopsis of who he is.

Old Business:

Hanover Street – Repainting of Parking Area: Commissioner Bissette provided some background on this matter that was never closed and discussed some of the details with the Board. It was determined that someone needed to investigate this matter further and to devise some options that the Board can take action on.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to allow Commissioner Bissette to lead an investigation and come up with a series of options to present back to the Board for their consideration, and Commissioner Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Evans: Aye, Wells: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye.

Board of Commissioners' Agenda Responsibilities Discussion – Town Administrator Killion opened the discussion with a summary of what was covered in the Agenda Subcommittee meeting he had with Mayor Strickland and Mayor Pro Tempore Wells on Monday, September 8 at Town Hall. He explained, according to a resource provided by the UNC School of Government regarding agendas, that there are three reasons councils use agendas: (1) To organize the materials that the council plans to consider, (2) To control the length of their meetings, and (3) To enable members to study matters prior to the meetings at which they will be considered. He then directed the Board's attention to a draft document for an updated agenda format proposed by the Subcommittee and asked the Board to review and vote on it.

Mayor Strickland and Mayor Pro Tempore Wells provided further comments on how well the meeting went and what the new process would look like for submission of agenda content by Board members.

Mayor Pro Tempore Wells then presented a rebuttal to the Mayor's public statement regarding the Agenda that was made during the August Board of Commissioner's meeting. Before proceeding, he shared that since there was no opportunity to comment on the Mayor's Statement in that meeting, he felt a comment was necessary at this time. [Note: Mayor Pro Tempore Wells read each paragraph of the Mayor's statement and then provided a response to each paragraph as follows.]

Mayor's Statement: "This Agenda Item is a prime example of the focus of certain members of this Board of Commissioners to exclude the Mayor, a duly-elected, public official. This Item has one distinct goal, to continue to keep the Mayor in, what some believe, is a subservient role to a Commissioner."

Mayor Pro Tempore's Response: "Well before the Mayor went off on this diatribe, I provided him with documentation confirming that unless specific Board Policy provides otherwise it is up to the Board to set the Agenda.

"The Mayor concurred that this was the case but he still falsely attacked members of the Board saying they were trying to exclude him.

"As late as two meetings prior to that particular meeting the Mayor was involved in preparations of the agenda. For this past month's meeting – the one previous to tonight – the Mayor proactively notified the Town Administrator that he, the Mayor, had nothing to add to the agenda.

"The Mayor was asked and involved in setting this month's agenda

"The Mayor was involved in developing the proposal in front of the board tonight. And I will commend him. He was diligent and that meeting went very well.

Mayor's Statement: "The fact that some Commissioners are so offended by items placed on an agenda and so fearful of allowing the Mayor of the Town of Bailey to place items on an Agenda is a glaring example of what a lack of Transparency the citizens actually have. This issue comes with, I believe, an air of certain Commissioners thinking they know more or somehow know better, than you or the Mayor."

Mayor Pro Tempore's Response: "i.e. Meaning - The Mayor knows best.

"As I reiterated to the Mayor last Monday when he, Joel and I met to talk through the agenda process and develop the recommendation to make to tonight's Board, no Commissioner or anyone else has tried to stop the Mayor from adding any item to the agenda as I identified a few minutes ago.

"This is a complete falsehood and my comments are meant to give the Board and our community complete transparency on this issue.

"The last sentence of the Mayor's comment, in my estimation, is the Pot Calling the Kettle Black."

Mayor's Statement: "This is the only item on the agenda. Does the public really believe this is the only and, thereby, most important thing that should be addressed?"

Mayor Pro Tempore's Response: "The Mayor notified the Town Administrator prior to the meeting that he declined to add anything to the agenda.

"Again, I think this is grandstanding."

Mayor's Statement: "In their effort to suppress the Mayor's role, certain Commissioners [Mayor Pro Tempore Wells added, "And I know who the 'certain Commissioners' are he's talking about."] are leaning on the Town Charter and Ordinances. This document is an outdated, superficial, biased document written by a Board of Commissioners probably in excess of forty years ago."

Mayor Pro Tempore's Response: "The Mayor and the Town Commissioners are sworn 'to lean on' i.e. adhere to State Law and the Town Charter and Ordinances in their roles and responsibilities to the Town.

"The Town of Bailey Mayor's official role is based on applicable State Law and the Town's Ordinances. The Mayor made it clear to me that he understands the limitations placed on his role as Mayor, although he disagrees, and I can hardly understand.

"Interestingly enough, identified responsibilities of the Mayor are to follow State Law and to ensure the Town's ordinances are enforced. That's quite the conundrum."

Mayor's Statement: "I am attempting to move our Town forward. I am certain, there are Commissioners on this Board that do not like my approach, my ideas, my expectations, or my impatience. Some Commissioners on this Board see the Mayor as a hinderance, standing in the way of movement towards their agenda or their ulterior motives. My attempts to move this town into some reasonable style of modern, business-like approach have been ignored, pushed-aside, and described as too much to be handled at one time. Days and hours of work thrown out because some Commissioners don't want to address deficiencies in operations and administration."

Mayor Pro Tempore's Response: "If you will notice in this paragraph, everything is presented as 'I' or 'my'. UNC School of Government has a publication entitled *Leading Your Governing Board: A Guide for Mayors and County Commissioners*. Under its section on Tips for Managing a Meeting, some of these tips are:

- Seek common ground and consensus rather than bullying people toward a resolution.
- Do not surprise the members of the board at the meeting.
- Do not try to be the boards boss, but help members.
- Avoid pursuing your own agenda as Mayor.

"The Mayor has worked diligently on preparing resolutions and even ordinance amendments associated with operations and administration. Some of these resolutions have been passed, others tabled. Based on my overall interactions with the Mayor, and in looking at wording in

some of these resolutions, it appears the Mayor is potentially looking to move some decision making away from the Board and giving it to the Mayor. This is allowed to be done via resolution. The Board members sitting – and I hate (Commissioner) Ervin (Powell) isn't here – need to review these proposals diligently and comprehensively before considering approval of them. Giving decision making ability to the Mayor by resolution – and we can do that – does not release the Board from its overall responsibility.”

Mayor's Statement: “This is about one thing for me, a positive future for Bailey, N.C. If your agenda is anything but Bailey-Centric or Bailey-First, you should serve this Town in a different manner.”

Mayor Pro Tempore's Response: “Here the Mayor is denigrating the efforts of two of the Commissioners, one of whom is me. I have volunteered for many years to serve this town and our ETJ and its residents and businesses in several capacities. To me, being Bailey First means working with all segments of our population, with people of all races and political affiliations to move our town forward, not publicly attacking others that I would need to work with on all sides or may need to ask for their help for Bailey with local, county, state or federal support or asks.

“Rhetorically, I could ask who is ‘Centric’ or ‘First’ in the Mayor's view, the Town of Bailey or the Nash County Republican Party? That's just rhetorical.”

Mayor's Statement: “...As with all decisions from this Board, the Mayor does not vote, I just hope and am asking that the Commissioners that value inclusion, openness, observation, review, and the positive advancement of the Town of Bailey will concur with me that the undermining of a duly elected Mayor by any one or more of their body, is the wrong way to go.”

Mayor Pro Tempore's Response: “‘Inclusion’ – There is no inclusion in ‘I’ or ‘me’.

“‘Openness’ – ‘Openness’ does not mean attacking or denigrating members of the Board, especially behind their backs, to anyone who will listen, including the newspaper.

“Observation and Review. I hope the full Board will observe the actions and proposals the Mayor has taken and review any and all items in the proper and diligent manner your role requires.

“‘Positive advancement’ is extremely difficult in a negative and mean-spirited environment.

“‘Undermining a duly elected Mayor’ – The Mayor understands what his role entails. Not agreeing with him isn't the same as undermining.

“Secretly talking behind the back of someone to poison their position or providing false or misleading information or articles is undermining.

“‘Concur’ – The word concur means to agree or have the same opinion. The Mayor has told me multiple times that he knows he is an ‘expletive’ (you can figure out what that is). Mayor, I concur.

“That ends that diatribe of mine. I would recommend to this Board that we approve the agenda process as outlined by Joel.”

Mayor Strickland asked for motions on the modifications of the new proposed agenda format.

Commissioners Evans and Wells clarified and reiterated what the new agenda adoption process (shown in the proposed agenda format) would look like at the beginning of each meeting. They stated that the Board of Commissioners would have to vote to allow changes to be added to the agenda. Then, an additional vote would be needed to adopt the amended agenda.

Commissioners Evans added that if the Board decides later to modify the agenda format, it can be done by a vote of the Commissioners. However, an agenda cannot be modified during the meeting it is intended for. Instead, it could be modified for a subsequent/future meeting.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the draft agenda document, and Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Evans: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

Ms. Patricia Finch – Ms. Finch started by acknowledging that previous Boards made some very poor decisions that has led us to where we are today, but, in her opinion, she said that this Board has made some poor decisions as well. She referred to a tax increase and utility bill increases and claimed there was not enough digging to find funds to cover the \$21/month fee being charged for yard waste pickups. She added that it takes a team working together to get anything accomplished and said she believed this was addressed tonight. She then shared that she read in a recent newspaper article that some Board members were privy to information that should have been privy to all. She closed by encouraging unity and maturity for the good of Bailey.

Mrs. Amy Pearson – Mrs. Pearson was absent, but Commissioner Bissette stated that she was seeking approval to close Main Street from Benson Street to Nash Street for the Halloween on Main Street event on October 31 from 4pm to 9:30pm. Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer

Shawn Lucas said he would check to see if the Board already approved this earlier in the year and would get back to the Board.

Mrs. Beth Evans – Mrs. Evans thanked the Town Board for offering yard waste pickup services to its citizens. She added that the cost of individuals removing their own yard waste would be much more expensive than the new yard waste fee recently added to the monthly utility bills.

Department Head Comments:

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer Shawn Lucas: Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer Lucas provided a brief update on zoning, planning and code enforcement-related matters in town.

Bailey Police Department: Chief Gelo gave an update on the status of the police cars and provided a report of policing operations in town. He then reluctantly added that he was awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate by the Sheriff's Training & Standards Commission.

Town Administrator/Town Clerk/CFO Joel Killion: Administrator Killion presented three items for the Board to review and vote on:

1) He directed the Board's attention to a document in their packets (that was first presented to them in the August meeting) related to a credit card product offered by KS Bank. He shared the Town needed three new cards to replace the three existing cards with Southern Bank/First Citizens: One (1) for \$2,500 for the Office of the Mayor, one (1) for \$5,000 the Police Department, and one (1) for \$20,000 for Town Hall.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the request, and Commissioner Bisette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Wilson: Aye, Bisette: Aye, Evans: Aye, Wells: Aye.

2) Administrator Killion asked the Board to review and vote on the 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #7.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the budget amendment, and Commissioner Bisette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Evans: Aye, Bisette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

3) Administrator Killion reviewed highlights from the recent FY 2024 Unit Assistance List (UAL) meeting with the LGC/NC Treasurer and Mayor Strickland. He directed the Board's attention to all the documents related to this meeting that were included in the Board packets. The first was Bailey's UAL Scorecard, the second was a printout from the submission of the Debt Inquiry Form

completed on 9-12-2025, and the final document was regarding an over-expenditure that will be a finding in the FY 25 audit.

Commissioner's Remarks:

Dillon Bissette: None

David Evans: Commissioner Evans reminded the Board that when his position as Economic Development Commissioner was first created and approved by the Commissioners – which was the first time Bailey ever had one – he informed the Board that State Law allows Economic Development to do a lot of things in confidence to a certain point. [Note: He asked Town Attorney Mark Edwards, who was present, if this is true, and the Attorney said it was.] He said that when he took on this role, he explained to the Commissioners that he would have to do things in confidence and would not be able to discuss them until such time as he was released and allowed by whomever he would be working with.

He explained that this was the case with getting KS Bank to Bailey. He said that KS Bank was, for a time, adamant that he could not talk about anything they shared with him until they allowed him to do so. They required him to maintain confidentiality in order for them to consider Bailey, and so he had to live up to that till the end.

With that in mind, he stated that he wanted to be absolutely sure he was and is living up to State Law and referred to Town Attorney Edwards who stated that the Board authorized him to keep the KS Bank information confidential.

With that said, Commissioner Evans said that, moving forward, he felt it was necessary to check in with the Board on what he is and is not allowed to do as it relates to confidentiality. He added that there was recent discussion regarding whether recent activities should have been talked about or not. He said that there are a lot of things that are coming to him now, related to Economic Development, that he is being asked to keep confidential and they have told him that that they will only talk to him if he keeps it confidential. They are asking him not to talk about anything, to anyone, until they give him permission to do otherwise. And The Country Doctor Museum is an example of this. The museum came to him about what they thought *might* happen, but they did not know for sure. And the museum and the university required him to keep it extremely confidential because it was a discussion. They have a budget shortfall of \$25 million. They did not know what they were going to do to make up the \$25 million. The museum's budget is a pittance to ECU. It could have been overlooked. So, not know what the university was going to do, the museum would only talk with him as long as he kept it extremely confidential.

With that said, he mentioned that the museum had shared some of this information with others who did not keep it confidential after being asked to do so. But, as for him, he lived up to his promise to the museum by maintaining confidentiality.

He said that the museum told him that there would come a time when ECU would have a meeting and make a decision. The decision was just made last week to let the public know. And the actual meeting concerning all of that was made on the Thursday night before and things were in the paper referenced to being even before the Thursday night and no decision had been made. They still didn't know what they were going to do. So, this is an example of the confidentiality he was required to keep for them to even include the Town in a discussion and he said he lived up to that. But this requirement that he kept seems to have created some problems for some folks, which is why he then asked the Board how they wanted him to approach this. Should he keep confidentiality as Economic Development Commissioner, which means he can't share some things that have been shared with me until such time as he is allowed to do so, or not? Instead of holding information in confidence, should he tell people who come to him that he cannot keep anything they say confidential and have to tell the Commissioners? He asked for direction from the Board for how they want him to proceed.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells commented that, in his experience, the need to maintain confidentiality is oftentimes necessary for economic development matters. And so he said that he did not have a problem with Commissioner Evans holding onto information until he is allowed to do so.

Commissioner Wilson had no comment.

Commissioner Bissette said that, to a degree, he thought it would be important to inform the Board. He said he would like to think the Board members could keep it confidential, but he said he understood that that's not the case at all times. So, if Commissioner Evans' role requires confidentiality, he said he was on board with that.

Commissioner Evans added that when the museum told him when the news would be released to the public, during the event last week at the museum, he asked them to send invitations to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. He also said that he has no need to hide things from the Board. He said he is trying to do what will move Bailey forward. And he said there are a lot of things he is being asked in confidence and it would be to Bailey's benefit. But he said he does not want to be seen as hiding things.

He added that if the Board loses confidence in him, he said that he had no problem with the Board rescinding his ability to maintain confidentiality with those who approach him for matters related to economic development. And then he added that he was thinking of having the Town Attorney draft something that, when people come to him with a request for confidentiality, he could use to inform them that he would be acting in confidence and would have them sign it to provide us with protection.

Ervin Powell: Absent

Richard Wilson: Commissioner Wilson shared that the Cemetery looks good.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Infrastructure and Sewer & Water Commissioner's Remarks:

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells shared that Commissioner Evans' remarks regarding The County Doctor Museum directly explain why, as Ms. Finch mentioned in her comments, the Board does not seem to be working together. He said Commissioner Evans made it very plain why he didn't say anything, stating that he was asked not to say anything and he told them he wouldn't. He then told the Mayor that if he wasn't mistaken, the museum had also told him that it was confidential.

The Mayor said, "Negative."

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells said he may have been misinformed and asked the Mayor if he had spoken with the museum.

The Mayor said, "I sure did. That was much after the fact."

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells stated that the Mayor provided the newspaper a two page statement that none of the Board members received. And that statement implicated two Commissioners – Wells being one of them – which makes it hard for the Board to work together.

He went on to say that some of the information in the newspaper article was misleading. The museum didn't say that it was closing, per se; instead, they were giving Bailey time to find a solution. And to Commissioner Evan's point earlier, he stated that the gentlemen who was approached by the museum to seek additional support, brought all of this out in Spring Hope, violating what was asked of him (to keep it confidential).

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells asked Commissioner Evans if anyone had called him to ask him about any of this.

Commissioner Evans said, "Yes, Dillon talked to me."

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells asked Commissioner Evans if the Mayor had called him.

Commissioner Evans said, "No."

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells asked Commissioner Evans if Justin (reporter from The Enterprise) called him.

Commissioner Evans said, "No."

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells said no one had called him either.

Commissioner Evans added that Commissioner Wilson had also called him.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells stated that had there been a conversation, this would not have ended up in the paper the way it did. The newspaper article did not, as he went on to say, talk about us coming together as a community in a positive fashion to support ECU. Instead, it was more about secrets being held and people not saying things and people not understanding the other side of the story, where David was sworn not to do it. He then mentioned the old adage, "Not let the truth get in the way of a good story."

He said that in a scenario where the Town and our community should be rallying support to help The Country Doctor Museum find a way forward during the next nine months, the Mayor sends a two-page memo to a newspaper reporter vilifying two commissioners he has a poor working relationship with and causes a distasteful situation for both East Carolina University and The Country Doctor Museum. He added that ECU and the museum need our support; they did not need to see all our dirty laundry.

He also said that he didn't call the paper. Instead, the only recourse he had to give another side of the story – and if you only hear one side of the argument, you're not hearing it all – was to bring it up in this Board of Commissioner's meeting. He said he wouldn't call a reporter to do that. But after taking shots over and over and over again from the Mayor without responding, he felt something needed to be said. Then, finally, he said that this kind of thing, in his mind, has gotten out of hand and added that if the Mayor can send a two-page memo to a report, he can share it with the Commissioners as well if he wants to work with the Board.

Commissioner Evans provided further comment, stating that one of the things discussed between him and the museum was necessary bi-partisan support to help find a new stewardship for the museum. And this bi-partisan was going to be needed quietly to affect this intention, because the funds that are available within the State are limited; otherwise, ECU would not be cutting it loose. So, everyone and their brother is going for funds, and if others find out you're going for funds, others will try get ahead of you. Therefore, keeping it quiet and confidential was very important. He added that our Governor was in town the previous week and he said he was asked by someone how they could approach him. And he gave them some advice they could use to help create bi-partisan support for the museum and they took his advice. But he couldn't talk about it due to his commitment to confidentiality. He said all that to say that when this information is support to be held in confidence and it gets out, it destroys all the good will we've been creating through quietness and we have to be very careful.

Mayor's Remarks:

Mayor Strickland started by saying that an individual came to his residence the previous Friday night (9-12-2025), uninvited and unannounced. In light of recent events, he felt it necessary to say – and he said the elected officials on the Board may or may not decide this applies to them as well – that the time of random people showing up on the doorsteps of elected officials was over. He said the person who came to his home was very upset, but he said he would not share any more details on the matter.

As for everything else that was stated in this meeting, he said that, in his mind, at no point does a museum or a library have a direct correlation with economic development and added that the Town Attorney can decide that and may decide that in a certain direction, while other attorneys may decide otherwise.

He then said that as long as he is Mayor, he will try to move Bailey forward, unless and until a significant number of constituents – and he said he knows exactly what that number is and that everyone in the room can find out exactly what that number is – wishes for him to resign. He added that that would certainly smooth the road for things to move in a different direction. He said he loves the Town of Bailey.

Moreover, he said that he ran for Mayor to try to get Bailey off the sewer moratorium and move it forward. Then, he said he had not seen the first document, permit, plan, project list for that project and that that's the purview of the entire Board at this point because he said he had mentioned it multiple times. And he said he will continue to mention it, until and unless a group of people decides to tell him they are tired of him doing what he wants to do, tired of him trying to move the Town forward. And, at that point, he said he would make a decision.

Then, he said that, while there are individuals and groups and cliques in the Town of Bailey, he was hoping, when he started as Mayor, that this Board would work a little bit better. He said they had some fits and starts and things like that and did okay for a while, but that is obviously not where they are today. He said the word dysfunctional probably doesn't even get close. He added that when a Town employee is asked a specific question and they look dead in his face and lie to him, there's a problem, by whoever's order.

He said that everybody says, "Bailey's not High Point," but High Point's Economic Development was run as a completely different organization and had nothing to do other than to report to the councilmembers and the Mayor of what they did. He added that they were an independent organization and were incorporated.

He then commented on how he understands that Bailey is financially limited at this time and mentioned that he sees our Police Department almost riding bicycles. Then, he thanked Mr. Mark Boykin for helping to keep the patrol cars running.

He added that the conversation he was told about in Spring Hope was a two-way conversation and that the second part of that conversation needs to look himself in the face.

Closed Session:

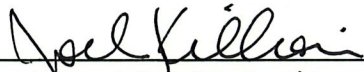
None

Commissioner Bissette made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Bisette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye, Evans: Aye.

Meeting adjourned.


Owen H. Strickland II, Mayor


Joel Killian, Town Administrator/Town Clerk/CFO