MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Shelby City Council **January 12, 2026**
City Hall Council Chambers **Monday, 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor O. Stanhope Anthony, III, presiding; Council Members Andrew L. Hopper, Sr., Violet Arth, Charles Webber, and Emilie Bullock; City Manager Justin S. Merritt, Assistant City Manager Ben Yarboro, City Clerk Carol Williams, Director of Human Resources Deborah (Deb) Jolly, Director of Finance Elizabeth (Beth) Beam, CPA, Chief of Police Brad Fraser, Fire Chief William Hunt, EFO, Public Works Director Scott Black, Director of Water Resources Brian Wilson, Director of Planning and Development Services Brian Burgess, Director of Parks and Recreation Charlie Holtzclaw, Public Information and Communications Officer Chip Nuhrah, Economic Developer Brandon Ruppe, and Paralegal Nicole Hart

Absent: Council member David White

Mayor Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and delivered the invocation.

Ms. Arth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Approval of agenda:

1) **Motion to adopt the proposed agenda presented.**

> **ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Hopper, City Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented**

B. Public Comment:

1) **Cynitra Stewart, who resides at 416 McBrayer Street, Shelby, North Carolina addressed Council about her concerns about keeping Shelby beautiful. She mentioned there is a littering problem and suspicious activity in her neighborhood. She stated she has some ideas to help ratify the problems and wants to help her neighborhood become safe and beautiful.**

C. Consent Agenda:

Mayor Anthony presented the consent agenda. Mrs. Bullock moved to approve the consent agenda, and the following items were unanimously adopted:

1) **Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2025**

2) **Approval of a resolution honoring City Manager Rick Howell on the occasion of his retirement from employment with the City of Shelby: Resolution No. 105-2025**

3) **Approval of a resolution honoring Dee Pollard Greene on the occasion of her retirement from employment with the City of Shelby: Resolution No. 1-2026**

4) **Approval of a resolution authorizing the selection of Stantec based on qualifications for professional engineering services related to the South Lafayette Street Waterline Replacement Project: Resolution No. 2-2026**

5) **Management Reports:**

a) **Monthly Financial Summary – November 2025**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

D. Unfinished Business:

None

E. New Business:

None

F. City Manager's Report:

- **Mr. Merritt thanked City Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens and businesses of Shelby as the City Manager, and he looks forward to working with Council and City staff**
- **Updated City Council on the following projects:**
  - **24" Waterline Project –**
    - **Milling and paving of S. Washington Street to be completed by January 20th, weather permitting**
    - **Construction work on Graham Street will cross DeKalb Street, which means Graham Street to Patton Drive will be closed starting January 20th; estimated to be closed for 3 weeks**
    - **Paving of the Graham Street to Harris Street section will be completed also by January 20th**
  - **New rates for solid waste and the electric facilities charges went into effect on January 1st, 2026**
  - **The 2026 budget allotted money to evaluate the live oak trees Uptown; an arborist has compiled a report on the live oak trees;**

Mr. Merritt and Scott Black will be looking at those trees and will determine which ones need to be replaced; this work will begin mid to late January

- **The Holland Street Project will be completed by mid-April, 2026; the project includes the waterline replacement, the demo of the old Planning Building which is scheduled for February 16th, construction and paving of the new parking lot, irrigation, and new sidewalks in that area**
- **Uptown Shelby Association has talked to Terry McCartney at the Rail Trail Boardwalk to discuss the business disruption during the Rail Trail construction; Uptown Shelby will highlight the businesses at the Boardwalk to help promote those businesses during the construction; Mr. Merritt and Mr. Yarboro will conduct a site visit to determine if there are any measures that can be made to minimize construction impacts to businesses.**
- **The budget calendar is presented to Council**
- **A date and format for the Council Planning Retreat needs to be decided; need feedback from Council**
- **The Council Chamber audio and voting systems will be improved hopefully by the February 2nd Council meeting; the wireless system will be replaced with a wired system for better functionality**
- **Mr. Merritt will be attending the NC City Manager's Conference in Winston-Salem the week of January 26th**
- **Please give feedback on the amount of communication between Council and City Manager; wants to find a good balance of communication**

G. Council Announcements and Remarks:

Council members welcomed Mr. Merritt back to the City of Shelby and look forward to working with him

Social media post needed about the live oak trees, let citizens know what is happening and that the trees selected to be removed will be replaced

SHS Golden Lions resolution honoring them as State football champions, to be presented at an upcoming meeting

Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is Monday, January 19th, city offices will be closed

CAGO special meeting scheduled for February, let Bre know if you want to attend

H. Adjournment:

1) Motion to adjourn

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Ms. Arth, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Williams
City Clerk

O. Stanhope Anthony, III
Mayor

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