

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
BETHEL TOWN HALL
June 29, 2026

Present: Mayor Carl Wilson, Mayor Pro-Tem Camilla Griggs, Commissioner Cassandra Conger, Commissioner Elvis Jones, Commissioner Fred Whitehurst

It is noted that Commissioner Conger arrived at 10:08am

Members of the Board Absent: Commissioner Thomas Lilley

Staff Present: Clerk, Linda Sheppard, and Deputy Clerk, Jalissa Griggs

Call to Order

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs gave the invocation. Mayor Wilson then led the pledge of allegiance.

New Business

Smith Street Park Walking Trail:

Kelsi Dew, Independent Historical Researcher and Grant Writer, made a presentation of the changes needed to complete the Smith Street Park walking trail. The original bid from Simmons Public Utility Site Work, Inc. was for \$62,522.54 which was Board-approved in February 2026. Rivers & Associates suggested changes that included two (2) inch thick asphalt, four (4) inches of rock, and a six (6) foot wide paved trail. Simmons Public Utility Site Work, Inc. proposed the new changes will cost an additional \$31,102.66. Total project cost would be \$93,625.20.

Jerome Brown of Carolina Earth Movers asked if he could make a bid. It was determined that it would be the Board's discretion to reject bids already accepted and start over.

Mrs. Dew mentioned that Simmons Public Utility Site Work, Inc. was already given a forty (40) percent deposit of about \$15,000. Interim Town Manager phoned in and commented that pulling the contract from Simmons Public Utility Site Work, Inc. completely could result in a charge for mobilization.

Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Whitehurst expressed concerns that the Town Attorney should be consulted before making a decision on altering the Simmons Public Utility Site Work, Inc. contract.

Commissioner Conger made a motion to recess the meeting at 10:46am and resume on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 10:00am at Town Hall, Commissioner Jones seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to come out of recess and resume the Special Called Meeting on July 1, 2026 at 10:09am.

Present: Mayor Carl Wilson, Commissioner Cassandra Conger, Commissioner Elvis Jones, Commissioner Fred Whitehurst

Members of the Board Absent. Mayor Pro-Tem Camilla Griggs and Commissioner Thomas Lilley

Staff Present: Clerk, Linda Sheppard, and Deputy Clerk, Jalissa Griggs

Mayor Wilson allowed the Board to read additional information provided in writing by Town Attorney, Keen Lassiter.

It reads as per attorney:

“I recommend that the Town and the low bidder prepare a change order for the additional \$30k. If you don’t have a change order for prepared, an amendment can be drafted. And that the Town Board approve the CO so that it can be signed after the bidder signs. The Board can approve the CO in concept before it is drafted if the Board wished to do so to keep the process moving.”

“At \$60k this bid falls within the informal bidding process. So no advertising is required. The Town can bid out the additional \$30k but don’t think we are required to do so. It will likely be difficult if not impossible to bid out the additional \$30k with the result being a new low bidder on that bid. In other words, I would think it only makes logistical and financial sense to have one company performing both projects. Also, I would think the original low bidder would be the low bidder in the \$30k. Hope this is helpful.”

Commissioner Jones stated that his concern was the use of the terms “change order” versus “amendment” of the contract.

Commissioner Whitehurst asked what the cap for an informal bidding process is and it was determined that \$500,000 was the cap according to the North Carolina General Statute for construction work and \$90,000 for the purchase of equipment.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve a change order with Simmons Public Utility Site Work, Inc. for \$31,102.66 at a total cost of \$93,625.20, Commissioner Whitehurst seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 for the FY 26-27 budget moving \$31,102.66 from Contingency to the Smith Street Park Project, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:16am, Commissioner Conger seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor, Carl Wilson

ATTEST:

Linda Sheppard, Town Clerk

Date