

MINUTES
Town of Jefferson
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Jefferson Town Hall

Members Present:

James Miller – Mayor
Jane Johnson – Council Member
Alvin Myers – Council Member
Tonya Rollings – Council Member
Geneveve Robinson - Council Member

Others Present:

Howard Garland – Town Administrator
Andrea Alderidge – Asst. Town Clerk

Jackie Hough – The Link
Ray Martinez
Laura Horton
Jerry Haigler

Tammy Martinez
Ann Price
Roy Trotter

Call to Order

- **Mayor Miller** called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm.

Invocation

- **Council Member Myers** gave the invocation.

Town Talk

- **None**

FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

A. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026

- a. **Council Member Myers** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from January 20, 2025, council meeting.
- b. **Council Member Johnson** seconded the motion.
- c. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

B. Second Reading Ordinance 273 – Jefferson Grease Traps Ordinance

- a. **Mayor Miller** stated that we were tabling the ordinance right now.
- b. **Admin Garland** stated the Mayor wanted to look at some other state ordinances for better language.

C. Second Reading Ordinance 274 - Duke Energy Quarterly Franchise Fee Payments

- a. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to approve the second reading of Duke Energy Quarterly Franchise Fee Payments.
- b. **Council Member Robinson** seconded the motion.
- c. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

D. Water/Sewer Late Charge Discussion

- a. **Admin Garland** stated this was more Stacey (Town Clerk).
- b. **Mayor Miller** tabled the discussion, until Stacey (Town Clerk) was back.

FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION:

A. Financial Report

- a. The financial report was submitted for the council's information and signed.

B. Water/Sewer Report

- a. **Admin Garland** we are 40% complete with the water line project. We have had some setbacks with materials being delayed with Ferguson Waterworks. We expect completion to be in the middle of April. We apologize to the businesses on main street dealing with the ditch. We have contracted out with Carolina Civil just to put some more crush and run gravel, seems much better now.
- b. **Admin Garland** SRF has received our sewer line application for the East Jefferson 6700 linear feet, sewer line project. They are going to announce whether we get this grant probably sometime in June 2026. It's a \$1,400,000 grant we are asking a \$1,000,000 from the SRF and the additional money we will apply for from the SCRWA infrastructure authority. The reason we put in with the SRF is because they do forgivable grants. The SRF grant was submitted by Davis & Brown Engineers.
- c. **Admin Garland** stated that Tommy Catoe came by today and said they have started the ballfield drainage grant and should be completed by the end of March 2026. He said he checked with the parks and recreation of the PARD SCPRT and said they would not grant an extension, but they would give an extra 30 days to submit any paperwork for the grant.
- d. **Admin Garland** work continues on the RAFTELIAS water rate issue that we have gone in with the Town of Pageland and Town of Chesterfield trying to come up with some kind of water rate agreement with CCRW and Alligator Rural Water. We should have that proposal for you next month in our March 17th meeting.
- e. **Admin Garland** stated we had a bad water leak that lasted about 10 days before Scott and Roy could find the location. This increased the bill about \$5000. Instead of having about a \$16,000 bill, we had a \$21,000 bill. I asked CCRW to reduce that bill, because of the leak and they reduced it down by \$5000. I want to thank Julie Johnson and her staff for working with us on that.
- f. **Admin Garland** I also want to thank Scott and Roy for helping supervise the water line project. We have run into some issues with some of the locates.
- g. **Admin Garland** stated that we are finally getting reimbursed for some of the engineering fees from the SCRW Infrastructure. We have had a few businesses in town complain about the dirt being brought into the buildings, Carolina Civil has said they would put steel plates down.
- h. **Admin Garland** stated we have the sewer line grant that we will be reapplying for in March for 7700 ft. linear pipe in east Jefferson.

C. Fire Department Report

- a. **Admin Garland** stated we are coming up on that time of the year where we have red flag burn bans due to all the wind.
- b. **Mayor Miller** mentioned SVFD has responded to several grass fires.

D. Administrative Report

- a. **Admin Garland** we finally completed work on the updated flood plan ordinance for the Town of Jefferson. This is one that we adopted in 2010 and are working closely with the SCDNR for about 6 weeks. We already have a management agreement with Pee Dee Council of Government to manage our flood plan issues. We must update our flood plan ordinance, so anyone in town won't lose their flood insurance. That has been completed and the first reading is March 17, 2026.
- b. **Admin Garland** stated we are probably going to have a meeting soon with the Board of Zoning Appeals, we have had several people call and want to build in town. We don't have anything official yet, but we have 2 that I think will be submitting plans. A little more tax revenue for the town, which is a positive thing.
- c. **Admin Garland** stated that we want Jefferson to be a part of Tree City USA. We are doing an Arbor Day in December 2026. We want to have a tree board discussed in the work session. We have Ann Huyler coming soon and tell us what trees need to be removed in the park. I just briefly talked with Council Member Rollings about replacing some of the trees. Council Member Rollings is getting together some of the items that we need to replace in the park. (Tables, trash cans, etc.)

E. Council and Staff Time

- a. **Council Member Rollings** mentioned 3 dogs in an incident. Also, I got another text about another dog around someone's pool on main street with a guy she didn't know. I did advise them to call the non-emergency number about these animals. Council Member Rollings stated that she had posted on Facebook that the town has an ordinance. The dogs need to be on a lease. As a matter of fact, there were 2 more dogs out tonight and I posted these dogs on Facebook and asked them to please have them on a lease for safety. If anyone is walking, please take a video or picture. I talked with Animal Control and they advised this, to help with identifying when they get a call. We appreciate all the help with this issue.
- b. **Council Member Johnson** we met with beautification chairman. I talked with Chuck Raley this week at the signs on 151 where the shrubs have died and the town employees have pulled up. Chuck is going to order some more this week. While we were looking at the plants, we noticed the signs, maybe securing some money to replace the signs. I don't think we will be able to afford the signs on 265. Me and Tammy looked at some on Kershaw with rod iron. It may be a little more money upfront. Howard had mentioned Ann Huyler coming with the tree city project. Can she look at the ones on main street as well.
 - i. **Admin Garland** stated yes.
 - ii. **Admin Garland** stated that we could potentially get Duke Energy to take the trees down if close to the power lines.
- c. **Council Member Robinson** I want to piggyback on the dogs. I walk in town and I'm not sure where the dogs come from. This is not good, but if something happens to the dogs it's on them. I pay taxes and if you love the dogs keep them on a lease.

- d. **Council Member Robinson** mentioned that years ago we had a yard sale and maybe bringing this back would be good fun and business. This would also be for people that have fruits or vegetables in the town.

F. **Mayor's Report**

- a. **Mayor Miller** Howard touched on a lot of things I was going to mention. I have been on site where some of the water line breaks occurred and helping to try and get gravel as best as possible. We are trying to keep the businesses the best as possible without interfering with the work zone. The town has tried to assist with water lines and gas lines, as they come across them.

G. **Executive Session (Water/Sewer Department Personnel/Employee Insurance) (6:27 pm)**

- i. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to move into executive session.
- ii. **Council Member Myers** seconded the motion.
- iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

H. Came out of Executive Session.

- a. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to approve \$1.21 raise for Scott Oliver, Roy Trotter, and Tommy Catoe to offset their insurance premiums through PEBA.
- b. **Council Member Robinson** seconded the motion.
- c. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

I. **Adjournment (7:00 pm)**

- i. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to adjourn.
- ii. **Council Member Myers** seconded.
- iii. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Cook

Stacey Cook
Town Clerk