

MINUTES
Town of Jefferson
Regular Meeting
April 21, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Jefferson Community Center

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Howard Garland – Town Administrator
Stacey Cook – Town Clerk

Jackie Huff – The Link
Don Strickland (PDRTA)
Stacey Short

(Pee Dee Coalition Against Sexual Assault)

Jerry Haigler
Lisa Bell
Ariana Pickens

Call to Order

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

Invocation

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

Town Talk

- **No Talk**

Don Strickland PDRTA

- **Mr. Strickland** gave a brief overview of what PDRTA is trying to accomplish for Chesterfield County communities. He continued by stating there has been a 28% growth in the county. He stated we started out with a fixed route; it then changed to a demand response. Mr. Strickland continued to state they needed to continue to do a better job of getting the word out to the community. He also stated the program is 75% state and federal funded, they still needed the remaining funds from the local government if we wanted to continue the service. Mr. Strickland asked the Mayor and Council if they wanted to continue the service and if so then he asked for the Town of Jefferson for \$3000.00 to be put in this years fiscal budget.
 - **Mayor Miller** asked what the parameters were for the service. He also asked how many people in the town utilize the service.
- **Mr. Strickland** responded not great, 35 people from Jefferson to McBee in a month. Demand respond is 10% - 15% monthly for your town. (Mostly Medical)
 - **Admin Garland** asked was this for grocery service as well.

- **Mr. Strickland** stated yes, we provide this. We are in with other partners like KARE, Carolina Pines, Pee Dee Coalition.
 - **Council Member Robinson** stated the town has a lot of individuals with calls about medical needs. We have a great need for the service, but people are just not aware of this service.
- **Mr. Strickland** stated he had spoken to several individuals about the program, but they really needed local support getting the word out. He stated he had been working with Libby Lear (Chesterfield County Economic Development) on making more industries aware of the service. He stated that we need to get more involved with the churches to get the word out.
 - **Council Member Johnson** asked if there was literacy at Sandhill Medical. The clinic would be a great way to get the word.
- **Mr. Strickland** mentioned they had not been able to get up with this organization. He stated that he would continue to try them.
 - **Mayor Miller** mentioned the town would be holding a festival on May 2, 2026 – Laura Horton is over this. This would be a great way to inform citizens of the town about the service that is being offered.
- **Mr. Strickland** stated that he would like to be at the festival to promote the service once there was commitment in our budget for the service.
 - **Admin Garland** asked what is Federal/State providing.
- **Mr. Strickland** \$100000 from Federal/State.

Ariana Pickens Thomas – Pee Dee Coalition Against Sexual Assault

- **Mrs. Short** started the presentation by telling them who they were and that they were grateful for the town allowing them to speak.
- **Mrs. Thomas** continued the presentation stating that this was sexual assault and child abuse. She gave a brief overview of the program and the different things they offer to the victims. She said that on Wednesday April 29, 2026 is denim day to help promote a Sexual Assault Awareness.

FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

- A. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes February 9, Work Session March 17 Council Meeting, 2026**
 - a. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from February 9, 2026 work session and March 17, 2026 council meeting.
 - b. **Council Member Robinson** seconded the motion.
 - c. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)
- B. Second Reading Ordinance 275 – Water Department Administrative Fees**
 - a. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to approve the second reading Ordinance 275 the Water Department Administrative Fees.
 - b. **Council Member Myers** seconded the motion.
 - c. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (4-0)

C. Second Reading Ordinance 276 – Flood Plain Ordinance Update

- a. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to approve the second reading Ordinance 276 Flood Plain Ordinance Update.
- b. **Council Member Myers** seconded the motion.
- c. Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

D. Chesterfield County Planning Commission Member Appointment

- a. **Admin Garland** suggested we table this due to no candidate now.
- b. **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to table the Chesterfield County Planning Commission Member Appointment for another month due to circumstances.
- c. **Council Member Robinson** seconded the motion.
- d. Approval passed unanimously vote. (5-0)

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** the main street water line project, has slowed down again for chain of supply issue. We have a detour of Main and Elizabeth Street coming up on May 3rd – May 10th because of the new water line being tied in on Elizabeth Street. We have a handout for that, that we will be handing out to the businesses that will be affected. (Map and Details handout on were on the table.) Sorry for the disruption, but this has to happen. The new timeline for that project to be completed will be June 30, 2026, and financially completed by October 2026. We apologize for the delays, but we have had multiple supply line issues. We have also had issues with old maps that aren't accurate, that went back to 1939, that stated water lines being there that weren't there. We also went back to maps from 1998 and the same thing with lines not there. It's caused headaches for the contractors, engineers, and town. Our personnel sometimes have to watch to make sure things are going okay, due to breaks that cause major water leaks. We have reached out to our partner at CCRW about that. We just don't know what we are going to run into until we finish this project up, but we are going to do the best we can with what we have to work with. Thankfully soon it will be over by the end of June 2026.
- b. **Admin Garland** we are waiting to hear back from the SRF grant where we put in for the East Jefferson sewer line project. We are asking for SRF \$1,750,000 grant for our sewer line on East Jefferson 6700 linear feet, sewer line project. We should hear be hearing back on this by the end of May 2026.
- c. **Admin Garland** we are still working on the budget. We still don't know about the water rate increase yet. We have gotten a proposal from CCRW, but we are still in litigation, and we are having a water rate study done by Raftelis. We will have a report on that in executive session.

C. Fire Department Report

- a. Nothing

D. Administrative Report

- a. **Admin Garland** the streetlight on Hwy 265 in front of Laura Horton's place, where we walked with the engineers. We are putting one right in front of her business and one in front of the apartments, folks will have better lightning when walking down to Family Dollar or Dollar General. We signed the contracts for that in March 2026 and hope to have that installed by the end of May 2026. The process was rather laborious; I want to thank Council Member Johnson for going out with and looking at the site at Church St. and Lee St. location.
- b. **Admin Garland** the PARD Grant has been completed for the Jefferson ballfield drainage project. The total cost was \$36,000; we will get back \$26,000. It has been inspected by Alisha Cushman who is with the PARD grant, everything was good and she would get a check cut and we should see this within a week.
- c. **Admin Garland** the HVAC units are in; they are large 2200-ton units. We are waiting for the new 3 phase power to be tested by Duke Energy. It has been installed, but just needs to be tested, this is the last thing that is holding this up. We are moving forward with that.
- d. **Admin Garland** we have put in a budget request for a new roof here in the community center and to pave the parking lot beside the town hall and some park equipment for Schuler Park. We are going to hear back from this in the state budget in June when this is approved. Representative Cody Mitchell has been good to work with on this and he also got us the flags that were presented to Mayor Miller at the Dixie Youth Ball Ceremony on Saturday.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** asked who was responsible for fixing the grounds after the HVAC installation. There is wires around the pole outside of the town hall.
- e. **Admin Garland** stated he didn't know he would have to check into this. We were not pleased with the work they had done originally; this is the reason they had to come back and do some more work. I will ask Mr. Catoe about the work, he knows more about this.
 - i. **Mayor Miller** stated that the wires at the at the pole are the towns.
- f. **Admin Garland** mentioned that the alumni garden needed to be cleaned up with all the ant hills.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** said we would need to tell the guys about this, unless we are getting the whole yard treated.

E. Council and Staff Time

- a. **Council Member Myers** asked if we still have the street cleaning done.
 - i. **Admin Garland** stated that we still had the street cleaners to come out.
 - ii. **Admin Garland** mentioned he had forgotten about the street paving between Elizabeth Street and the old bank building. They are going to do an 8ft overlay where they had to do the digging for the water line.
 - iii. **Mayor Miller** stated if you see the Jordans Sweeping that will tell you if they are the contractor.
- b. **Council Member Johnson** stated they had met with Ann Huyler on March 25th. She gave us a list of trees that need to be removed. Mr. Haigler will be glad to know that all the trees in front of his property could be wiped out. She stated they were not a safety hazard, but they were so diseased. The next hurdle will be getting the money and resources to get them down. A good many on N. Main Street and one on Founders. We got a list and she took some pictures of them. We got a good bit of information on the park, and the long-term project would be removing right many of those pear trees, that SC has outlawed out of the park. If we do want to replace them, she gave us a few good suggestions of trees. I think we finally got our 5 people to be on tree board, so Howard we can get our Tree City USA moving along.

- c. **Council Member Johnson** I will have to agree with Mr. Haigler, when he mentioned last month about the trash cans. I have been seeing more lately. So, I really think we need to move forward with getting these door hangers and give need be, after so many warning, put a fine. We will have to discuss this later.
- d. **Council Member Johnson** stated that all the signs on 265 have all been repaired or replaced with their landscaping. The key thing now is just keeping them watered during this drought.
- e. **Council Member Robinson** stated that I thought we had already had a discussion of putting the trash can door hangers on the doors. It was supposed to be already on the books and if you leave that trash can out on the weekends, you were supposed to already been charged. Now it's going back to hanging this tag on the door and not getting charged. I walk around town and some of the cans never move. No need to have things on books if we don't follow up with what we are saying.
 - i. **Council Member Rollings** said that is the problem, I don't think they were ever put on the doors. The hanger only gives a friendly, it's not a fine amount and maybe we need to go back and talk about this.
 - ii. **Council Member Johnson** to charge a fee would have to become an ordinance, correct Howard.
 - iii. **Admin Howard** you just have to get someone to write the ordinance and get the deputy to write the ticket and I'm not sure if our deputies will do this or not. We would have to ask if our deputies would enforce our town's ordinance. This might be a code enforcement issue. We can certainly ask the question.
- f. **Council Member Robinson** going back to the cars that have no license plates sitting in the yards. I know this was on the books from the 90's. Nothing has been done about this as well. I know if you had a car in the yard that was not running you had to put a cover on it and this is not being done either.
 - i. **Mayor Miller** stated that will have to look into codes enforcement about this, because the deputies are not going to come around and do that.
- g. **Council Member Robinson** mentioned going back to the cleaning the streets. I mean we have the streets torn up and we still have to pay the same thing. I don't understand that, what are they cleaning.
 - i. **Mayor Miller** said yes.
 - ii. **Council Member Johnson** said we are probably in a contract with them and we would be in breach of contract of them.
 - iii. **Mr. Haigler** stated that the equipment they use to sweep they would need curbing.
 - iv. **Admin Garland** stated that street were just a mess right now due to the project.
 - v. **Mayor Miller** said he would look at the contract.

F. Mayor's Report

- a. **Mayor Miller** stated we had a town clean day this past Saturday and would like to thank everyone for all their support.
 - i. **Council Member Johnson** said she thought it would be nice to send thank you cards to the businesses and churches for all the support.

Executive Session (7:09 pm)

- **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to go into executive session.
- **Council Member Robinson** seconded.
- Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

Came out of Executive Session (7:32 pm)

- **Council Member Johnson** made a motion to come out of executive session.
- **Council Member Robinson** seconded.
- Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

Amendment to WM Contract in 2026

- **Council Member Robinson** made a motion to amend the WM Contract in 2026.
- **Council Member Johnson** seconded.
- Approval passed by unanimous vote. (5-0)

Adjournment (7:45 pm)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Cook

Stacey Cook
Town Clerk