



**CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA
January 13, 2026
6:30 p.m.**

- 1. Opening of meeting by Mayor John P. Hutchinson.**
- 2. Invocation.**
- 3. Amendments and Changes to Agenda.**
- 4. Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Disposition of Minutes of the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting & Closed Session Minutes.**
 - B. Tax Collector's Report. (See Pages 4-9)**

Informational Items:

 - 1.) Monthly Collection Report**
 - 2.) Uncollected Taxes as of December 31, 2025.**

Action Items:

 - 1.) Refunds per County Assessor's Office.**
 - 2.) Discovery bills added to Tax Scroll.**
 - 3.) Releases per County Assessor's Office.**
 - C. Minutes of various boards.**
- 5. Business by Planning Board.**
 - A. Set Public Hearing.**
 - 1. UDO Text Amendment: Set public hearing an amendment to Section 5.04 to the UDO to allow the keeping of female chickens (hens) as an accessory use for single-family detached residences in all zoning districts subject to specific standards and conditions. (See Pages 10-13)**
 - B. Hold Public Hearing: (None)**
 - C. Minutes from Various Boards (None)**

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- 6. Presentation and update on several financial matters by Jennifer Lambeth, City Finance Director.**
- 7. Consideration of approval of acquisition of Parking Lot at Discovery Place Kids Rockingham. (This item previously reviewed by Council)**
- 8. Business by Visitors.**
- 9. Business by City Clerk.**
- 10. Business by City Manager.**
- 11. Items of discussion by City Council Members.**
- 12. Business by Mayor.**
 - A. Proclamation issued Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**
(See page 14)
- 13. Adjournment.**

Rockingham, NC

City Council Agenda

SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

UNCOLLECTED TAXES

YEAR	AMOUNT	Dec-25
2025	854,198.23	
2024	67,990.51	
2023	35,784.92	
2022	20,260.75	
2021	12,286.56	
2020	7,389.04	
2019	5,266.43	
2018	4,578.88	
2017	4,066.16	
2016	3,871.47	
2015	4,265.73	
	854,198.23	Total Current Year
	165,760.45	Total Past Years
	1,019,958.68	Total All Years

[illegible]

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CITY OF ROCKINGHAM
MONTHLY REFUNDS REGISTER
DECEMBER 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	DATE	ACCOUNT	NAME	EXPLANATION	YEAR	AMOUNT	LATE LIST	TAGS	INTEREST	REFUNDED	CHECK #
1			PORTER STEPHEN C & LAURA K	OVERPAY <\$1	2025	0.75				0.75	
2	12/8/25	12336301									
3	12/18/25	104372305	MCRAE TONI ANNE DAWKINS JOHN	OVERPAY <\$1 OVERPAYMENT ON TAXES	2025	0.95				0.95	
4	12/18/25	6428201	RALPH III DE AGUILAR JOSE	OVERPAYMENT ON TAXES	2025	72.45				72.45	90964
5	12/18/25	115900302	ARTURO & CRIST		2025	310.00				310.00	90965
6	12/23/25	63102	CURRIE PENNY J	VEHICLE TAX REFUND	2025	57.58				57.58	90969
7	12/23/25	63325	KOHLN NICHOLAS LEE MCDONALD YVETTA	VEHICLE TAX REFUND	2025	6.27				6.27	90973
8	12/23/25	63326	GAYE	VEHICLE TAX REFUND	2025	30.16				30.16	90974
9	12/23/25	63327	MENDOZA RODOLFO FARFAN	VEHICLE TAX REFUND	2025	13.05				13.05	90975
10	12/23/25	63328	PETERSON DANIEL LOUIS	VEHICLE TAX REFUND	2025	65.67				65.67	90977
11	12/31/25	55151302	CHENAULY ANNE- MARIE	OVERPAY <\$1	2025	0.15				0.15	
12										0.00	
13										0.00	
14			TOTALS			\$557.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$557.03	

[illegible]

Staff Report to Planning and Zoning Board
Agenda Item: IV.A
January 6, 2026

Issue:

UDO Text Amendment: City staff has drafted an amendment to Section 5.04 of the UDO to allow the keeping of female chickens (hens) as an accessory use for single-family detached residences in all zoning districts subject to specific standards and conditions.

Background:

The City's current zoning regulations prohibit the keeping of any livestock including chickens inside the city limits. Livestock including chickens may be kept in the R-20 and R-7A zones in the ETJ subject to specific standards and conditions. City staff receives inquiries on a regular basis regarding the keeping of chickens inside the city limits. In discussions with citizens, the interest is primarily based on the desire to have fresh eggs from a known local food source, which are also much cheaper than those purchased in the grocery store.

The proposed text amendment was originally drafted by City staff in October of 2012 and presented to the Planning Board in response to multiple inquiries from residents interested in keeping hens for egg production. At that time the Board was uncomfortable allowing the keeping of hens in the City, so the amendment was not presented for City Council's consideration.

In the years following, code enforcement activities related to the keeping of laying hens gradually became a low priority – staff had more pressing issues. Code Enforcement staff did not issue notices of zoning violation if neighbors were not complaining, if chickens were not free-ranging and properly contained in an enclosure; there were no roosters present; and there were not an excessive number of chickens.

To the best knowledge/recollection of City staff, there have only been two complaints received regarding the keeping of chickens during the last decade. One was a citizen who had accumulated over 50 chickens, which he promptly reduced to less than 10 after a conversation with the Code Enforcement Officer; and the second was a citizen who simply did not like the fact the neighbor had a few laying hens.

City staff has no official count on the number of backyard chicken coops in the City; however, a reasonable estimate by Code Enforcement staff is two dozen. City staff decided to revisit the proposed text amendment because of the recurring interest/inquiries from citizens; and the fact that multiple citizens are currently keeping chickens with little if any detrimental consequence to adjacent neighbors.

Staff Comments:

1. A copy of Section 5.04: Keeping of Non-household Animals – is included in the agenda packet for the Board's reference. The proposed amendment adds the red, underlined text.
2. The proposed amendment also includes the addition of three terms to Section 15.01: Definitions (chickens, chicken coop, and chicken pen).
3. As a point of reference, during the initial research to draft this amendment, City staff found that every municipality in Wake County had some allowance/accommodations for laying hens in

residential zoning classifications with varying conditions/standards. The Town of Southern Pines allows up to 10 laying hens in all residential zones.

4. The issues of urban agriculture, community gardens and the promotion of healthy, sustainable, local food sources are the topics of several recent Planning Advisory Service Reports from the American Planning Association (APA) and session topics at recent years annual NCAPA conferences.

Staff Recommendation:

City staff recommends the Board review and discuss the proposed text amendment. This is not a time sensitive issue, so if the Board wants some time to consider it, please do so.

Planning Board Recommendation:

The Planning Board reviewed the request at their January 6, 2026 regular meeting and recommended unanimously that the City Council amend Section 5.04 and Section 15.01 as proposed.

Amend Section 5.04 as proposed by the red, underlined text below:

Section 5.04: Keeping of Non-household Animals

- (A) The keeping of non-household animals including but not limited to horses, cows, hogs, and fowl shall be prohibited inside the corporate limits of the City of Rockingham except as provided in subsection (D) below.
- (B) The keeping of non-household animals including but not limited to horses, cows, hogs, and fowl shall be permitted on property zoned R-20 and R-7A in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction provided the following requirements are met.
- (1) Non-household animals shall be associated with a bona-fide farm operation or on property of a sufficient size to properly accommodate such animals.
 - (2) Non-household animals shall be contained on the property by a fence or other acceptable means. Fences shall be of an appropriate height to protect the non-household animals and the neighboring properties.
 - (3) The property shall not be used as a breeding facility, except in the case of a bona-fide farm operation.
 - (4) The property shall not emit any obnoxious smells, odor, noises, or other conditions that constitute a nuisance.
 - (5) The property shall be maintained regularly for the safety and health of both the animals and the public.
 - (6) Upon receiving a written and signed complaint from any resident or property owner within two hundred (200) feet of the property on which the non-household animal is located, the Board of Adjustment and Appeals shall review the complaint and conduct a properly advertised public hearing to determine if the non-household animal is in violation of the above criteria. After the public hearing, the Board may dismiss the complaint; order the removal of the non-household animals; or place reasonable conditions in order to satisfy the above criteria.
- (C) The keeping of horses shall be permitted on property zoned R-12 in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction provided such property is a minimum of ten (10) acres in size and subject to the requirements set forth in the above subsection (B)(1) through (6).
- (D) The keeping of chickens shall be permitted as an accessory use in conjunction with detached single-family residence uses in all zoning districts in the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction provided the following requirements are met.
- (1) The maximum number of female chickens (hens) allowed shall be six (6) per lot. No roosters shall be permitted.
 - (2) The chickens shall be for personal use only. Eggs, chicks, adult chickens, and processed chickens shall not be sold. Chicken manure and compost using chicken manure shall not be sold or otherwise distributed.
 - (3) A chicken coop and pen shall be provided, and such coops and enclosures shall not include residential structures or garages. Chickens shall be secured in the chicken coop during non-daylight hours. During daylight hours, chickens may be located in the chicken pen.

- (4) Chicken coops (whether stationary or moveable) and pens shall only be located in rear yards and shall be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from any adjoining property line.
- (5) The chicken coop and pen shall be properly designed and constructed to provide adequate security from rodents, wild birds, and predators; sufficient ventilation; and suitable shelter for the chickens.
- (6) Chickens shall have adequate access to feed, clean water, and bedding at all times. The chicken coop, chicken pen, and surrounding areas shall be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times to preclude odors and aesthetic nuisances. Chicken feed shall be stored in a secure container.
- (7) Chicken manure shall be disposed of or composted. All stored manure shall be completely contained in a waterproof container. Any compost using chicken manure shall be produced in an enclosed backyard composter.
- (8) The on-site slaughter of chickens shall be prohibited. If a chicken dies from causes other than slaughter, it shall be promptly placed into a plastic bag, which shall be closed securely and disposed of with household waste.

Amend Section 15.01 of the UDO to add the following definitions:

- Chicken: Any of the common domestic birds or fowl of the species Gallus gallus domesticus whose eggs or flesh are used for food. Also referred to as "poultry". The female bird is called a "hen".
- Chicken Coop: An enclosed structure for housing or sheltering chickens which contains nesting boxes for the chickens to sit in while laying their eggs as well as perches for the chickens to use while sleeping. Also referred to as a "henhouses".
- Chicken Pen: An open-air, outdoor area connected to or surrounding the coop which is surrounded with wire or mesh screening to cage and protect chickens from predators as they range outside the coop.

PROCLAMATION

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, the North Carolina General Assembly and the Richmond County Commissioners have proclaimed January 19, 2026 as a legal holiday to commemorate the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and

WHEREAS, the King Holiday is set aside as a day for peace and civil unity and building of understanding between races and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King showed courage, endurance and patience in the face of hostility, criticism and adversity working to promote freedom, justice and peace; and

WHEREAS, the local Steering Committee is holding a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King using the theme **"Mission Possible: Around The World We May Be Different: But We Are All The Same"**.

WHEREAS, the Federal Holiday Commission desires that the King Holiday inspire young people to embrace an alternative to violence for settling disputes, conflicts and to reject those influences that destroy rather than sustain life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John P. Hutchinson, Mayor and the Members of the Rockingham City Council do hereby proclaim that Monday, January 19, 2026 be set aside as a day to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to promote appropriate activities to further enhance the democratic ideals and concepts advanced by this great American.

This the 13th day of January, 2026.

Signed: _____
John P. Hutchinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sabrina Y. McDonald, CMC
City Clerk

**DEPARTMENTAL
ACTIVITY REPORTS
for
COUNCIL'S INFORMATION**

George C. Gillenwater



Chief of Police

To: Monty Crump

From: G.C. Gillenwater
Chief of Police

Date: January 1, 2026
Ref: December Activity Report

On behalf of the Rockingham Police Department, I am pleased to submit this report for your consideration. The following activities have been undertaken by officers of the Rockingham Police Department.

Total Calls for the Month: **1161**

Total arrests for the month :

Felonies: **15**
Misdemeanors: **36**

Charges on all arrests :

Felonies: **50**
Misdemeanors: **74**

Accidents Reported/Investigated:

Total: **74**

Officer Hours Spent in Court: **05**
Officer Training Hours Logged **183**



FIRE CHIEF
HAROLD ISLER

ADMIN. ASST.
KRISTY PLAYER

December

We are pleased to submit the monthly fire report on the activities undertaken by the Rockingham Fire Department during the month of December 2025.

Total Alarms:	<u>53</u>	In Town:	<u>53</u>	Out of Town:	<u>0</u>
Turn In Alarms:	<u>0</u>	Silent Alarms:	<u>53</u>	Structure fire:	<u>1</u>
Wrecks:	<u>22</u>	Alarm Malf:	<u>11</u>	Good Intent:	<u>6</u>
Service Call:	<u>1</u>	Assist Police:	<u>0</u>	Trash/outside fire:	<u>11</u>
Power line down:	<u>0</u>	Assist Ems:	<u>0</u>	Camper fire:	<u>0</u>
Smoke scare:	<u>0</u>	Cooking fire:	<u>0</u>	Vehicle fire:	<u>0</u>
Electrical:	<u>1</u>	Standby:	<u>0</u>	Spill/Leak:	<u>0</u>

Total Property Exposed to Fire: \$350,000.00

Total Property Damaged by Fire: \$7,000.00

Total Property Saved: \$343,000.00

During the month of December the full time members averaged 23 training hours per person; part-paid members averaged 11 hours per person for the month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Isler
Fire Chief

To: Monty Crump, City Manager
From: Dave Davis, Recreation Director
Date: January 5, 2026
Subject: Activity Report

The following are activities involving our department this month.

Youth Basketball – This program will tip off the 2026 season on Monday, January 5th. We have twenty teams in four respective divisions and involves approximately 160 participants ranging in age from five to thirteen. If everything goes accordingly we should complete this season the first part of February. (Note: This marks the 42nd year for this program)

Spring Soccer – Registration will begin on Wednesday, January 21st and conclude Wednesday, February 4th.

Field Maintenance – Although our activities have moved inside for the next couple of months our maintenance staff has already begun some initial preparation to our baseball and softball fields. It's cold outside but spring will be here before we know it.