

MINUTES

The White Bluff Town Council met in special-called session on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at White Bluff Town Hall. Present were Council members Stephanie Murrell, Connie Reed, Carl Kincaid, Scott Glover, Bryan Hill, and Jacob Puckett. Also present included Town Recorder Misty Rodgers, Town Attorney Andrew Mills, Projects Administrator and Public Works Director Jeff Martin, Police Chief Chris Fulcher, Codes Administrator Derrick Long, Municipal Judge Andrew Renfroe and members of the public.

Mayor Stephanie Murrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following spoke on the fill issue (smoldering mulch) at Veterans Memorial Park:

- Janet McArdle, Diane Loop
- Ellen Marsh, 119 Enchanted Trail
- John Snow, 5023 Hwy 70E
- Susan Hewitt, 2101 Beaver Ridge Rd.
- Kelly James, 108 William Driver Lane
- Mellissa Lampley, 1016 Glendale Rd.
- Beverly Clark, 1510 Craun Hollow

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- None

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting – to consider a proposal to remediate the fill issue at Veterans Memorial Park - was announced by Mayor Stephanie Murrell.

At this point, the Town Council meeting was paused, the public and staff was excused from the Council Chambers and the Town Attorney, Mayor and Town Council entered Executive Session. After the Executive Session was concluded, the public and staff was invited back into the Council Chambers, and the special-called Town Council meeting was resumed.

- **Consider a Proposal to remediate the fill issue at Veterans Memorial Park.** Attorney Mills and Mayor Murrell reviewed remediation options with the Council. Options discussed included:
 - WELC (Wilson Excavating – the entity that dumped the mulch) has offered to cap the mulch pile with dirt and install erosion control measures on site. This option does not currently have the approval of TDEC. WELC's proposal cost is currently believed to be \$0.
 - Contract with Benchmark, an experienced removal company, to remove the mulch from the site. Benchmark may spread some of the mulch over the Veterans Memorial Park site according to TDEC specifications as well. Both removal and spreading of the mulch are TDEC-approved remediation measures. Benchmark's proposal cost is \$146,000.00 (labor only) plus tipping fees estimated to be between \$40,000.00 and \$50,000.00.

After further discussion and questions, including whether insurance may cover some of the cost of remediation and possible remediation start dates;

Motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Benchmark not to exceed \$200,000.00, instruct Staff to contact the insurance company to determine if insurance

may cover some or all of the remediation costs, and to instruct Town Attorney Andrew Mills to pursue legal action against Wilson Excavating (WELC).

Motion by Jacob Puckett, second by Carl Kincaid, with voice call voting as follows: Reed, Kincaid, Puckett, Hill and Glover voting yes. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.:

Motion by Connie Reed, second by Carl Kincaid, carried 5-0.

Stephanie Murrell
Mayor

Misty Rodgers
Recorder