TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN
January 5, 2026 Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.

The Elizabethtown Town Council met on Monday, January 6, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Mayor Sylvia Campbell, Mayor Pro Tem Paula Greene, Council Members Bruce Dickerson, Rich Glenn, Bobby Kinlaw, Ricky Leinwand and Rufus Lloyd. Also present were Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane and Town Attorney Goldston Womble. Department Heads in attendance included Police Chief Mark McMichael, Fire Chief Hollis Freeman, Finance Director Sharon Penny, Interim Finance Director Ken Hadaway, Planning Director Rusty Worley, Public Works/Engineering Services Director Steve Duffy and Town Clerk Juanita Hester. There were no representatives from the Press. Ms. Brenda Clark and other community citizens attended the meeting.

Item #1.1 Opening and Call to Order
Mayor Sylvia Campbell opened the meeting and called to order. Mayor Campbell then called upon Council Member Rufus Lloyd to give the Invocation.

Item #2.1 Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
The presentation of Colors will be made by the Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy Cadets at the evening meeting.

Item #3.1 Approve Consent Agenda Items
Council Member Rich Glenn, seconded by Council Member Bobby Kinlaw, moved to approve unanimously, the following Consent Agenda Items:
A. *Proposed Agenda;* ***B.*** *December 8, 2025 Noon Rescheduled Mtg. Mins;* ***C.*** *December 8, 2025 7 p.m. Rescheduled Mtg. Mins;* ***D.*** *December 8, 2025 Closed Session Minutes;* ***E.*** *December 15, 2025 Reconvened Mtg. Mins. – Noon;* ***F.*** *December 15, 2025 Reconvened Mtg. Mins.-7 pm;* ***G.*** *December 15, 2025 Reconvened Closed Session Mins.;* ***H.*** *Monthly Financia Report;* ***I.*** *Grant Project Budget Amendment #13-01- NCDAQ Rebate Agreement-Level 2 EV Charging Stations 2023-01;* ***J.*** *Grant Project Ordinance #13-02 – Close-Out NCDAQ Rebate Agreement-Level 2 EV Charging Stations 2023-01;* ***K.*** *Firemen's Relief Fund Trustee Appointment; and* ***L.*** *Utility Account Releases - $9,196.75.*

Item #4.1 Special Recognition – Finance Director Sharon Penny
Mayor Sylvia Campbell read and made presentation of an engraved plaque to Finance Director Sharon Penny. Mayor Campbell gave praises and thanks to Mrs. Penny for the exceptional job she has done as the Town's Finance Director.

Item #5.1 Interim Town Manager Update

Mayor Sylvia Campbell called upon Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane to update Council. He reported that sink hole on MLK has been repaired and gave update on the Vulcanair project. Planning Director Rusty Worley was asked to update on the Community Center project. Director of Public Works/Engineering Services Steve Duffy was called upon to update on the WWTP project.

Item #6.1 Resolution #R-2026-01 – To Designate Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane to Sign Checks for the Town and the Airport/Economic Development Commission Until New Finance Director is Hired

With the departure of Finance Director Sharon Penny on 1/9/26, Mayor Sylvia Campbell stated that a Resolution to designate Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane to sign checks for the Town and the Airport/Economic Development Commission would be necessary. Therefore, motion by Council Member Bobby Kinlaw and seconded by Council Member Rich Glenn, moved to approve the Resolution (Unanimous). Copy attached and incorporated herein by reference. Mayor Campbell announced that Mr. Ken Hadaway has been hired for the Finance Director position.

Item #6.2 Resolution #R-2026-02 – To Designate Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane to Sign CDBG-NR Grant Requisitions and Checks Until New Finance Director is Hired by the Town

With the departure of Finance Director Sharon Penny on 1/9/26, Mayor Sylvia Campbell stated that a Resolution to designate Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane to sign CDBG-NR Grant Requisitions. Motion from Council Member Rich Glenn, seconded by Council Member Bobby Kinlaw, moved to approve the Resolution (Unanimous). Copy attached and incorporated herein by reference.

Item #7.1 Appointment – Airport/Economic Development Commission

With a motion from Mayor Pro Tem Paula Greene, seconded by Council Member Ricky Leinwand, this agenda item was tabled (Unanimous).

Item #8.1 "Briefly" *(Reminders and announcements are made at this time)*

Mayor Sylvia Campbell called upon Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane to brief on this agenda item. Mr. DeVane brought Council's attention to the Department Head Update Report contained in the agenda material along with the following items:

- Town offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day;
- The annual MLK Parade is scheduled for 1/19/26 at 11 a.m.;
- Chamber Member Breakfast meeting on 1/20/26 at Farmer's Market;
- Annual Chamber of Commerce meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2026 at Cape Fear Vineyard;

- Town offices will be closed on 2/16/26 in observance of Presidents' Day; and
- Town's Annual Budget Retreat, rescheduled from 2/24/2026 meeting date to 3/24/2026 will take place at the Airport Terminal Building.
- Noted the January Employee Birthdays.

Item #9.1 Open Forum

Mayor Campbell called upon the following citizens who had signed up to voice concerns:

- Chuck Heustess, Executive Director, Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. appeared before Council to voice his concerns about Settlement, Economic Development and Employees. Rather than this being an Open Forum matter, Mayor Campbell allowed Mr. Heustess 5 minutes to present his concerns in Closed Session.
- James Nance, new Director of Bladen County Board of Elections, appeared to introduce himself to Town Council.
- Jonathan Langston voiced his concern about Pedestrian Walk Signage at Broad and Poplar and the Queen Street intersection stop sign.
- Harvey Schultz voiced his concern about the condition of the old Accent Dye Building and property located on Hwy. 87/41 since he has a business in the near vicinity. An explanation was provided by Mayor Campbell and Interim Town Manager Pat DeVane as to the difficulties that have been faced by the Town in getting the property owners to agree to clean-up the property.

Item #10.1 Closed Session – *To Be Conducted at the 7 p.m. Meeting*

Mayor Sylvia Campbell will entertain a motion and a second to enter into Closed Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel. Motion was received from Mayor Pro Tem Paula Greene and seconded by Council Member Bobby Kinlaw, to enter Closed Session for the purposes of Economic Development and Personnel (Unanimous).

RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION TO OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Ricky Leinwand, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paula Greene, moved to exit Closed Session with return to Open Session (Unanimous).

Mayor Sylvia Campbell stated, "We have just gone over an Economic Development Incentive Grant Program, and we need a motion to approve".

Upon motion received from Council Member Bobby Kinlaw and seconded by Council Member Bruce Dickerson, the Economic Development Incentive Grant Program Policy was adopted for the Town. (Unanimous). Copy attached and incorporated herein by reference.

Item #11.1 Adjournment

With there being no further business to be conducted, Council Member Rich Glenn, seconded by Council Member Ricky Leinwand, moved to adjourn the meeting (Unanimous).

Sylvia Campbell, Mayor