

Town of Faison

May 6, 2026

Mayor
William “Billy” Ward, II

Commissioners:

Christy Allen
Kenneth Avent, Jr.
Carolyn Kenyon
Sandy McCarty
Carlos Quintanilla

Others Attending:
Law Office of Joseph Ezzell, PLLC
Jimmy Tyndall, Executive Administrator
Matthew Scott, Recreation Director

Board Meeting

Mayor Ward opened the board meeting at 7:05 pm with a prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Ward presented the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Avent to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Commissioner Allen and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward stated that Mr. Garrett Ludlum, who was our town attorney for many years, recently passed away. The mayor shared a thank you acknowledgement from the family for the flower arrangement the Town of Faison sent during his passing.

Mayor Ward stated that we would hear from Mr. David Long, signed in for public comment. Mr. Long is with ECU Health Duplin Hospital. Mr. Long shared that since he last attended our town council meeting over a year ago, there have been multi-million-dollar improvements in the hospital. Residents across Duplin County as well as the Faison area are seen every day. Mr. Long stated that he would welcome the opportunity during the summer or fall to be included on the agenda to share the strategic plan of the hospital, the recruitment focus, and investments to continue to improve the health of the community.

Mayor Ward presented April 1, 2026, regular board meeting minutes. Motion made by Commissioner McCarty to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Commissioner Avent and it passed unanimously. Mayor Ward presented the personnel meeting minutes from April 15, 2026. Motion was made by Commissioner Allen to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Commissioner McCarty and it passed unanimously. Mayor Ward presented the April 21, 2026, special meeting minutes. Motion was made by Commissioner Allen to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Commissioner Kenyon and it passed unanimously. Mayor Ward presented the April 21, 2026 closed session meeting minutes. Motion was made by Commissioner Avent to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Commissioner Quintanilla and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward presented the financials.

Mayor Ward asked Ricky Cameron, Faison Fire Chief to give an update on the fire department. Mr. Cameron introduced the fire department administration members. Mr. Cameron stated that the fire department received \$40,000 from the town on a usual basis per year and they wanted to give an update on how the money is used. The funds helped the fire department to obtain the ISO Class 2 which helps the town with insurance rates for

residents and businesses. The fire department is offering a BLS service for medical care which offers more advanced care for residents. The fire department does standbys offering protection for any of the town events, the parade, the fireworks show, traffic control, and fire protection for events of that nature. They also provide smoke detectors for residents by going around to make sure everybody has working smoke detectors, and if they don't, they install them. The fire department is involved with several community outreach events where fire safety is shared with children. Mr. Cameron stated that public education is provided for fire safety and CPR training for places like Bay Valley, Mustard Seed Christian Academy, and Head Start. CPR classes are offered each year and the goal is to bring the community in to receive certifications. Mr. Cameron stated that over the first half of the fiscal year, there have been several maintenance purchases that have had to be made to keep the engines in service. Approximately \$33,000 has been spent to keep the trucks moving and keep the station maintained. There have been a lot of problems with garage and bay doors. Mr. Cameron stated they are doing a better job of keeping up with the budget and what is being spent and wanted to share where they are financially.

Mayor Ward invited the fire department to the 250th celebration and to set up a couple of fire trucks on display for the children to look at, as well as being available to help with traffic control and any emergencies if needed.

Mayor Ward stated that one of the fire department members asked about having a remembrance service for 9/11 since this year marks the 25th anniversary. He mentioned having a small service that morning at the time that the initial planes hit. Mayor Ward stated he thought the board would be willing to join in with the fire department and take part in the service. Mayor Ward invited the fire department to be there for the Memorial Day service on May 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner McCarty asked Mr. Cameron what they needed from the Town. Mr. Cameron stated any assistance would be very helpful. Motion made by Commissioner Allen to increase the fire department budgeted amount by \$10,000 for a total of \$50,000 and seconded by Commissioner McCarty and it passed unanimously. Commissioner McCarty asked Mr. Cameron to plan to attend the January board meeting and provide an update for the fire department.

Mayor Ward asked Matthew Scott to give an update on the recreation department. Matthew stated that both he and Jimmy Tyndall were taking classes to be licensed to drive the school buses and will be ready for the next school year. Matthew stated that regarding summer camps this year, he would like us to offer lower cost, low maintenance, family-oriented camps giving back to the community with the goal of helping parents. Matthew said he would like to offer \$20 summer camps and work with all volunteers. We would not be paying out or spending money. The fire department is going to have a junior fire camp and will be donating their time as public service so there will be no charge for that camp.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenyon for the cost of summer camps to be \$20 per child and seconded by Commissioner Avent and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward presented the 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance for approval. Motion made by Commissioner McCarty to approve the 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance and seconded by Commissioner Allen and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward presented the 2026-2027 General Fund line-item budget, Powell Bill and Water Sewer. Motion made by Commissioner McCarty to approve the General Fund budget, Powell Bill and Water Sewer line-item budgets and seconded by Commissioner Allen and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward stated that our tax rate was decreased to \$.0048 last year after the county reappraised properties. The \$.0048 rate not only affected real property but also affected vehicles which resulted in a loss in revenue. Mayor Ward stated that we might want to look at the tax rate in the next year or two and consider increasing the rate to help with revenue. It was agreed to table the tax rate until next year.

Mayor Ward stated that a decision needs to be made on our tax collection, whether to have the new employee, Carmen Gonzalez, continue taking care of our taxes or farm it out to the county, which most towns in our county are doing. Mrs. Carmen has also collected taxes in her career. Commissioner Kenyon recommended that we continue with the tax collections as we are doing now. A resolution will be presented at the July meeting for Carmen Gonzalez to be the tax collector.

Mayor Ward stated that we need to discuss our membership with the Eastern Carolina Council. ECC is a council of government that has nine counties in it and meets every month. They are having financial problems and have had misappropriations of funds over the years. They are under forensic audit. As of today, seven or eight of the nine counties have withdrawn their membership from the council and individual towns are also withdrawing. We will be paying dues for services they can no longer provide. Mayor Ward talked with Carrie Bell Shields and she said Duplin County is also leaving the council. Mayor Ward stated there is a council of government in the Wilmington area that we could consider. Motion made by Commissioner Kenyon that the Town of Faison withdraw from the Eastern Carolina Council and seconded by Commissioner Allen and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward presented the insurance quote to add our two school buses to our policy. The quote for liability only is \$4,300, or to include damage at cash value, the cost will be \$4,500. A motion was made by Commissioner Allen that we go with the \$4,500 coverage and seconded by Commissioner Avent and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward stated that Carmen Gonzalez has requested her sick leave hours be transferred from the Town of Warsaw to the Town of Faison. She currently has 565.29 hours. Motion made by Commissioner McCarty to accept transfer of Carmen Gonzalez's total sick time of 565.29 hours and seconded by Commissioner Allen and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward stated that we need approval to add Mandy Taylor, our new town clerk and Carmen Gonzalez, our new assistant clerk, to Southern Bank, United Bank, and North Carolina Capital Management bank accounts. Motion made by Commissioner Quintanilla to add Mandy Taylor and Carmen Gonzalez to our bank accounts for Southern Bank, United Bank, and North Carolina Capital Management and seconded by Commissioner Allen and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward stated that we need to go into closed session. Motion made by Commissioner Avent at 7:47pm to go into closed session and seconded by Commissioner Allen and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Ward stated that we are back in open session at 8:03pm. During our closed session it has been discussed that we want to hire Sharon Tyndall back as a consultant for the Town of Faison at a rate of \$35.00 an hour. Motion made by Commissioner Avent that we hire Sharon Tyndall back as an advisor at a rate of \$35.00 per hour and seconded by Commissioner Quintanilla and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Allen stated that Holly Horne takes care of cleaning the library. Holly recently mentioned that it is hard for her to reach the top of the ceilings and some areas to do a good cleaning. Holly asked if we could have someone come in and do a deep cleaning periodically. Jimmy Tyndall stated that public works used to help clean the library and they will be able to help with the cleaning needs.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted

William "Billy" Ward, II, Mayor

Anne S. Letchworth, Assistant Clerk