

Town of Fairview



Town of Fairview Regular Council Meeting May 12, 2026 @ 6:30 pm

1. Call the meeting to order: ---Mayor Wilfong

The following Council members were present: Mayor Gary Wilfong, Patricia Kindley, David Link and Kerry Price. Absent: John Biggers

Others present: Darrell Baucom, Financial Officer; Jim King, Town Administrator; Teresa Gregorius, Town Clerk and Spencer Cox, Town Clerk

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Agenda Changes/Approval of Agenda

Mayor Wilfong announced that there was an agenda change to be addressed. Item number 8D will be delayed and discussed at another meeting.

Patricia Kindley made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. David Link seconded the motion. Council members Kindley, Link and Price voted yes (3-0).

5. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- 5.A. Financial and Tax Reports--- Report Accepted as Information
- 5.B. Land Use Report---Report Accepted as Information
- 5.C. Fairview Park Facility April Draft Minutes (No April Meeting)
- 5.D. Planning Board March and April Draft Minutes (Accepted as Information)
- 5.E. Approve Council Minutes from Retreat on February 7, 2026
- 5.F. Approve Council Minutes from the March 10, and April 14, 2026

Kerry Price made a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Patricia Kindley seconded the motion. Council members Kindley, Link and Price voted yes (3-0).

6. Public Comments: None

7. Presentations: None

8. Items of Business:

8.A. Next Chapter Learning Services Update

Lisa Thomas, director of Next Chapter Learning Services, presented an update on the program's operations at the Fairview Town Hall. Since the program's last report to the Council in February, enrollment had grown from approximately 50 children to 65 children in grades K–8, served across four days per week. Ms. Thomas noted that students are drawn from Fairview Elementary, Piedmont Middle School, and several other area schools, with the majority coming from the Fairview community. She credited the growth to the program's individualized, relationship-based approach to tutoring, and emphasized that the program operates within the town's building at no cost to the town beyond use of the facilities.

Two students, Melanie Henry and Matthias Henry, addressed the Council directly. Melanie spoke about overcoming significant difficulties with math since joining the program in October, and Matthias described how Next Chapter had transformed his attitude toward education entirely, motivating him to pursue college. Their parents, Sean and Miranda Henry, also addressed the Council, explaining that they had found Next Chapter through Facebook after unsuccessful experiences with commercial tutoring programs.

Lindsay Howe, a Fairview resident, also spoke in support of the program, emphasizing the value of having local educators investing directly in the community's children and describing the program as an accessible and affordable resource for working families.

Mayor Wilfong reflected on the program's fit within Fairview's identity as a community-oriented town and noted that the freeing up of Town Hall rooms, made possible by relocating stored materials to a former fire department building, had created space for expansion. The Council expressed broad support for continuing and potentially growing the program.

8.B. Discuss 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Darrell Baucom presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget. Council discussed and made recommendations for the proposed budget.

The Council also discussed the rationale for the tax rate increase, emphasizing that the current rate has not changed in 24 years, that the town's unrestricted fund balance (approximately \$500,000 as of year-end FY25) is being depleted. Council Member Link summarized the position plainly: the town cannot continue spending more than it brings in, and the modest increase, roughly \$200 per year for a \$1 million home, represents reasonable value given the services provided. The proposed budget will be formally presented for adoption at the June meeting following a required public hearing.

No vote was taken. The budget was presented for discussion only, with formal adoption scheduled for the June 2026 meeting.

8.C. Update on Contract with Benesch

Town Administrator Jim King provided an update on the Benesch amphitheater project. Per the most recent communication from Jon Wood at Benesch, the site electrical design is underway with updated drawings in progress following a panel relocation to the back of the stage. A quote for the stage shelter kit had been received; including delivery, the kit cost is \$63,873.24. The \$250,000 capital fund in the proposed budget was noted as sufficient to cover anticipated amphitheater costs if the project moves forward in FY26-27.

9. Council Comments

Patricia Kindley noted that she had intended to discuss the tutoring program further but felt the matter had been thoroughly covered under Item 8.A. Council Member Link remarked briefly that the Council remains attentive to community feedback on its decisions.

Town Clerk Spencer Cox announced that Music in the Park is scheduled approximately one month away, and that the performing band would play under the park's picnic shelter, with picnic tables relocated to accommodate the event.

Council Member Kindley noted that Harry Haigler, one of the individuals from whom the town had purchased its park land, had recently passed away.

Darrell Baucom noted the need to transfer funds from the NC Capital Management Trust to the town's checking account to maintain operating cash.

Ms. Cox also announced that a retirement celebration for Teresa Gregorius and Ed Humpries is planned on June 9, the same evening as the next regular Council meeting, as a 4:00–6:00 PM drop-in event prior to the 6:30 PM meeting.

Mayor Wilfong also mentioned a community yard sale scheduled for May 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Thomas
Town Clerk

Gary Wilfong
Mayor

Approved on this 9 day of June 2026