

The Smithfield Town Council met on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor M. Andy Moore presided.

Council Members Present:
Mayor Pro Tem Sloan Stevens
Dr. Gettys Cohen, Jr., District 1
Stephen Rabil, At-Large
John Dunn, At-Large
Roger Wood, At-Large

Council Members Absent:
Doris L. Wallace, District 4
Travis Scott, District 3

Administrative Staff Present
Kimberly Pickett, Interim Town Mgr.
Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk
Tracy Stubblefield
Jeremey Daughtry, Fire Chief
Pete Hedrick, Chief of Police
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director
Shannan Parrish, HR Director
Planning Director, Brent Reck
Planner I, Micah Woodard
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Director

Also Present:
Robert Spence, Jr., Town Attorney

Administrative Staff Absent:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Travis Scott followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilman Roger Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman John Dunn to approve the agenda as submitted. Unanimously approved

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Oath of Office – Administering Oath of Office to Three Newly Promoted Police Officers

Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to three newly promoted officers of the Smithfield Police Department. Two police officers were recently promoted to captains, and one new officer recently promoted to lieutenant. The mayor congratulated the officers and thanked them for their assistance at the recent Ham and Yam festival event as well as for their overall service.

2. Proclamation – Declaring May 3-9, 2026 as Municipal Clerk’s Week

Mayor Moore read the proclamation declaring the week of May 3rd through May 9th, 2026 as Professional Municipal Clerk’s Week in the Town of Smithfield. The proclamation recognized the office of the professional municipal clerk as the oldest among public servants and acknowledged the vital role clerks serve as the professional link between citizens, local governing bodies, and other agencies of government. Mayor Moore extended personal appreciation to Town Clerk Elaine Andrews for her professionalism, dedication, and positive attitude in service to the Council and the community.

Town of Smithfield
Proclamation
PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
May 3 - 9, 2026

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all.

Whereas, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community.

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations.

Whereas, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.

Now, Therefore, I, M. Andy Moore, Mayor of Smithfield, NC, do hereby recognize the week of May 3 through 9, 2026, as

Professional Municipal Clerks Week

and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerk, Elaine Andrews and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2026

3. Proclamation – Declaring May 17-23, 2026 as Public Works Week

Mayor Moore read the proclamation declaring the week of May 17th through May 23rd, 2026, as National Public Works Week in the Town of Smithfield. The proclamation noted that 2026 marks the 66th Annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association and recognized public works professionals for their contributions to the health, safety, and quality of life of Smithfield residents. Mayor Moore specifically praised Public Works staff for their performance during the recent town festival, noting they were observed working throughout the day in the rain to maintain cleanliness and safety. Mayor Moore asked that Public Works representative, Lawrence Davis, to receive the Proclamation and to extend the Council's appreciation to the entire department.

**TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
PROCLAMATION
PUBLIC WORKS RECOGNITION WEEK MAY 17-23, 2026
“Rooted in Service, Powered by Community”**

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of the Town of Smithfield; and,

WHEREAS, these infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are responsible for improving our streets, enhancing the appearance of the Town, maintaining the Town's fleet, and maintaining the solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens and civic leaders in the Town of Smithfield to gain knowledge of and maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 66th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association,

NOW THEREFORE, I, M. Andy Moore, Mayor of Smithfield, along with the members of the Smithfield Town Council, do hereby proclaim the week of May 17- 23, 2026, as

National Public Works Week

I urge all citizens pay tribute to our public works employees and to recognize the

substantial contributions they make to protecting our health, safety, and advancing quality of life for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Town of Smithfield on this 5th day of May in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

4. Proclamation – Declaring May 11-17, 2026 as National Police Week

Mayor Andy Moore read the proclamation recognizing May 11-17, 2026 as National Police Week. He thanked Police Chief Pete Hedrick and staff for their service to the community, noting the Town has one of the best Police forces in Johnston County, and in the state. Mayor Moore noted the Town’s police department is CALEA certified, and it shows through the professionalism of our officers.

**PROCLAMATION
National Police Week
Town of Smithfield, North Carolina**

WHEREAS, each May, our nation comes together to honor the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week was established in 1962 by presidential proclamation of President John F. Kennedy, and includes Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15th; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week serves as a time to recognize and remember those law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty, as well as to honor those who continue to serve and protect our communities with unwavering dedication and courage; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week observances are held across the country, with national events centered in Washington, D.C., including the Candlelight Vigil, the National Survivors Conference, and the National Peace Officers Memorial Service held at the United States Capitol; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week is both a time of solemn remembrance and a celebration of the men and women who serve with integrity and bravery each day, reminding us that behind every badge is a story of service, sacrifice, and family; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Smithfield recognizes and deeply appreciates the commitment, professionalism, and sacrifice of its law enforcement officers, who work tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. Andy Moore, Mayor of the Town of Smithfield, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of **May 11-17, 2026**, as

“National Police Week”

in the Town of Smithfield, and urge all citizens to join in honoring the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers, past and present, and to show appreciation for those who continue to protect and serve our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of May, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

- Elizabeth Temple of Chestnut Dr., Smithfield, and Historic Preservation Committee member addressed the Council. She emphasized the historic significance of Smithfield’s role in the Battle of Bentonville and the Confederate soldiers buried near town, noting the heavy casualties and urging the town to do more to recognize and preserve its Civil War history. She referenced battlefield tours, historical booklets, commemorative items she has donated, and expressed a preference for historically accurate Confederate flags and for reserving historic cemetery space for ancestors of Confederate soldiers.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Councilman Roger Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman John Dunn to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Unanimously approved.

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. March 17, 2026 – Regular Session
 - b. March 17, 2026 – Closed Session
 - c. April 7, 2026 – Regular Session
 - d. April 7, 2026 – Closed Session

- 2. Special Event – Bulldog Harley-Davidson Waffles and Wins – May 9, 2026:**
This event will be held at 1043 Outlet Center Drive from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. A food truck will be on site selling food and two free beers will be given away to customers age 21 and older.

- 3. Special Event – Bulldog Harley-Davidson Spice Up Your Ride – May 16, 2026:**
This event will be held at 1043 Outlet Center Drive from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. A food truck will be on site selling food and two free beers will be given away to customers age 21 and older.

- 4. Special Event – Bulldog Harley-Davidson Indoor Poker Run – May 23, 2026:**
This event will be held at 1043 Outlet Center Drive from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. A food truck will be on site selling food and two free beers will be given away to customers age 21 and older.

- 5. Special Event – Bulldog Harley-Davidson Bike Night – May 28, 2026:** This event will be held at 1043 Outlet Center Drive from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A food truck will be on site selling food and two free beers will be given away to customers age 21 and older.

- 6. Special Event – Bulldog Harley-Davidson Unchained Rally – May 30, 2026:**
This event will be held at 1043 Outlet Center Drive from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. A live band will perform. Food trucks will be on site selling food and alcohol will be available for purchase for customers age 21 and older.
(Planning Director – Brent Reck) See attached information

- 7. Special Event – Michael’s Amusements, Inc. Spring Carnival (Carolina Premium Outlets) May 14-24, 2026:** This event will be held at 1025 Outlet Center Drive during the hours of 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm on weekdays and from 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm on weekends. Over 100 people are expected to attend and food will be sold.

- 8. Consideration and request for approval of a Career Ladder Promotion of one Employee from Water Plant Operator Trainee to Water Plant Operator I:** In keeping with stated Town goals of retaining highly qualified employees, staff respectfully requests approval of a career ladder promotion for a Water Plant employee.

- 9. Consideration and request for approval of a Career Ladder Promotion of one Employee from Police Officer II to Master Police Officer**

- 10. Consideration and request for approval of Resolution No. 805 to Adopt a Local Water Supply Plan in accordance with NC G.S. 143-355 (l):** This official plan has been created, submitted and accepted by NCDEQ. Official acceptance will be finalized once the Town Council adopts Resolution 805, updating the Town’s Local Water Supply Plan.

- 11. Consideration and request to enter into an agreement with Lane’s Landscaping for a Grounds Maintenance Contract in the amount of \$55,985.00, annually**

- 12. New Hire Report**

Business Items: None

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

- There were no councilmember comments made at this meeting.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:

Interim Town Manager Kimberly Pickett stated the following:

- Pickett stated she has heard from auditors: financials will be done by end of this week. The auditors feel confident they can present it to the Town Council on May 19th. She noted this is a huge win for staff.
 - Reminded the Council of the employee picnic: May 22, Community Park, starting at 12:00 p.m. Town Hall will be closed ~11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., then business resumes.
 - Noted this week was National Drinking Water Week
 - The next River Jam concert will be May 15th – Jim Quick and the Coastline Band
- Pickett then gave an overall report for the Ham and Yam Festival event by DSDC director, Heidi Gilmond. In summary, she noted that despite steady rain and unseasonably cool temperatures, the Ham and Yam Festival drew an encouraging crowd, with over 200 of 256 registered vendors participating and most providing positive feedback on the event's planning, communication, and expanded attractions, which included a car show, pig races, multiple music stages, and a free Sister Hazel concert with meet-and-greet. Supported by 11 months of planning and 448 volunteer hours—plus over \$72,000 in sponsorships to help keep the event free—the festival maintained safe foot traffic throughout the day, saw stronger attendance in the afternoon, and was widely viewed by vendors and attendees as successful despite the weather. Organizers will review official foot-traffic data and hold a post-event meeting on May 22 to evaluate outcomes, refine improvements, and begin planning for the 2027 festival. Kim Pickett thanked the DSDC and staff for doing a great job.

Mayor Moore echoed Pickett's comments, stating the Ham and Yam festival is a great traditional Town event. This year's event was well run, and a nice job.

Mayor Moore added that he was glad to hear that the Town's auditors will be making their presentation on May 19, 2026. He acknowledged that the town is behind on submitting its audit due to staff turnover and noted they received a standard warning letter from the LGC. He thanked staff for bringing in and supporting the auditors and emphasized how important this work is—especially with a new finance director—while expressing appreciation to everyone for making the audit a priority.

Closed Session: Pursuant to NC G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(3)

Councilman John Dunn made a motion, seconded by Councilman Roger Wood to go into closed session, pursuant to NC G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(3) at approximately 7:39 pm. Unanimously approved.

Councilman Gettys Cohen, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Councilman John Dunn to reconvene in open session at approximately 8:30 pm. Unanimously approved.

Upon reconvening into open session, the Town Council continued FY 2026-27 budget discussions.

FY 2026-2027 Budget Discussions:

Interim Manager Kim Pickett continued FY 26-27 Budget discussions. She reported that since the last budget discussion, there have been several adjustments resulting in an overall 1% decrease in the proposed General Fund budget rather than the previously projected 1% increase. The total General Fund is now \$24,298,099, reflecting this 1% reduction from the prior year, while the property tax rate remains at \$0.45 per \$100 of valuation and the Downtown Municipal Service District tax rate remains at \$0.16.

Police Department

Interim Town Manager Kimberly Pickett presented the proposed FY 2026–2027 Police Department budget, noting a total departmental expenditure of \$7,160,588, representing a 13 percent increase from the prior fiscal year. The presentation was supported by a slideshow distributed to Council members.

Pickett stated that anticipated revenues including a \$3,000 JAG grant, an estimated \$72,896 GHSP grant, \$740,000 from the Johnston County SRO contract, and about \$3,000 in parking fees.

Pickett then outlined funded capital items for FY 26, including:

- Celbrite phone-forensics software (approx. \$15,000)
- Patrol shields (approx. \$14,400)
- Four radars (approx. \$12,000)
- GPS trackers (approx. \$1,440)
- Portable radios and batteries (approx. \$14,000)
- Two patrol vehicles (approx. \$140,000 total)
- SRT (Special Response Team) training and equipment (approx. \$50,000)
- Two Patrol officers full-in (\$347,600)

Pickett then noted unfunded requests: two additional vehicles (approx. \$140,000), a generator for the building (approx. \$150,000), and several new positions (an additional GHSP patrol officer (\$173,800), a police analyst (\$85,013), a public safety aide (\$113,045), and a special victim's detective (\$173,800).

When asked by Mayor Pro Tem Sloan Stevens, Chief Pete Hedrick explained the purpose of Celbrite

for downloading phones under court authority, the patrol shields for rifle-level protection in patrol cars, and the SRT request as the initial step toward a limited SWAT-type capability so officers can better respond to high-risk incidents before external teams arrive. Hedrick further stated that SRT funding also covers overtime for specialized training.

Councilman John Dunn questioned whether the \$347,600 for personnel included supplies, equipment and vehicles. Both Hedrick and Pickett stated this did not include vehicles. Chief Hedrick further explained that with a fleet of about 50 police vehicles, industry practice is to maintain roughly 5% as spares, meaning at least five backup units, including one specially equipped for K-9 and one for the Detective Division, which the department currently has. He noted that as new officers are added, additional vehicles will be required, and that in recent years the department has stretched its fleet by purchasing used vehicles, effectively extending some cars to about three extra years beyond the typical five-year service life. He cautioned that this approach "kicks the can down the road," as the 2018 and 2019 models are aging, but stated he believes the department can manage with two new cars this year, though it will be tight, and that a larger round of replacements will eventually be unavoidable.

Dunn further questioned whether the personnel was two regular or shift officers. Hedrick stated it was two bodies, noting this may be the associated cost with not hiring a new officer at starting salary. Pickett broke down the estimated \$347,600 cost for two new patrol officers, including starting salary (about \$60,000 each), Social Security at 7.65%, medical (about \$10,850 per employee), life insurance, dental, Leo retirement (17.10%), 401(k) at 5%, uniforms (about \$3,000), training and travel, computer and software. She noted the number did, in fact include one patrol vehicle per officer (about \$70,000 each, including equipment), and tags and tax.

The discussion then shifted to overtime, where Ms. Pickett pointed out that the current year's overtime appropriation of \$100,000 is projected to reach roughly \$139,389, and she proposed budgeting overtime at about 4.5% of salaries going forward.

Mayor Andy Moore asked how many sworn officers the Town had at this time. Chief Hedrick stated the department is currently authorized 44 sworn positions with 43 on staff. The mayor noted, with Hedrick agreeing that the Police Department has been fully staffed this year.

Councilman Roger Wood asked why the need for the additional officers, Hedrick replied it will allow the Town to take the canines out of the patrol schedule and be more proactive when the Town is busiest. In response to questions regarding schedule Chief Hedrick explained that the two new patrol officers will likely be assigned to opposite "swing" schedules, initially working roughly 12-hour shifts and then being adjusted to cover the department's busiest hours (including late evening/night based on call volume). He noted that this swing-shift coverage will help reduce overtime by providing flexible staffing when someone is out or when day or night shifts need extra coverage. He added that this structure will also free K-9 handlers from routine calls so they can focus on proactive work during peak times, making better use of the specialized K-9 equipment and training.

Mayor Andy Moore questioned the need for three K-9 units in a town of this size and the associated costs (vehicle upfit, vet care, training). The Chief explained that two dogs are patrol/narcotics certified and one is narcotics-only, emphasizing their importance for tracking missing persons and addressing drug crimes under tight legal timelines. Hedrick further explained that maintaining three K-9 units is critical for public safety because when a dog is needed—such as for a missing child or a vehicle suspected of containing drugs—officers have only a short window in which a K-9 can lawfully and effectively assist. He noted the department has two full-service patrol/narcotics dogs that can track, locate, and apprehend suspects, and one narcotics-only dog (a lower-cost, less-intensive lab), and that he monitors usage to ensure the town gets value from each dog. His long-term goal is to have a patrol K-9 on all four shifts, but currently the dogs provide coverage during the busiest 12 hours each day, with the narcotics-only dog remaining assigned to a normal zone shift.

There was some discussion regarding police vehicle costs. Chief Hedrick noted the town has extended vehicle life in recent years by purchasing used cars, which has deferred but not eliminated future capital needs.

Hedrick discussed specific operating line items, including K-9 supplies, which increased slightly to cover new leashes and equipment for the replacement dog already approved in the current year's budget, and service contracts, which rose in part due to higher costs for software such as Laserfiche, Verizon/GPS, and the newer Lexipol policy-management subscription.

Responding to Mayor Pro Tem Sloan Steven's prior concerns about records and communication systems, the Chief described ongoing IT/connectivity problems tied to the town's contractor VC3 and noted that both the county and the town have now moved the Central Square records system to a cloud model, which separates town and sheriff's data but adds some recurring cost. Interim Manager Pickett reminded council that the VC3 IT services contract expires in June 2027, and staff may later recommend transitioning back to a town IT director / in-house model.

Mayor Andy Moore noted the Police Department is projected to be over \$250,000 in budget this year, and asked that this be explained. Police Chief Hedrick explained that a large share of police overtime is generated by town-sponsored events (such as festivals and concerts) and state-mandated training (about 80+ hours annually per officer), some of which must occur outside normal shifts. Also, that the Police Department has more staff than in years prior (20% more), to which more people generate more overtime—to which comp time is given if they can. Mayor Moore expressed concern about the size of the projected overage, stressed the need for tighter control and weekly tracking of overtime

across all departments, and warned about the risk that staff can become dependent on routine overtime. Chief Hedrick responded that police overtime now requires three levels of approval (sergeant, lieutenant, and Chief) and that the department tries to use comp time where possible, but certain coverage and training needs still drive unavoidable overtime.

Mayor Andy Moore also asked about take-home vehicle policy and monitoring, and Chief Hedrick reported a 30–35-mile limit from town, continuous GPS tracking on patrol units, automatic speed alerts above preset thresholds (with follow-up by supervisors), random checks of vehicle start/stop locations, and regular review of fuel purchases to ensure officers are fueling in town. Mayor Moore reiterated the need for accountability and using Town vehicles appropriately across all departments.

Additional brief discussion covered the monitoring of officer speeds, use of SROs who are out for the summer, continuing traffic enforcement on Market Street, perimeter locations of police enforcement.

The meeting concluded with Pickett and council agreeing to continue detailed budget review at a follow-up session, tentatively scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the fire department, (due to the upcoming Planning Board meeting at Town Hall the same day).

Recess:

Councilman Gettys Cohen, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sloan Stevens, to recess the meeting for budget discussions until May 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town's Fire Station. The motion was unanimously approved at 9:09 p.m.

ATTEST:


Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk




M. Andy Moore, Mayor