



Town Council Workshop Minutes

The Town Council held the regularly scheduled workshop meeting on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall, 30 S. Main Street, Weaverville, N.C.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Chase called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Lawrence arriving two minutes late.

Town Council Present: Gary "Dee" Lawrence, John Chase, Peter McGuire, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, Mark Endries, and Andrew Nagle.

Staff Present- Town Manager Scottie Harris, Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Jackson, and Town Clerk Tamara Mercer.

Motion to add a Discussion Item regarding Thermo Fisher closing.

Moved by: Andrew Nagle

Aye Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, and Andrew Nagle

Carried unanimously. 7-0

2. DISCUSSION ITEM –

ThermoFisher Closure Announcement

Discussion regarding the news of layoffs and closure at Thermo Fisher and the tax implications were noted by Councilmember Nagle. He estimated upwards of \$115,000 revenue would be lost to the town (the tax revenue loss would not be in effect until next year's budget cycle). Largest industry taxpayers and affected employee layoffs, taxable inventory, property and depreciation, warehouse square footage, commercial business acreage and vacancies, economic conditions such factory production during the pandemic versus less demand currently, economic growth, the real estate market, local business impacts to the economy and organizing a task force promoting the area were discussed.

There was consensus to offer assistance where we can and for Town leadership to be more connected with our largest taxpayers going forward. Councilmember Young stated she would contact NC Works regarding Weaverville hosting a jobs fair.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Citing N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – To consult with an attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege; N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) – To establish or instruct negotiating agents concerning the price and other material terms of a contract to purchase real property; and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) – To review or discuss confidential personnel matters

Motion to enter into closed session at 6:23 p.m.

Moved by: Peter McGuire

Aye Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, and Andrew Nagle

Carried unanimously. 7-0

[CLOSED SESSION]

Motion to exit closed session and enter back to the open meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Moved by: Jennifer Young

Aye Peter McGuire, Dee Lawrence, John Chase, Mark Endries, Jennifer Young, Phil Barnett, and Andrew Nagle

Carried unanimously. 7-0

Councilmember Barnett briefly discussed the former Balcrank facility at 115 Reems Creek Road including acreage, building capacity, and roadway frontage dimensions, and other amenities, and noted that the property-owner is willing to hold town-sponsored events at that location.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Gary D. Lawrence, Mayor

Tamara Mercer Town Clerk