City of King City Council Regular Meeting
6:00 PM Monday, October 5, 2026

City of King City Hall Council Chambers
229 S. Main St., King, NC 27021

MINUTES

The King City Council convened for its regular meeting at King City Hall, Council Chambers, 229 S. Main St., King, on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and make decisions on various city matters. Present at the meeting were Councilman Tyler Bowles, Mayor Pro Tem Jane Cole, Mayor Rick McCraw, Councilman Michael Lane, City Engineer Ben Marion, City Attorney Brad Friesen, City Manager Scott Barrow, City Clerk Nicole Branshaw, Director of Finance and Personnel Susan O'Brien, Intern City Planner Emerson Wright, Senior Center Director Paula Hall, Fire Chief Steven Roberson, Police Chief Jordan Boyette, Chaplain Rick Hughes, Officer Nathan Sands, and SRO Connor McBride. Councilwoman Terri Fowler was absent.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, October 5, 2026. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, with all remaining standing for the invocation given by Chaplain Donald Davis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor noted that copies of the agenda were available in the basket at the back of the room. He thanked everyone attending in person and those watching online, stating that Council "like[s] input from our citizens" and that citizens are "the heartbeat of the town."

The Mayor reviewed the community calendar:

- Downtown safe trick-or-treating will take place on Saturday, October 31, with downtown streets closed.
- Election Day is November 3. The Mayor urged residents to vote, saying, "People complain about things, but they don't vote."
- The rain date for King Fest, which could not be held the previous Saturday, is November 7.
- The community Christmas tree lighting ceremony will feature Santa Claus. The Christmas parade will follow the very next day. The Mayor credited former Mayor Warren, whom Council recognized the previous month with a bridge naming, as the person who started the tree lighting event.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole had no additional dates but asked about the trick-or-treat route. The route description listed Dalton Road from Pulliam to Maple and South Main Street from Phelps Drive to King Street. She asked whether Maple Street would be closed, since she had understood that Maple would be closed to downtown traffic and that traffic had been routed another direction because "they were having so many people come through."

The Police Chief Boyette replied that Maple would not be closed "at this time." He explained that the alternate traffic route runs through Kirby, and that there is "no way back around" to the other side of town without bringing vehicles all the way down King Street and around a difficult curve. Mayor Pro Tem Cole responded that 10-mile-per-hour signs had been posted on Maple but "people do not abide by that… they fly through there." She said the street "is very small. It's not large enough for two-way traffic," and

that residents had raised concerns about traffic on Maple. Police Chief Boyette said no streets are blocked past the railroad tracks. He said that removing Maple as a flow route would require stopping traffic at Dalton and staffing the closure. Mayor Pro Tem Cole concluded, "At some point, I think we're going to have to look at that and figure out a better plan." The Mayor thanked her, and no action was taken.

Excusal of Councilwoman Fowler. The Mayor announced that the first order of business was a motion to excuse Councilwoman Fowler.

> ***Motion:*** *Mayor Pro Tem Cole moved to excuse Councilwoman Fowler from the meeting. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Rick McCraw opened the public comment period at 6:07 PM and read the full public comment notice into the record regarding rules of decorum, the three-minute speaker limit, the six-minute spokesperson allowance for large groups, and the thirty-minute session limit. He reminded those present that the Council would listen but not respond, though it may place topics on a future agenda.

1. **Ms. Shannon Allgood (Water/Sewer Bill) 540 Ingram Drive, Apartment 6E, King**

The first speaker spoke about sewer connection fees and base rates, which she said are too high for residents on fixed incomes. She provided Council with a copy of a letter previously delivered on September 24 and cited current water and sewer connection fees, the City's sewer base rates, and comparisons to nearby jurisdictions. She urged Council to consider a usage-based or "lifeline" rate structure, create a utility classification for verified low-income housing, and direct staff to review the billing impact on income-based housing communities. She said she was speaking for herself and other residents on fixed incomes and hoped Council would consider the proposed changes. The Mayor thanked her and said the paperwork would help with review.

2. **Mr. Rick Hughes (Homeless Resource Collaborative) 201 Pilot View Dr., King, NC**

Mr. Rick Hughes gave an update on the Homeless Resource Collaborative and provided a handout to Council. He said four people experiencing homelessness were working in King businesses, with two more expected to start work soon. He reported that more than 20 churches were involved and that the group had arranged medical checkups, winter gear, weekly meals, vehicle repairs, a mailing address, funeral preparation for terminally ill individuals, and financial oversight. He also said the collaborative was working with schools, forming a Board of Directors, and receiving technical help with online DMV registration.

Mr. Hughes said the group's future goals include applying for grants, creating a warming station, meeting with Walnut Cove and Stokes County officials, dividing the county into three service areas, and joining the King Chamber of Commerce after obtaining 501(c)(3) status. The Mayor thanked him and said it "looks like you're making great progress."

3. **Mike McKittrick (Central Park and Chapter 20 Ordinance) 115 Park Place; King, NC**

Mr. Mike McKittrick urged Council to adopt the park-safety ordinance. While expressing sympathy for those experiencing homelessness, he said the City should not allow parks to become campsites and argued the ordinance would help police address suspicious conduct and excessive loitering. He asked Council to pass the measure in the interest of public safety.

Mayor Rick McCraw closed the public comment session at 6:17 PM. ****SEE DOCUMENT 1****

1. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

The Mayor asked whether Council or staff had adjustments. Mayor Pro Tem Cole requested that the budget ordinance amendment be taken off the Consent Agenda and moved down for separate consideration. The Mayor confirmed it would be placed after the Moratorium item as Item 5b in the revised order and asked if that was acceptable, and Mayor Pro Tem Cole agreed.

> ***Motion:*** *Mayor Pro Tem Cole made a motion to approve the agenda as adjusted, with the budget amendment moved to Item 5b, and Councilman Lane seconded. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).*

2. CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor read the standard consent agenda language: the items are believed to be non-controversial and administrative in nature, there is no separate discussion unless a Councilman or citizen requests it and is granted permission to speak, and any such item is removed and considered individually. The Mayor noted that one item had already been pulled, and he asked whether any other member wished to pull an item. None did.

- **A. Approval of Minutes**
  - **a. September 8, 2026, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **B. Budget Amendment 2026-07.02 MOVED TO AGENDA ITEM 5B**
- **C. Firefighters Special Separation Allowance**

Motion: Councilman Bowles moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Councilman Lane seconded. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0. ****SEE DOCUMENT 2****

3. NEW EMPLOYEES

A. Introduction to the New Employees

The Mayor introduced new employees Nathan Sands and Connor McBride, noting that both came to the City with prior experience and had previously worked for the county. The department's Chief said he had sworn them in on the 24th. The Mayor welcomed them, and the new employees thanked Council. Later, Councilman Lane thanked them for staying through the meeting.

4. ITEMS FOR PRESENTATION

A. Presentation of Proclamations

Mayor McCraw presented one proclamation during this portion of the meeting.

The Mayor read a proclamation recognizing indigenous peoples and honoring their history and contributions. He thanked Patrick for attending, and Mayor Pro Tem Cole also thanked Patrick and his guests and said she looked forward to next year.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Moratorium Progress Report & Request to Set Legislative Hearing for Extension of Moratorium

The Mayor introduced the item and turned it over to Staff Member Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright presented an update on the work done during the current moratorium on data centers and other similar computational uses and requested that Council set a legislative hearing to consider an extension. He reported that since adopting the moratorium, staff has begun internal discussions and research on how these uses may fit within the City's existing development regulations and what standards may be appropriate.

He gave the main reason for requesting additional time: staff wants the work "done thoroughly" and consistent with the City's comprehensive plan, currently under development. Staff does not want to draft regulations independently and then have to revise them after the comprehensive plan is completed. Staff estimated that developing and finalizing appropriate ordinances would take approximately 10 to 12 months. That time would allow continued research, development of proposed regulations, coordination with the comprehensive plan, and a draft ordinance to go through the Planning Board before returning to City Council. Mr. Wright reported that the Planning Board voted unanimously, 5 to 0, to recommend that Council extend the moratorium. Staff believed a 12-month extension would provide a reasonable amount of time. He requested that Council set the legislative hearing for the November 2 council meeting.

The Mayor asked whether Council had questions. There were none, and the Mayor thanked Mr. Wright for his work, noting that he and Todd had done a tremendous amount.

Motion: *Mayor Pro Tem Cole made a motion to set a legislative hearing for the November 2 Council meeting to consider extending the moratorium. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.*

B. Budget Amendment 2026-07.02

The Budget Amendment, removed from the Consent Agenda, was then considered.

The Mayor said Mayor Pro Tem Cole had questions about the budget amendment. She asked whether the new positions and promotions were for firefighters or administrative staff. Staff said the amendment adds a new firefighter position that Council previously discussed. Due to the move to a 24/72 shift schedule, the department will also need an additional captain and engineer, with promotions expected to be internal. Mayor Pro Tem Cole noted the amendment would be funded from fund balance and asked for the current figure. Staff reported an unaudited fund balance of 39.81 percent of expenditures as of June 30, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Cole and the Mayor said this was a good result, near the City's 40 percent target. No further questions were raised.

Motion: *Councilman Bowles made a motion to approve* Budget Amendment 2026-07.02. *Mayor Pro Tem Cole seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.* ****SEE DOCUMENT 3****

8. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Mayor asked whether Council had questions about the departmental reports, and there were none.

> ***Motion:*** *Councilman Lane moved to accept the departmental reports. Mayor Pro Tem Cole seconded. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.*

ITEMS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Mayor Pro Tem Cole thanked those who spoke at Public Comment. She said that during budget time Council discussed moving water and sewer rates to usage-based rates, which had not yet happened but,

she believed, was in the works, and she asked to confirm that with the City Manager. It was confirmed that this will appear on the upcoming budget agenda at the November 2 meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Cole said she had been pushing the issue because "we don't want people to pay more than they really have to," and she thanked Ms. Allgood for expressing her concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole then raised the Homeless Resource Collaborative. She said she had sent a text to Mr. Hughes and asked for specifics, including:

- which churches are participating
- where medical checkups will take place
- which mechanics are donating time
- the mailing address
- who the accountant and CPA are, and whether they handle the individuals' funds or the collaborative's funds
- who the technology volunteer is

Councilman Lane responded, "I know one church that is partnering."

Councilman Tyler Bowles thanked Ms. Allgood for returning. He said the water and sewer issue is one he ran on nearly three years ago, and that working through the numbers "is a lot more process than I thought it was going to be." He said Council was "as close as we've ever been to making something happen" and that he was "very excited to see next month." He thanked Mr. Hughes for his presentation and said he was excited to see progress. As he had told Mr. Hughes, he asked that the park ordinance be placed back on next month's agenda for a vote, noting his hope that those experiencing homelessness get help while citizens are also protected. He asked that it be placed on the meeting where all members are present.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole said she also wanted the ordinance on the agenda. She said, "Even if we don't need that now," it is a tool the City can use when needed, as with many ordinances in the ordinance book, because "we never know when… this issue is gonna get worse." The Mayor asked Councilman Lane whether he agreed with placing the item on next month's agenda, and he replied, "Yes. That's fine." The Mayor confirmed that three members supported it. Action Item Assigned: the park-safety ordinance will be placed on the next month's (November 2) agenda for a vote.

The Mayor then recognized Councilman Lane. Councilman Lane thanked everyone for attending. He said citizens who attend every month without speaking are appreciated for being "in the know," and he commended those who spoke for "doing things the right way… coming here, speaking, bringing documentation." On water and sewer, he said, "I think every one of us up here ran on water and sewer rates… it hits our pocketbooks too." He thanked Mr. Hughes and said he was glad to be part of the solution while recognizing "the need to balance… law and grace." He thanked his fellow council members, City employees and the new employees.

Mayor McCraw thanked Patrick and his daughter for attending and urged residents to attend the powwow, "a great event," saying "we're proud to have you in King." The Mayor told online viewers that the powwow needs sponsorships to continue.

The Mayor reported on recent events:

> The Mayor briefly noted recent community events, including the Stokes County Fair, a 9/11 ceremony at the American Legion, the bridge dedication for former Mayor Warren, the West Stokes homecoming parade, the senior center's 19-year celebration, Leadership Stokes County

graduation, an opioid settlement meeting in Walnut Cove, and the North Carolina League of Municipalities summit in Winston-Salem.

The Mayor invited City Manager Scott Barrow to give an update. City Manager Scott Barrow reported several transportation items:

- The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has taken on the design of the intersection adjacent to City Hall and will hold a kickoff meeting.
- The Ingram Drive sidewalk will begin this month.
- Construction of the other nearby intersection is expected to begin.

He said it was a "pretty good month for transportation" and that the sidewalk and intersection changes should help with traffic problems.

In closing, the Mayor said that meeting people from other cities shows "if you're not growing, you're going backward," that growth brings growing pains, and that the City has "a great council and great employees" in every department.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: *Councilman Lane moved to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cole seconded. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

****** Clerk's Note: See Documents 1-3 for supporting documents. ******

Attest:

Approved by:

_____
Nicole Branshaw, City Clerk

_____
Richard E. McCraw, Mayor

DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL

Date: October 5, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

All persons who wish to speak MUST sign up for the Public Comment period unless you wish to speak during a public hearing, in which case you must sign up for the Public Hearing. ALL SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

	NAME	ORGANIZATION (If Any)	ADDRESS	PHONE	SUBJECT	City Resident?
1.	Shannon Allgood		540 Ingram Dr. Apt 6-E King, NC	743-207-3245	Sewage Base Rate	☑yes ☐no
2.	Rick Hall		269 Rickelane			☐yes ☑no
3.	MIKE McKINNICK		115 PARK PLACE	336-813-4142	ORDINANCE	☑yes ☐no
4.						☐yes ☐no
5.						☐yes ☐no
6.						☐yes ☐no
7.						☐yes ☐no
8.						☐yes ☐no
9.						☐yes ☐no
10.						☐yes ☐no
11.						☐yes ☐no
12.						☐yes ☐no
13.						☐yes ☐no

In many cases, the City Council will receive your comments but take no action at the meeting.

A staff member will contact you to follow up on your concerns.

BOARD: City Council
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BOARD: City Council
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CITY OF KING
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-28

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING CRITERIA FOR A SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS

WHEREAS, the City of King, North Carolina (the "City") is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-11, possesses corporate powers to be exercised by the City Council under N.C.G.S. § 160A-12; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 160A-162 authorizes the City to approve compensation and benefits for City employees; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 143-166.42 provides for local government provision of an annual special separation allowance for certain retiring law enforcement officers, but no statutory annual special separation allowance is provided for retiring firefighters; and

WHEREAS, by motion and vote during the September 8, 2026, meeting of the City Council, the City Council authorized the concept of providing a special separation allowance for certain firefighters retiring from the City of King and now desires to set forth the criteria and amount for payment for such special separation allowance; and

WHEREAS, the City's Director of Finance and Personnel, along with the Fire Chief and City Manager have analyzed existing sources of funds to pay such special separation allowance, including for such amounts that are projected to become payable under the criteria set forth below within the next 10 years, and find that such sources of funds are adequate for this purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of King, North Carolina, that the City Council approves a special separation allowance to be paid pursuant to the criteria and amount as follows:

City of King Special Separation Allowance for Firefighters

The firefighters' separation allowance is available to qualified retiring firefighters according to the following.

(a) As used in this section, the term "firefighter" means a person who is a full-time paid employee of the City of King assigned to the fire department and who is actively serving in a position with assigned primary duties and responsibilities of education, prevention, detection, training, and suppression of fire.

(b) Every firefighter who qualifies under this section shall receive an annual separation allowance beginning in the month in which the firefighter retires. To qualify for the allowance, the firefighter shall meet all of the following criteria:

1. The firefighter shall complete 30 or more years of creditable service and be eligible for full retirement benefits from the LGERS system;

2. The firefighter has served 20 years in the aggregate with the City of King Fire Department;

3. The firefighter is an employee of the City of King and is serving with the fire department at the time of retirement;

4. The firefighter has been employed as a firefighter by the City of King continuously for the 5 years immediately preceding retirement; and

5. The firefighter has not attained 62 years of age.

(c) As used in this section, "creditable service" means the service for which credit is allowed under the North Carolina retirement systems of which the firefighter is a member, that at least fifty percent (50%) of service is as a firefighter as defined in section (a).

(d) Calculation of Separation Allowance – The annual separation allowance for firefighters is equal to eighty-five hundredths percent (0.85%) of the annual equivalent of the base rate of compensation most recently applicable to the firefighter multiplied by 20.

(e) This will be paid on a biweekly basis with regular employee payroll, and the dollar amount will remain the same (i.e. not subject to COLA, pay study, or other increases or bonuses that employees may receive).

(f) This section does not affect other benefits to which an individual may be entitled from the State, local, federal, or private retirement systems.

(g) The Separation Allowance for a retired firefighter under the provisions of this section shall cease upon earliest of the following:

1. The death of the firefighter;

2. The last day of the month in which the firefighter attains 62 years of age;

3. The first day of reemployment by a local government employer in any capacity. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection, a local government employer may employ retired firefighters in public safety positions in a capacity not requiring participation in the Local Government Employees' Retirement System or an equivalent locally sponsored retirement plan, and doing so shall not cause payment to cease to those firefighters under the provisions of this section; or

4. In the event that the North Carolina General Assembly enacts a statute providing for a required special separation allowance for firefighters, the first day on which such statute becomes effective.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 5TH day of October 2026.

{seal}

CITY COUNCIL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CITY OF KING

Richard E. McCraw, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nicole Branshaw, City Clerk

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CITY OF KING

BUDGET AMENDMENT 2026-07.02

Be it hereby ordained by the City Council of the City of King that the following amendment be made to the Budget Ordinance adopted on the 4th day of May 2026, as follows:

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

General Fund Expenditures	Decrease	Increase	New Approp.
Police		11,247	3,689,472
Fire		94,335	4,462,651
Debt Service		133,632	753,081
Total	0	239,214	

This will result in an increase in the expenditures of the General Fund. The above changes in expenditures will require the following adjustment to revenues.

General Fund Revenues	Decrease	Increase	New Approp.
GF Revenues			12,609,484
GF Fund Balance Appropriated		239,214	319,766
Total	0	239,214	

Section 3. Copies of the budget amendment shall be furnished by the City Clerk to the City Council to the Mayor, Budget Officer and Finance Director for their directions.

Adopted this the 5th day of October, 2026.

Richard E. McCraw, Mayor

Attest: Nicole Branshaw
Nicole Branshaw, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CITY OF KING