



**WESTERN UNION MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY JANUARY 22, 2026 – 4:00 P.M.
WEDDINGTON TOWN HALL
MINUTES
PAGE 1 OF 3**

1. Open the Meeting and Determination of Quorum

Delegate Tom Smith called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m.

Quorum: Deb Bledsoe, Wesley Chapel
Angel Martin, Marvin
David Scholl, Stallings
Rick Becker, Mineral Springs
Richard Daunt, Waxhaw (arrived at 4:30)
Tom Smith, Weddington

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Delegate Tom Smith requested to add “Discussion of presentation from American Legion Youth Baseball” under New Business.

Delegate Deb Bledsoe made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Elect Chairman and Vice Chairman

Delegate Angel Martin nominated Richard Daunt for Chairman. The nomination was approved unanimously.

For Vice Chairman, after discussion noting that Amanda Fuller had served previously and declined to continue, Angel Martin nominated Tom Smith, who accepted the nomination. The nomination was approved unanimously.

4. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes

a. November 20, 2025

Delegate Rick Becker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.
The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Public Comments

Joel Down commented on the joint venture to fund a lobbyist for the WUMA members.

6. Delegate and Municipality Reports

Rick Becker (Mineral Springs) wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted that all municipalities have new boards sworn in. He mentioned that Mineral Springs is the smallest and least active of the municipalities represented, which is how they prefer to keep it.

Angel Martin (Marvin) reported that Marvin has four new council people and a new mayor who are getting acclimated. She expressed interest in the crime watch program and noted they've been fortunate not to experience much crime but are concerned as neighboring areas have been affected.

Richard Daunt (Waxhaw) reported that Waxhaw has three new commissioners who share the same mindset as returning members. He noted they've changed their meeting schedule to include a work session that is open to the public instead of private "two-by-two" meetings with staff. He mentioned an upcoming breakfast meeting with Dean and David Willis, and expressed interest in Weddington's tree ordinance as something Waxhaw might want to emulate.

Deb Bledsoe (Wesley Chapel) reported on her re-election and Mayor Amanda Fuller's re-election. She mentioned Wesley Chapel held their first formal Arbor Day celebration in October with a loblolly pine donated by Wake Forest. She reported that their dam is still causing problems, which has prevented holding events at the park, though the mini-golf course remains popular. She noted challenges finding volunteers for committees. Ms. Bledsoe also introduced a new councilman, Jonathan Aleaf

David Scholl (Stallings) reported that five council seats were up for election, with four being unopposed. He described Stallings as having good transportation access with Interstate 485 and the hospital being major assets. He mentioned the hospital will be expanding from 40 to 80 beds, with plans for further expansion to 200 beds in the future. He discussed a major Hendrick Automotive advanced manufacturing facility development project partly in Stallings that will include high-tech manufacturing.

Tom Smith (Weddington) reported on their re-elected mayor and two new council members. He mentioned they are looking at possibly installing a cell tower on Matthews-Weddington Road to address coverage issues, particularly around schools. He also discussed preliminary plans for a park on 3.5 acres behind the town hall that would include an amphitheater and playground to better accommodate town events. He highlighted their recently passed tree ordinance aimed at preserving large trees.

7. Old Business

a. Discussion of Priorities for 2026

The board discussed continuing priorities from the previous year, including:

1. Public safety cooperation between municipalities
2. Working with legislative delegates on municipal priorities
3. Considering the possibility of reducing the number of regular WUMA meetings while scheduling special meetings with county staff or state legislators

The board recognized the value of having periodic informational meetings with county staff such as County Manager Brian Matthews and noted these were often more productive than meetings with elected officials during election seasons.

b. Discussion of NCGA Legislation affecting municipal zoning

Discussion focused on SB382 and the prohibition on down-zoning passed at the end of 2024, which has significantly impacted municipal planning. Richard Daunt mentioned he would be asking state representatives

about bills to restore municipal zoning authority. The board agreed this was a critical issue where they could potentially stand together to support legislation that would return powers to local governments. Members expressed concern about the state's erosion of municipal authority and discussed how Union County and municipalities now face common challenges despite previously being at odds over development issues. The conversation also touched on concerns about package sewer plants and Class 5 systems that municipalities cannot regulate due to state laws.

8. New Business

Discussion items included:

1. **Security Review** - Members discussed coordination on public safety issues, including the possibility of expanding the Weddington Watch program to other municipalities and the potential use of license plate reader cameras. They agreed to place this on a future agenda, with Stallings' Police Chief possibly presenting on camera technology at the April meeting.
2. **American Legion Baseball** - The board discussed a request from the American Legion Youth Baseball team coach to make a presentation at a future meeting to see if municipalities would be interested in providing support. They agreed to allow the presentation at the next meeting with the understanding that it would be informational only.
3. **Public Banking Concept** - Richard Daunt introduced the concept of public banking as a potential way for municipalities to fund infrastructure projects with lower interest costs, noting the Bank of North Dakota as a successful model. He suggested inviting a representative from the Public Banking Institute to give a remote presentation at a future meeting.
4. **Future Presentations** - The board discussed other potential presentations, including from Union County officials and the county forester.

9. Delegate Comments

Delegates made no closing comments.

10. Adjournment

Delegate Tom Smith made a motion to adjourn the January 22, 2026 Regular WUMA meeting at 5:49 p.m. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.