



**Western Union Municipal Alliance
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Waxhaw Town Hall
Minutes**

1. Open the Meeting and Determination of Quorum

Chairman Richard Daunt called the meeting to order at 4pm. A quorum was present with Chairman Richard Daunt-Waxhaw, Delegates David Scholl-Stallings, Angel Martin-Marvin, Deb Bledsoe-Wesley Chapel, and Alternate Ellen McLaughlin-Weddington present. Delegate Rick Becker-Mineral Springs arrived at 4:25pm.

Visitors: Christine Winward, Sara Juhl

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Alternate McLaughlin made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.
Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes March 26, 2026

Motion: Alternate McLaughlin made a motion to approve the March 26, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

4. Public Comments

Sara Juhl from Weddington offered comments expressing frustration with state-level efforts to eliminate or cap property taxes and reduce municipal authority, inadequate teacher compensation, school funding disparities between public and private/charter institutions, and a general lack of civic engagement in Union County. Ms. Juhl urged member municipalities to more actively engage county and state officials on these issues.

Chairman Daunt responded, noting that the Town of Waxhaw had passed a resolution opposing the state's top-down property tax proposal and that local governance is best handled at the municipal level. Delegate Martin of Marvin added that the loss of downzoning authority was a significant concern that had been raised directly with Representative David Willis, who was reported to be working on the matter.

5. Delegate and Municipality Reports

CRTPO / I-77 Update: Chairman Daunt reported on the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) meeting held the previous evening. A motion to defer discussion on the I-77 managed lanes project was voted down, and a subsequent motion to cancel the project's public-private partnership (P3) funding model was passed. Chairman Daunt expressed concern that the vote was premature, noting that NCDOT had released revised design alternatives only two days prior and that fewer than half of the voting delegates had reviewed them. The delegate cautioned that the North Carolina General Assembly, under pressure from the business community, retains the authority to direct NCDOT to proceed with the project regardless of the CRTPO vote, potentially with fewer community-oriented design considerations. The consensus was that the outcome represented a loss of leverage for the City of Charlotte and affected municipalities.

Mineral Springs: Delegate Becker reported that a local developer, frustrated by prolonged permitting difficulties with Union County Public Works and NCDOT, has temporarily converted a planned commercial development site near Town Hall into outdoor storage for construction materials. The delegate expressed disappointment but noted the use is permitted under the current ordinance and that fencing along the roadway would receive opaque screening.

Stallings: Delegate Scholl reported attendance at the Centralina Council of Governments (COG) Day in Raleigh, where meetings were held with Representatives Todd Johnson, Dean Arp, and David Willis. Key legislative issues discussed included the proposed property tax cap constitutional amendment and the income tax cap. The delegate noted that the property tax amendment, if passed, would simply direct the legislature to develop a cap within one year and would likely be set well above current Union County rates. The income tax cap amendment passed and will appear on the November ballot. The delegate expressed concern about locking a hard number into the state constitution, though legislators indicated emergency provisions would be included. Delegate Scholl also raised the issue of wastewater treatment capacity, noting that the two primary facilities serving Union County, the 12 Mile Creek and Crooked Creek plants, are operating at approximately 88 percent of combined actual and permitted flow capacity. Under state regulations, construction of an expansion must begin before actual flow reaches 90 percent, and all new sewer-dependent construction is prohibited at 95 percent. The planned 1.5 MGD expansion at 12 Mile Creek was acknowledged but projected to be consumed within three to five years of coming online. A chart illustrating the near-total allocation of remaining 12 Mile Creek capacity to already-approved Waxhaw developments was shared with delegates. The group agreed that this issue warrants broader awareness and ongoing monitoring. Delegate Scholl also noted that the town's attorney is reviewing regulations around golf carts and e-bikes, particularly regarding underage and unlicensed operation in golf course communities. He noted a need for a part-time or intern-level communications resource to manage factual social media content on behalf of the town. Delegates from other municipalities shared their approaches, including the use of a dedicated communications staff member in Waxhaw and the elevation of clerk-level staff in Mineral Springs. The idea of hiring a college intern was discussed favorably.

Weddington: Alternate McLaughlin reported that the town did not adopt the proposed fluoride resolution following an overwhelming volume of resident feedback in favor of retaining fluoride in the water supply. The town also established a new Parks and Events Advisory Board with its first meeting scheduled for June 1. Additionally, the town is managing staff transitions, including the resignations of a council member and the town planner. An interim planner is being sought, and no new

development projects will be advanced until that position is filled. The Centralina COG was noted as a resource for interim planning support.

Marvin: Delegate Martin reported that the village is developing a comprehensive road funding plan with assistance from volunteer finance professionals recruited from within the community. The town manager is departing, and the village is actively interviewing both interim and permanent candidates. Recommendations were welcomed.

Waxhaw: Chairman Daunt reported that the town passed a resolution in opposition to the proposed state property tax cap. The town also directed staff to pursue a street-related federal grant. Chairman daunt raised the concept of public banking — citing the Bank of North Dakota as a model — as a long-term structural solution to reduce municipal borrowing costs for infrastructure projects. The town is also proceeding cautiously with its unified development ordinance update due to the current prohibition on downzoning. Separately, the town is exploring removing package sewage treatment plants as a permitted use from its development code.

6. Old Business

a. Discussion of Meeting with State Officials

An attempt was made to schedule state legislative officials to attend the current meeting but was not organized in time. Relevant state representatives will be contacted to identify which upcoming WUMA meeting date would be most convenient, with the intent of scheduling a joint session accordingly.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Delegate Comments

There were no additional delegate comments.

Christine Winward, a Waxhaw resident and candidate for NC Senate District 35, briefly introduced herself to the group. She described her background as a U.S. Army veteran, former S-1 at Al Assad Air Base in Iraq, and current project manager, and stated her interest in public service focused on relationship management and fiscal responsibility.

9. Adjournment

Motion: Delegate Becker made a motion to adjourn the May 21, 2026, Regular WUMA meeting at 5:20pm.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote.