



**WESTERN UNION MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
WESLEY CHAPEL VILLAGE HALL
6490 WEDDINGTON ROAD, WESLEY CHAPEL, NC 28104
MINUTES**

1. Open the Meeting and Determination of Quorum

Vice Chair Fuller called the meeting to order at 4:06pm

A quorum was established as the following members were present:

Vice-Chair Amanda Fuller, Mayor (Wesley Chapel); Rick Becker, Mayor (Mineral Springs); Joe Pollino, Mayor (Marvin); Susanna Wedra, Commissioner (Waxhaw); Amy Mumpower, Deputy Clerk (Wesley Chapel)

Absent: Chair Jeff Perryman, Council Member (Weddington); Steven Ayers, Council Member (Stallings)

Visitors Present: Council Member Andy Wortman (Marvin); Joel Down

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Move #7a "Presentation from Mary Carmel's Light Organization" to #4a.

Motion was made and seconded by Delegates Becker and Wedra to adopt the agenda as amended.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote (4:0).

3. Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

a. January 23, 2025

Motion was made and seconded by Delegates Wedra and Becker to approve the January 23, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote (4:0).

4. Public Comments

Mr. Joel Down of Wesley Chapel spoke and provided an update to his public comments made at the last meeting regarding Union County's Meals on Wheels program. County Commissioner Gary Sides made a request for additional funding for the program at the last Commissioner's meeting because there are 572 county residents on the waiting list, but it was not approved. The Commissioners have since put out a call for assistance to all municipalities. Mr. Down reported that Wesley Chapel's Council approved an interlocal agreement to contribute \$10,000 to help their residents. There were originally eight residents receiving meals and seven on the waiting list. The donation will allow all their residents to be served. Mr. Down reported that he recently learned that five people on the waiting list have passed away. He told the Delegates that the County Commissioners and Meals on Wheels are very appreciative of the contribution and are carefully considering how best to use the remaining funds. Delegate Pollino expressed his appreciation to Mr. Down for bringing this to his attention and stated how important it is for elected officials to be good stewards of tax dollars and serving their citizens, therefore, the Village of Marvin had created a policy regarding charitable use of tax dollars. It was noted that there are 25 Waxhaw residents, three Mineral Springs residents, and two Marvin residents on the waiting list for services. The cost of services per person is about \$2,000-\$3,000 per year depending on the type of services received.

Mr. Down requested that WUMA's March 27th meeting with Union County Manager Brian Matthews be streamed as he and others really want to attend but have conflicts. Delegate Pollino replied he thought their meetings usually were streamed but will double-check.

a. Presentation from Mary Carmel's Light Organization

Eva and Kevin Potts, founders of Mary Carmel's Light, gave a presentation about their organization, a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in North Carolina dedicated to supporting individuals with low vision or onset blindness affected by Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS). Ms. Carmel was their mother and was affected by this disease. The organization was created to spread awareness as it is rare and difficult to diagnose. Little is known about it, and their mission is to educate the public.

5. Delegate and Municipality Reports

Commissioner Susanna Wedra, Waxhaw:

Delegate Wedra shared the following:

- Development has started with Prescott Village, a retail development on Providence Road. Confirmed retail stores include Lowes Foods, Chase Bank, Wayback Burgers, Chipotle and a dentist office.
- Parks and Recreation will be hosting a movie night at the downtown park. They will be showing "Wicked."
- Parks and Recreation has completed their move into the new Town Hall building, and their facilities are very nice.

Mayor Rick Becker, Mineral Springs:

Delegate Becker stated that it has been very quiet in Mineral Springs and running smoothly.

Vice Chair Amanda Fuller, Wesley Chapel:

Vice Chair Fuller reported on the following:

- Village Commons is finally progressing. Aston Properties have just broken ground on a medical office building. A grocery store will be coming in, and supposedly a home-repair store.
- Council approved a \$10,000 donation to Meals on Wheels.
- They are waiting to hear from FEMA regarding their grant application for repair of the dam at Dogwood Park. There are concerns whether they will receive funding due to the possible freezing of funds.
- They are holding a Spring Fling and movie event on Saturday, May 3rd at Village Hall.
- Development is starting on two new conservation neighborhoods, McCoy Farms and Aura at Price Mill.
- Hopefully, construction will begin this summer on a roundabout at Potter/Potter Roads.

Mayor Joe Pollino, Marvin:

Delegate Pollino informed the other delegates he just learned that the North Carolina League of Municipalities will no longer provide insurance effective July 1, 2025. This will have a huge impact on many Carolina towns as they will have to find new insurance for their employees. His other updates include:

- They held their annual retreat for Council members and staff in January. They stayed in the New London area, and they toured the government offices in Locust, NC to learn more about their operations. Delegate Pollino said it was a great experience, and they were able to work hard and well together to achieve the retreat's objectives. He encouraged all delegates to take their cohorts and staff on a retreat as it is a great environment to recharge and facilitate long-term planning.
- A Finance subcommittee has been created under the Finance Director with neighboring towns that meets every other month to talk about issues that affect finance.
- Coffee with Council meets two times a month. Attendance has been good. Delegate Pollino said that some people raised a lot of concerns with him, but he was able to talk to them about the importance of residents doing their due diligence by paying attention and being aware of what is going on in their community instead of waiting until after the fact, especially in regard to development.
- They have been working on installing and connecting the greenway trails. They are in a lawsuit with some residents regarding property easements.
- Working with Waxhaw regarding the possibility of installing a roundabout at Bonds Grove Road.
- He met with a developer earlier in the day and was told the NC Department of Environmental Quality is making them redo things after the fact, even when they have met the original DEQ requests.

- Council member Wortman and he are making plans to install a Veteran monument in the Village and have been trying to contact Independence Fund organization but have been able to. They have had to ask State Representative David Willis for assistance in making contact.
- Upcoming events include an Easter Egg Hunt and Marvin Day.
- Delegate Pollino reiterated his thoughts on the necessity for residents to be more involved and learn more about government and its processes. There is plenty of information available for residents to stay informed.

6. Old Business

a. Discussion of items for County Manager to address at March meeting

Vice Chair Fuller was informed by Chair Perryman that elected officials were unable to attend their March 27th meeting but can possibly do so in May. Brian Matthews, Union County Manager, will be attending in March. Chair Perryman requested the delegates decide what topics they would like for Mr. Matthews to discuss. The committee agreed on water and sewer capacity, capital needs, and upcoming county revaluations. Delegates discussed concerns with the expenses of running a town, cost of living, and paying staff a competitive wage.

Delegate Pollino shared that they have been hiring off-duty police officers to focus on speed limit enforcement. It was done on a trial basis and was successful. 64 routine traffic stops were made, and there was one 1 DUI arrest, and 1 SWAT incident.

7. New Business

a. ~~Presentation from Mary Carmel's Light Organization~~ (removed)

8. Delegate Comments

The delegates discussed the upcoming meeting dates as follows:

March 27th at Marvin (7pm) – meeting with Union County Manager Brian Matthews

- April 24th at Mineral Springs (4pm)
- May 22nd at Waxhaw (Time TBD) – meeting with State representatives
- June 26th at Weddington (4pm)

Delegate Pollino thanked the presenters for attending. Vice Chair Fuller thanked Mr. Down for his attendance.

9. Adjournment

Motion was made by Delegate Wedra to adjourn the February 27, 2025 Western Union Municipal Alliance Meeting at 5:29 pm.

Vote: The motion passed with a unanimous vote (4:0).