



**WESTERN UNION MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2026, AT 4:00 P.M.
MINERAL SPRINGS TOWN HALL
3506 POTTERS ROAD SOUTH, MONROE, NC 28112
MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Richard Daunt (Waxhaw), Joe Barbara (Marvin), Stephen Ayres (Stallings), Rick Becker (Mineral Springs), Tom Smith (Weddington), Deb Bledsoe (Wesley Chapel)

Absent: None

Mineral Springs Staff: Sharelle Quick

1. Open the Meeting and Determination of Quorum

Chairman Richard Daunt called the meeting to order at 4:13pm and determined a quorum was present.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Richard Daunt requests to add a discussion on the Catawba water supply to the agenda as Item 7b. under New Business.

Delegate Tom Smith requests to add a presentation by Ellen McLaughlin about Weddington Watch under Old business topic of Public Safety.

Motion: Delegate Joe Barbara motioned to adopt the agenda as amended.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Delegate Deb Bledsoe noted a correction to the January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes: Item 6. Delegate and Municipality Reports, 2nd paragraph "Angel Martin," last sentence: Ms. Deb Bledsoe stated that she was the one that introduced new Welsey Chapel councilman, Jeff Aleaf.

Motion: Delegate Bledsoe motioned to approve the January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes with corrections.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Delegate and Municipality Reports

Wesley Chapel (Deb Bledsoe):

- Union County Sheriff's Office presented at February council meeting.
- Noted limited deputy coverage (one deputy currently assigned).
- Commercial development underway (Publix, Ace Hardware, Mattress Firm, dental office, restaurants).
- Dogwood Park dam sediment project delayed; park partially closed.

- Requested ideas for 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence celebrations.

Mineral Springs (Mayor Becker):

- Ongoing traffic congestion at key intersection due to school traffic.
- Intersection improvement project tied to Union County Critical Intersections Program.
- Secured CRTPO discretionary grant (~\$1.2M project).
- Submitted federal BUILD grant application (~\$13M regional project with Monroe and Union County).
- Project would address major corridor bottlenecks between Monroe and Waxhaw

Marvin (Mayor Joe Barbara):

- First WUMA meeting as Mayor.
- Supports Weddington Watch initiative.
- Two new planning board members to be sworn in.
- Hosted recognition event for 100-year-old WWII veteran.
- Major focus: long-term road maintenance strategy (33 miles total; 23 under local jurisdiction).
- Forming Financial Task Force to plan sustainable funding without tax increases. .

Waxhaw (Richard Daunt):

- Recent board work session addressed:
 - Safe Streets prioritization
 - Downtown skate park repairs
- Recognition event held for WWII veteran Charlie Rose.
- Monitoring public safety concerns, including recent scam incident at local grocery store.

Weddington (Tom Smith):

- Continued concerns with traffic and road maintenance (168 miles of roads, state-maintained).
- Awaiting progress on key road projects.
- Two new planning board members are to be appointed.
- Ongoing updates to UDO and ordinances (tree ordinance, development standards).
- Monitoring potential state legislative impacts on local development authority.

Stallings (Stephen Ayers):

- Completed Potter Road / Pleasant Plains intersection project (~\$7M).
- Conducted annual retreat; added two new council members.
- Addressing planning board quorum issues (now resolved).
- Road maintenance program improved from 105-year to 60-year cycle (requires ~\$1.2M annually).

6. Old Business

a. Public Safety Discussion / Weddington Watch

- Discussion included rising costs for sheriff deputy contracts.
- Overview of crime trends and regional concerns (notably activity along I-485 corridor).
- Discussion of camera systems (Flock and similar technologies) for crime prevention and tracking.

b. Weddington Watch Presentation (Ellen McLaughlin):

- Community-based crime awareness and communication initiative.
- Includes ~40 HOA participants.
- Quarterly meetings with Union County Sheriff's Office involvement.
- Focus on information sharing, crime prevention, and reducing misinformation.
- Highlighted regional organized theft activity and prevention strategies.

- Encouraged regional collaboration and participation.

7. New Business

a. American Legion Baseball Presentation (Brad Elwood)

- Overview of Union County American Legion Baseball program.
- Focus on youth development and college recruitment pathways.
- Proposal to launch junior team (ages 13–17).
- Requested \$2,000 contribution from each municipality.
- Emphasized affordability compared to travel baseball programs.

b. Discussion: Catawba Water Supply / Fluoridation

- Discussion regarding continued fluoridation of water supplied by Lancaster County system.
- Noted difference between Union County (Yadkin system – fluoridation stopped) and Catawba system (still fluoridated).
- Concerns raised regarding health impacts and treatment methods.
- Discussion of potential actions:
 - Drafting resolutions for individual municipal boards
 - Coordinating with Union County Commissioners
 - Supporting pending state legislation

Consensus: Further review and potential resolutions to be considered at the municipal level.

8. Delegate Comments

General discussion regarding:

- Public safety coordination
- Infrastructure challenges
- Regional collaboration opportunities

9. Adjournment

Motion: Delegate Tom Smith motioned to adjourn at 5:25pm.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes provided courtesy of the Town of Mineral Springs