MAYOR
Jessie Bellflowers

MAYOR PRO TEM
Dr. Kenjuana McCray

TOWN MANAGER
Chancer McLaughlin

TOWN BOARD
Elyse Craver
Jerry Legge
Bryan Marley
Joanne Scarola

TOWN CLERK
Ashley Wyatt

TOWN OF HOPE MILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Agenda – June 16, 2025
6:00 p.m. Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jessie Bellflowers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Jessie Bellflowers

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.**

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

   a. Consideration of amending the Town of Hope Mills Charter to establish four-year staggered terms for the Board of Commissioners and adopting a corresponding Resolution of Intent **(TAB 1)**

   b. Resolution **R2025-015** rescinding Resolution **R2024-018;** Establishing the Town of Hope Mills Board of Commissioners 2025 Meeting Schedule **(TAB 2)**

   c. Resolution **R2025-016;** Establishing the Town of Hope Mills Board of Commissioners 2025 Meeting Schedule **(TAB 3)**

3. **ADJOURNMENT.**

TAB 1

Meeting Date: June 16, 2025

AGENDA FORM

TO: **Hope Mills Mayor and Board of Commissioners**

FROM: **Chancer F. McLaughlin, Town Manager**

SUBJECT: **Consideration to transition to four- year staggered terms for the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Town of Hope Mills has considered the concept of four- year staggered terms in previous years. In order to switch to four-year staggered terms, the board would need to modify the charter. This action could be achieved by adopting an ordinance indicating the desire to do so. This procedure is set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. 160A-102.

A Resolution of intent should be adopted first to detail the proposed action. Once a Resolution of intent is adopted, a public hearing should be set. The hearing must be scheduled within 45 days of the resolution being adopted. Following the public hearing, the board would need to adopt the ordinance amending the charter at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

There is an option of having the ordinance contingent on a vote by the registered voters of Hope Mills, however that is not a legal requirement. If the board chose not to submit the ordinance to a vote, a referendum petition signed by at least 10 percent of registered voters of Hope Mills could be submitted to the Cumberland County Board of Elections within 30 days of the ordinance being adopted. Should that occur, the ordinance would be placed on the ballot in November pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 163-287.

Should there be no petition, the four-year staggered terms could be effective on the November 2025 ballot. N.C. Gen. Stat. 160A-109 requires the board to have the ordinance adopted at least 90 days before the election in which the ordinance will take effect.

The Town Clerk would then file a certified copy of the amended charter with the Secretary of State and Legislative Library pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 160A-111 and then coordinate with the Board of Elections in order to have time to have the ballots printed to reflect the change.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION, IF APPLICABLE: **N/A**
FISCAL IMPACT: NA

RESOLUTION OF INTENT
R2025-014

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hope Mills hereby resolves to consider amending the Town of Hope Mills Town Charter to alter the terms served by Board members to four-year staggered terms, as permitted by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-101(4). The Board will consider an ordinance to amend the Article III of the Town's Charter, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-102, to read as follows:

Article III - Elections

Sec. 3.1 – Regular Municipal Elections

Regular municipal elections shall be held in each odd numbered year and shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina.

Sec. 3.2 – Conduct and Method of Elections

The Mayor and members of the Town Board shall be elected according to the nonpartisan plurality method of elections.

Sec. 3.2 – Election of the Mayor

A Mayor shall be elected every four years.

Sec. 3.3 – Election of the Town Board

At the regular municipal election in 2025, there shall be elected five members of the Town Board to fill the seats of those officers whose terms are then expiring. The three members who receive the highest number of votes shall serve a four-year term, while the remaining two members elected shall serve a two-year term. Thereafter, in the 2027 election, there shall be elected two members of the Town Board to fill the seats of those officers whose terms are then expiring. The two commissioners elected in the 2027 election shall serve four-year terms. In each election after 2027, Board members shall be elected to fill the seats of those officers whose terms are then expiring and shall serve four year terms in staggered biennial elections.

ADOPTED this 16th day of June, 2025

_____
JESSIE BELLFLOWERS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
Ashley Wyatt, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION OF INTENT
R2025-014(A)

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hope Mills hereby resolves to consider amending the Town of Hope Mills Town Charter to alter the terms served by Board members to four-year staggered terms, as permitted by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-101(4). The Board will consider an ordinance to amend the Article III of the Town's Charter, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-102, to read as follows:

Article III - Elections

Sec. 3.1 – Regular Municipal Elections

Regular municipal elections shall be held in each odd numbered year and shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina.

Sec. 3.2 – Conduct and Method of Elections

The Mayor and members of the Town Board shall be elected according to the nonpartisan plurality method of elections.

Sec. 3.2 – Election of the Mayor

A Mayor shall be elected every two years.

Sec. 3.3 – Election of the Town Board

At the regular municipal election in 2025, there shall be elected five members of the Town Board to fill the seats of those officers whose terms are then expiring. The three members who receive the highest number of votes shall serve a four-year term, while the remaining two members elected shall serve a two-year term. Thereafter, in the 2027 election, there shall be elected two members of the Town Board to fill the seats of those officers whose terms are then expiring. The two commissioners elected in the 2027 election shall serve four-year terms. In each election after 2027, Board members shall be elected to fill the seats of those officers whose terms are then expiring and shall serve four year terms in staggered biennial elections.

ADOPTED this 16th day of June, 2025

_____
JESSIE BELLFLOWERS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
Ashley Wyatt, Town Clerk

TAB 2

RESOLUTION R2025-015 RESCINDING RESOLUTION R2024-018

WHEREAS, by Resolution R2024-018 adopted on October 21, 2024, the Board of Commissioners established a 2025 Regular Meeting Schedule; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners now desires to rescind Resolution R2024-018 and the schedule provided therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hope Mills, North Carolina:

1. That Resolution R2024-018 adopted on October 21, 2024, is hereby rescinded and shall be of no further force or effect.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hope Mills, North Carolina at a meeting held on the 16th of June, 2025 .

_____
JESSIE BELLFLOWERS MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
Ashley Wyatt, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TOWN OF HOPE MILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION NO. R2024-018

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-318.12, G.S. 160A-71, and the Code of Ordinance Chapter 2, Section 2-66, Regular Meetings, empower the Board of Commissioners to establish a schedule of regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, there will be no Board of Commissioner meetings in July to allow for residents and elected officials the opportunity to attend other community activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hope Mills that the following schedule of regular meetings is hereby adopted for 2025, all meetings to be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Bill Luther Meeting Room, 5770 Rockfish Road.

Monday, Jan. 6, 2025 (moved due to New Years Day holiday)
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025 (moved due to MLK Jr. holiday)

Monday, Feb. 3, 2025
Monday, Feb. 17, 2025
Monday, March 3, 2025
Monday, March 17, 2025
Monday, April 7, 2025
Monday, April 21, 2025
Monday, May 5, 2025
Monday, May 19, 2025
Monday, June 2, 2025
Monday, June 16, 2025
Monday, Aug. 4, 2025
Monday, Aug. 18, 2025
~~Monday, Sept. 1, 2025 no meeting due to holiday~~
Monday, Sept. 15, 2025
Monday, Oct. 6, 2025
Monday, Oct. 20, 2025
Monday, Nov. 3, 2025
Monday, Nov. 17, 2025
Monday, Dec. 1, 2025
Monday, Dec. 15, 2025

ADOPTED this 21st Day of October, 2024

TOWN OF HOPE MILLS SEAL NC

JESSIE BELLFLOWERS MAYOR

ATTEST:

Ashley Wyatt, Town Clerk

TAB 3

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TOWN OF HOPE MILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION NO. R2025-016

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-318.12, G.S. 160A-71, and the Code of Ordinance Chapter 2, Section 2-66, Regular Meetings, empower the Board of Commissioners to establish a schedule of regular meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hope Mills that the following schedule of regular meetings is hereby adopted for 2025, all meetings to be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Bill Luther Meeting Room, 5770 Rockfish Road.

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Monday, June 2, 2025
Monday, June 16, 2025
Monday, July 7, 2025
Monday, Aug 4, 2025
Monday, Aug. 18, 2025
Monday, Sept. 15, 2025
Monday, Oct. 6, 2025
Monday, Oct. 20, 2025
Monday, Nov. 3, 2025
Monday, Nov. 17, 2025
Monday, Dec. 1, 2025
Monday, Dec. 15, 2025

ADOPTED this 16th Day of June, 2025

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JESSIE BELLFLOWERS MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Ashley Wyatt, Town Clerk