

MINUTES
Town Council Meeting
February 23, 2026

Councilmember Bob Wotring opened with the pledge of allegiance with Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour opening in prayer. The Town of White Hall Council meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Town of White Public Safety Building and called to order by Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour at 6:02 p.m.

Officers Roll Call:

<i>Mayor Jason DeFrance</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Councilmember Bob Wotring</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Councilmember Kristine Mason</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Treasurer John Jacobs</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Councilmember Mandy Espanol</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Recorder Charles Mason</i>	<i>Present</i>

Also present:

Chief of Police Geno Guerrieri

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the 2.9.26 Town Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Citizens' Concerns:

None.

Treasurer & Financial Reports:

Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour made a motion to approve January 2026 Treasurer and Financial Report

Motion passed.

Communications & Announcements:

- a. March 9, 2026 – Active Shooter Training for Council (during meeting at 6 pm)
- b. April 29, 2026 through May 9, 2026 – Early voting 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Weekdays. 9

- am – 5 pm Saturday.
- c. May 1, 2026 – Sounds of Summer
 - d. May 12, 2026 – Primary Election. 5:30 am Poll workers report. Opens at 6:30 am, closes at 7:30 pm.
 - e. May 23, 2026 – Farmers Market Opening Day 9 am – noon
 - f. May 16, 2026 – Spring Clean Up Day 7 am – 11 am
 - g. July 11, 2026 – Appalachian Music Festival 4 – 10 pm

Public Hearing

None.

Marion County EMS Report:

A member of the Marion County EMS stated that from January 2025 – 2026, they were up 9 calls. Marion County EMS also stated they are now fully staffed, and White Hall substation is staffed Monday-Friday from 7 am – 11 pm.

Park Committee:

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that Town Attorney Trey Simmerman is working on gathering information, so the Executive Session to talk about community development will be tabled at this meeting.

Audit Committee:

The audit committee will meet on May 9th at 5:45 pm.

Wage Review Committee:

The wage review committee will be scheduled at a later date.

Police Department Report:

Chief of Police Geno Guerrieri stated that the police department has had a very busy month, the new cameras have been ordered, and recent felony arrests were mentioned.

Legal Department Report:

An invoice from Simmerman Law Office was reviewed for work done from November 3, 2025 – January 31, 2026.

Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour made a motion to approve the invoice from Simmerman Law Office in the amount \$7,555.25.

Motion passed.

Town Administrator Report:

Town Administrator Cindy Stover was absent due to illness.

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that Town Administrator Cindy Stover had told him Public Works will begin painting inside.

Councilmember Mandy Espanol asked when the banners will come down, explaining that she understands Public Works have been short staffed and the weather.

Engineer Report:

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that we are waiting to hear from the state on Ruby Drive. Mayor Jason DeFrance then stated that paving will be done on Moran Circle.

A discussion was held on removing the fencing below Red Roof Inn and the process of the state's paving schedule.

Unfinished Business :

Executive Session: Community Updates:

This discussion was been tabled until more information is obtained by Town Attorney Trey Simmerman.

Consider Community Updates:

New Business to Consider:

Consider New Cemetery Sign Quote:

Quotes and an example picture for a New Cemetery sign were viewed and discussed for the Little & Pearce Cemetery.

Councilmember Mandy Espanol made a motion to approve the new cemetery sign with the gold lettering in the amount of \$1,760.82 with City Neon.

Motion passed.

Consider Town Administrator Ordinance Update:

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that this will be pushed to the next meeting.

Consider Budget Revision:

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that this will be pushed to the next meeting.

Consider TextMyGov Quote:

Mayor Jason DeFrance stated that the Town has been looking for ways to notify the public about happenings in White Hall.

Mayor Jason DeFrance explained TextMyGov and how it can be used for information and also be used for two-way communication.

Council viewed the quote from TextMyGov and a discussion was held.

Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour made a motion to approve the TextMyGov app in the amount of \$4,600 for the first year.

Motion passed.

Final Remarks:

Councilmember Bob Wotring stated that he met with Public Works on February 17th for a Safety Meeting. Bob Wotring stated that Colin Masters conducted the meeting and they are trying to develop safe-work procedures and put them in a booklet.

Councilmember Mandy Espanol brought to the attention of Chief of Police Geno Guerrieri that the traffic at Ultimate Shine Car Wash, when the weather is nice, has things backed up and no one can get through the intersection. A discussion was held stating that that is on private property.

Deputy Mayor Tim Ridenour stated that he noticed yesterday driving that there is smoke behind Winston Wheels and Tires again. A discussion was also held on a grey Toyota that has been parked for months in front of Fabric and Foam.

Councilmember Kristine Mason stated that there is a large spot that freezes on Garnet and never fully gets dry. A discussion was held on figuring out what is causing it.

Recorder Charles Mason stated that Marcella Yaremchuk reached out to him about missing the funding request and would like to be put on the agenda. Recorder Charles Mason asked Council if this could be put on the agenda to discuss donating to Maple Grove Cemetery. A discussion was held.

Adjournment:

Recorder Charles Mason made the motion to adjourn.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Jason DeFrance
(Or Acting Mayor)

Recorder Charles Mason
(Or Acting Recorder)

Minutes prepared by Kristin Kirk