

**MINUTES OF THE
JANUARY 12, 2026
MEETING OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY
FIRE COMMISSION**

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The Fire Commission met in regular session at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026, in the meeting room on the fourth floor of the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

PRESENT:

Walt Beroth, Member
Eddie Bottoms, Member
Fred Franklin, Member
Andrew Gray, Member
Richard Linville, Member
Don Martin, Member
Shane Moore, Member
Steven Roberson, Member
Gary Styers, Member
Brian Tuttle, Member
David Williamson, Member
Carl Walker, Member

ABSENT:

NONE

The Deputy County Manager, Fire Services Director, and Assistant Fire Chief of Operations were also present.

Chief Brock Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

1. BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Deputy Manger Haney began a brief discussion and informational session regarding the reason for the creation of the Blue-Ribbon Committee and its successor, The Forsyth County Fire Commission.

The current scope of the current capital improvement study of the Forsyth County fire service was presented to the commission and that this study would be presented to the Commission at a later date by North Carolina Fire Chief Consulting.

The current contract for service was presented to the Commission with direction to prepare to update the agreement to better reflect the state of the County's fire services and the Commission's recommended direction for the County's fire services going forward.

Timelines were presented for fire department budget requests which are due January 30, 2026, and having a contract for service ready for fire departments to review by March/April 2026.

2. BUSINESS ITEMS

By-laws for the Commission were passed out to all members for review. Commissioner Gray requested that the Commission's scope to review the level of service provided by departments be reviewed to keep the Commission out of the day-to-day operational business of the fire departments.

Chief Brock Smith then presided over the election of officers for the ensuing year. Nominations were received for the position of Chair of the Fire Commission. Commissioner Beroth moved that Don Martin be nominated for Chair. Commissioner Martin respectfully declined the nomination. Commissioner Walker then moved that Walt Beroth be nominated for the position of Chair, and the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Franklin. A vote was taken which was unanimous resulting in the election of Walt Beroth for Chair of the Fire Commission.

Nominations were then received for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Bottoms moved that Andrew Gray be nominated for Vice Chair, and the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Martin. A vote was taken which was unanimous resulting in the election of Andrew Gray for Vice Chair of the Fire Commission.

A discussion regarding the meeting schedule was initiated. Board members expressed a desire to schedule meetings for 11:00 a.m. with the potential for some evening meetings in the future to encourage accessibility to the Fire Commission by the volunteer fire service in Forsyth County. The overall consensus of the Commission was to also have all meetings at Station 9 (3000 Aviation Dr. Winston-Salem, NC 27105). Due to the amount of business needing to be addressed by the Commission, there was no set schedule of dates suggested. This would be addressed in the future once the Commission was more established. A motion was made to adopt this meeting schedule by Vice Chair Gray and was seconded by Commissioner Moore. A vote was taken which was unanimous resulting in the meeting schedule going forward would be 11:00 a.m. at Station 9.

A request was made that a hard copy of information regarding the county fire departments be provided to the citizen members of the Commission. This will be completed by county fire staff.


The next scheduled meeting of the Forsyth County Fire Commission will be February 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the meeting room on the fifth floor of the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Williamson moved for adjournment. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Signed by:


F. Walter Beroth, Chair
Forsyth County Fire Commission

Signed by:


Philip C. Vogler, Assistant Fire Chief
Interim Secretary to the Forsyth County Fire Commission