



FORSYTH COUNTY  
FIRE COMMISSION

Walt Beroth - Chairman

Forsyth County Fire Commission Meeting Minutes  
August 10, 2026

The Fire Commission met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10, 2026, in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Attendance

| Present                                                                                                                                  | Absent                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Walt Beroth, Chair                                                                                                                       | Richard Linville, Member |
| Eddie Bottoms, Member                                                                                                                    | Steven Roberson, Member  |
| Fred Franklin, Member                                                                                                                    |                          |
| Andrew Gray, Vice Chair                                                                                                                  |                          |
| Shane Moore, Member                                                                                                                      |                          |
| Don Martin, Member                                                                                                                       |                          |
| Gary Styers, Member                                                                                                                      |                          |
| Brian Tuttle, Member                                                                                                                     |                          |
| Carl Walker, Member                                                                                                                      |                          |
| David Williamson, Member                                                                                                                 |                          |
| The Deputy County Manager, Fire Services Director, Assistant Fire Chief of Operations, and Fire Systems Administrator were also present. |                          |

Chair Beroth called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.  
Commissioner Moore led the invocation and Chair Beroth led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the July 21, 2026 meeting of the Fire Commission were presented. There were no corrections or additions. Commissioner Franklin moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Commissioner Williamson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

The public is invited to make comments regarding the business of the Fire Commission. Speakers are given three minutes to make their comments, and the public comment portion of the meeting is to last no longer than 30 minutes.  
There was one speaker signed up to make public comments to the Fire Commission (see attached).

## **Zach Smith, Fire Chief, Rural Hall Fire Department**

Chief Smith encouraged the Commission to consider comfortable daily operational staffing levels rather than focusing solely on a minimum level of service.

He discussed recruitment efforts, noting that seven individuals are interested in becoming members. Three are already in the Forsyth County system. Three others were presented with options to join a local department, enroll through the community college, or pursue a municipality with an in-house recruitment program.

## **New Clemmons Stations**

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### **Gary Styers, Clemmons Fire Chief**

Chief Gary Styers presented a land request to be presented to the County Commissioners on August 10, 2026, at 2 p.m. and discussed current and future station needs for the Clemmons Fire Department (see attached).

- The department currently operates at 5931 James Street. This station was built in 1982 and is approximately 2,600 sq. ft. and at 1030 S. Peace Haven Road, built in 1990 and approximately 3,000 sq. ft. The 4840 Hampton Road property does not currently have a station.
- The department was identified as an NFPA 1710 department in the study.
- The 5:20 benchmark is not met 46% of the time.
- A call-volume map was presented showing higher-population areas.
- The James Street station needs a complete remodel and additional space, is landlocked, and the estimated cost exceeds \$1.5 million.
- The Peace Haven Road station will need remodeling within five years, is landlocked, and has limited apparatus access.
- Remodeling both stations is estimated at \$3–4 million and would not provide a long-term solution; the study also found the stations are too close together.
- A third station is estimated at \$6 million for construction, with approximately \$1.5 million annually for staffing and operations.
- James Street and Peace Haven Road currently cover 81.1% of address points.
- Using the Hampton Road location would increase coverage to 93.6%; relocating the two current stations to two new locations would increase coverage to 94.1%.
- Short-term plan: acquire land for two locations, construct a new station, and sell the James Street property.
- Additional property considerations include conveying property back to the original owner and purchasing property at Hampton and Idols Road.
- No additional funds are available for either land obligation.

Commissioner Franklin asked about the proposed location and noted the impact of the James Street location on response times. Chair Beroth asked about funding; Chief Styers indicated that reserves and proceeds associated with the 4840 Hampton Road property would be considered. The Commission appreciated the courtesy of the presentation and looked forward to the request to go to the Board of County Commissioners.

## **FY27 Fire Commission Priorities Discussion**

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Chief Vogler presented information regarding NFPA 1710 and NFPA 1720 to assist the Commission in determining a minimum level of service. He noted that establishing a level of service requires consideration of funding, apparatus, and personnel (see attached).

- The presentation reviewed NFPA 1710 and NFPA 1720 and compared Forsyth County fire service funding and levels of service with other jurisdictions.
- The Commission discussed budgets within Forsyth County and North Carolina jurisdictions with populations over 200,000, excluding Wake and Mecklenburg Counties.
- Jurisdictions referenced included Union, Buncombe, Gaston, Guilford, and New Hanover Counties, as well as Winston-Salem and Kernersville.

- Commissioner Martin recommended using only property tax and sales tax totals in the comparative analysis, noting that other taxes can inflate the overall total.
- The Commission discussed differences in staffing by district and how consolidation can affect population and coverage areas.

Chair Beroth asked whether there was any other old business. There was none.

**New Business**

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Chair Beroth presented four proposed committees: Strategic Planning, Personnel, Capital, and Contract. He requested two members from the Forsyth County Firefighter’s Association for each committee and proposed asking the Association President to make the appointments (see attached).

- Commissioner Franklin moved to approve the committees and to contact the Association President regarding appointments. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion.
- Commissioner Franklin asked whether all Commission members could provide input to the committees. Chair Beroth confirmed that they could.
- Commissioner Martin asked whether the committees would meet at separate times. Chair Beroth confirmed that they would.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Styers has a conflict with the October 12, 2026 meeting due to his appointment to the Utilities Commission.

- The Utilities Commission meets on the second Monday of each month; October is expected to be the only remaining conflict for the year.
- Commissioner Moore supported resolving the October meeting date without waiting until September.
- Chair Beroth will distribute an alternate October meeting date for feedback.

**Next Meeting**

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The next scheduled meeting of the Forsyth County Fire Commission will be September 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**Adjournment**

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

Signed by:



**Walter Beroth, Chair**

Forsyth County Fire Commission

Signed by:



**Jenna Karber, RMS Administrator**

Secretary to the Forsyth County Fire Commission