

MINUTES OF THE
July 21, 2026
MEETING OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY
FIRE COMMISSION

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The Fire Commission met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, in the meeting room at Forsyth County Fire Division Station 9, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

PRESENT:

Walt Beroth, Chair
Andrew Gray, Vice Chair
Eddie Bottoms, Member
Fred Franklin, Member
Richard Linville, Member
Don Martin, Member
Steven Roberson, Member
Gary Styers, Member
Brian Tuttle, Member
Carl Walker, Member

ABSENT:

Shane Moore, 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 Bottoms led the invocation and Chair Beroth led the pledge of allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the May 4, 2026 meeting of the Fire Commission were presented. There were no corrections or additions. Commissioner Martin moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Commissioner Tuttle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. STAFF INTRODUCTION

Chief Brock Smith introduced Jenna Karber to the Fire Commission. Jenna is our Fire Systems Administrator and will be handling all things data and records management system for the Fire Commission and contracted fire departments. She will also assist the Fire Commission as the Secretary.

3. 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.

- Chris Davis: Chair of the Board of Directors, Clemmons Fire Department

4. FY27 FIRE COMMISSION PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Chief Brock Smith took time to review the priorities that need to be addressed during FY27 since they will be guiding the work of the Fire Commission over the next year. The priorities to be discussed are:

- Determine the minimum level of expected service provided by the contracted fire departments.
- Look at mergers, where appropriate, and system efficiencies to strengthen the County's fire service.
- Look at creating consistency in staffing, pay, and benefits.
- Engage other communities to compare and contrast what they are doing to provide fire services.

Chair Beroth presented the idea of forming standing committees made up of Fire Commission members and members of the Forsyth County Firefighter's Association to help guide the discussions around the priorities prior to presentation to the larger commission and to encourage participation of the contracted fire departments. The Fire Commission was accepting of this idea and Chair Beroth will work to develop committees for the next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

The Fire Commission requested a presentation comparing and contrasting the results and suggestions of previous fire service studies conducted in 1999 and 2016 to the 2025 study. Chief Brock Smith presented these findings to the commission for consideration.

Jenna Karber took time to present the overall career and volunteer personnel numbers from information gathered from the contracted fire departments in 2025. It was noted that the number of volunteers in the system looks better for 2025, but that the data was skewed due to the addition of Midway Fire Department's volunteers to the Forsyth County fire system with the merger between their fire department and Gumtree Fire Department

YEAR	TOTAL	PAID	VOLUNTEER
2024	579	294	285
2025	634	338	296
2025 w/o Midway	593	315	278

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

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

Signed by:

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F. Walter Beroth, Chair
Forsyth County Fire Commission

Signed by:

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