

**TOWN of SURGOINSVILLE
BOARD of MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

**BMA Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 9th, 2026, @ 6:00 pm**

The BMA session of the Surgoinsville Board of Mayor and Aldermen was held March 9th, 2026, at 6:20p.m. in the Surgoinsville City Hall after public notice was published on *Town of Surgoinsville – City Hall* Facebook Page and posted at City Hall, Surgoinsville Utility District, Post Office, & Surgoinsville Public Library on Friday, March 6th, 2026.

INVOCATION

Mayor Graham did the invocation. Alderman Hoss to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Present

Mayor Graham
Vice Mayor Collier
Alderman Mierek

Alderman Bishop
Alderman Hoss

Absent

Alderman Sandidge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES

- February 17th, 2026 - BMA Meeting Minutes & Public Hearing Minutes: A motion was made by Alderman Bishop to approve as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mierek. The voting was unanimous in favor to approve the minutes as written.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Police Chief Hammonds read the February 2026 Police Report. Fire Chief Suthers read the Fire Department Report for February 2026. Brandon Depew read the Maintenance Report for February 2026. Sewer Report for February 2026 was provided for review. The February 2026 *Daily Vehicle Inspection Checklist* for each vehicle, February Work Orders, February Animal Control Log were emailed to each Board Member for review. A motion was made by Alderman Bishop to approve the February reports as written. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mierek. The voting was unanimous in favor of approving.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

- Megan Gentry, City Recorder, provided a financial summary for all funds in February 2026

VISITORS

- Sarah Monoson with *The Kingsport Times News*, Tim Carwile, Cheryl Battaglia, Michael Gillespie

OLD BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Consider second & final reading of Ordinance 195-2026 which is an ordinance establishing time limits for demolition and building permits. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Collier. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hoss. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider first reading of Ordinance 196-2026 which is an ordinance to amend The Municipal Zoning ordinance of the Town of Surgoinsville, Tennessee for the purpose of adding an amendment to define and regulate artificial intelligence facilities. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Collier. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mierek. The voting was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider Resolution 170-2026 which is a resolution to authorize the payment of the supplemental bridge benefit to qualifying full-time employees. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Collier. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hoss. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider Resolution 171-2026 which is a resolution to offer 401(k) defined contribution plan to full-time employees. A motion was made by Alderman Mierek. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier. The voting was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider Resolution 172-2026 which is a resolution to offer a governmental 457(b) deferred compensation plan to full-time employees. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Collier. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hoss. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider accepting 2015 Ford Taurus VIN# 1FAHP2MK5FG102437 donation from Hawkins County Government. A motion was made by Alderman Bishop. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider authorizing Police Chief Hammonds to customize 2015 Taurus with Surgoinsville, 110-42100-332. A motion was made by Alderman Mierek. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hoss. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider authorizing Vice Mayor Collier to conduct interviews and make an offer for a part time maintenance department employee to begin March 16th, 2026, or thereafter. A motion was made by Alderman Mierek. The motion was seconded by Alderman Bishop. The voting was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider rehiring Danny Lawson on April 20th, 2026, as a part-time employee, working 3 days a week. A motion was made by Alderman Hoss. The motion was seconded by Alderman Bishop. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.

- Consider authorizing Fire Chief Suthers to apply for The Tennessee Highway Safety Office Grant. A motion was made by Alderman Bishop. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mierek. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider authorizing Police Chief Hammonds to apply for the Small Rural Tribal Body Worn Camera program. A motion was made by Alderman Bishop. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mierek. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider appointment a Business Development Committee with 2 citizens and 1 board member. Alderman Mierek volunteered. A motion was made by Alderman Mierek to appoint Johnny Greer, Teresa Greer, and Alderman Mierek. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier. The voting was unanimous in favor of approving.
- Consider appointment an alderman to fill vacancy. A motion was made by Alderman Hoss to postpone until after discussion. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier.
- A motion was made by Alderman Hoss to allow Lee Taylor to clean the downstairs of City Hall as needed at a flat rate of \$25 per cleaning. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collier. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.
- A motion was made by Alderman Hoss to authorize Brandon Depew to perform flooding repairs and the associated expenditures to Sandidge Hollow Road. The motion was seconded by Alderman Bishop. A roll call vote was obtained and was unanimous in favor of approving.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ITEMS

- Michael Gillespie, Property Assessor of Hawkins County, provided a document with information regarding reappraisal this year and advised that there was a video online that was made with assistance from the Comptroller's Office.

COUNCIL REQUESTS

- Vice Mayor Collier provided an update regarding the Riverfront Park riverbanks. TWRA did not receive response that a bat study was required within the timeframe of review. TWRA will be at Riverfront Park within the next week assess the property. TWRA has agreed to riprap the riverbank to prevent further erosion.
- Mayor Graham identified himself as Chairman of the Riverfront Committee and stated that he would be organizing the 2026 Festival.


OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

The BMA Meeting was dismissed at 6:51 pm.


Merrell Graham, Mayor

ATTEST:


Megan Gentry, Recorder