



CONOVER

North Carolina

Conover City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Conover City Hall Council Chambers

101 1st Street E, Conover

A Regular Meeting of the Conover City Council was held on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of Conover City Hall.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Official: Mayor Kyle Hayman

Council Members Present: Mayor Kyle Hayman
Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Mark Canrobert
Council Member Joie Fulbright
Council Member Jim Green
Council Member Brenda Powell
Council Member Todd Griffin

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Tom Hart, City Clerk Stephanie Watson, City Attorney Susan Matthews, Finance Director Kurt L. Beal, Planning Director Erik Schlichting, Public Works Director Terry R. Jones, Fire Chief Mark Stafford, Police Chief Robert Houston, Police Major Jeff Barkley

II. INVOCATION

Rev. Helen M. Bledsoe, Covenant Christian Church

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion was duly made by Council Member Fulbright, seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

AYES:	Mayor Hayman, Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, Council Member Fulbright, Council Member Green, Council Member Powell, Council Member Griffin
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

a. December 1, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Kyle J. Hayman presented the December 1, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

(December 1, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes contained in Minute Book 21.)

Item 2: Resolution 02-26: A Resolution Honoring Outgoing School Superintendent Aron Gabriel

Mayor Kyle J. Hayman presented Resolution 02-26: A Resolution Honoring Outgoing School Superintendent Aron Gabriel.

(Resolution 02-26: A Resolution Honoring Outgoing School Superintendent Aron Gabriel contained in the exhibit file called 2026 Resolutions and a copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

Item 3: Resolution 03-26: A Resolution Awarding Retiring Officer Alan Minton His Badge and Service Sidearm

Mayor Kyle J. Hayman presented Resolution 03-26: A Resolution Awarding Retiring Officer Alan Minton His Badge and Service Sidearm.

(Resolution 03-26: A Resolution Awarding Retiring Officer Alan Minton His Badge and Service Sidearm contained in the exhibit file called 2026 Resolutions and a copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

Item 4: Ordinance 01-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance

Mayor Kyle J. Hayman presented Ordinance 01-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance.

(Ordinance 01-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance contained in Ordinance Book 11 and a copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion was duly made by Council Member Green, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert and Council Member Powell, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 5, 2026 CONOVER CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

AYES:	Mayor Hayman, Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, Council Member Fulbright, Council Member Green, Council Member Powell, Council Member Griffin
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

VI. BUSINESS AGENDA

Item 5: Comments from Visitors and Guests

Mayor Hayman opened the public comment period. There were no comments and the Mayor declared the public comment period closed.

Item 6: Presentation: Recognition of City Clerk Stephanie C. Watson Achieving IIMC Master Municipal Clerk (MMC)

Mayor Kyle Hayman and Council recognized City Clerk Stephanie Watson for achieving the designation of Master Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). This designation, certified on October 23rd, was presented in recognition of her fulfillment of high professional requirements. The Mayor and Council expressed gratitude for her dedication and service to the city.

Item 7: Resolution 01-26: In Recognition of the Conover's Police Department's 100 Year Anniversary

Kyle J. Hayman, Mayor and Council presented Resolution 01-26: In Recognition of the Conover's Police Department's 100 Year Anniversary. The resolution honored the department's history of preserving peace and enforcing the law and recognized the nine Police Chiefs who have led the department. It also highlighted the department's achievements, including national accreditation, participation in the National Night Out program since 1994, the Santa Cop program, and recognition by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Current Police Chief Robert Houston accepted the resolution on behalf of the department.

Motion was duly made by Mayor Hayman, seconded by Council Member Fulbright, to adopt Resolution 01-26: In Recognition of the Conover's Police Department's 100 Year Anniversary.

AYES:	Mayor Hayman, Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, Council Member Fulbright, Council Member Green, Council Member Powell, Council Member Griffin
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MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 5, 2026 CONOVER CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

(Resolution 01-26: In Recognition of the Conover's Police Department's 100 Year Anniversary contained in the exhibit file called 2026 Resolutions and a copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

Item 8: Ordinance 02-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance

Kurt L. Beal, Finance Director presented Ordinance 02-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance which would be used to purchase a 10-year extended warranty for the City Hall roof. The roof, installed in 2016, is eligible for a warranty extension for a cost of \$35,000. The warranty would be used as a preventative measure to avoid potentially higher replacement costs in the future. The warranty covers 100% of labor and materials for repairs.

Motion was duly made by Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Ordinance 02-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance.

AYES:	Mayor Hayman, Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, Council Member Fulbright, Council Member Green, Council Member Powell, Council Member Griffin
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

(Ordinance 02-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance contained in Ordinance Book 11 and a copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

Item 9: Ordinance 03-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance

Kurt L. Beal, Finance Director presented Ordinance 03-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance which regards the allocation of funds for the Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC). Specific needs cited included electrical upgrades at MSC 1 and repairs to the audiovisual video board in the large conference room of MSC 2.

Motion was duly made by Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, seconded by Council Member Powell, to adopt Ordinance 03-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance.

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 5, 2026 CONOVER CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

AYES:	Mayor Hayman, Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, Council Member Fulbright, Council Member Green, Council Member Powell, Council Member Griffin
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

(Ordinance 03-26: An Ordinance Amending the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance contained in Ordinance Book 11 and a copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.)

Item 10: Committee Reports

Members of Council gave their committee reports.

Item 11: City Manager's Report

Building Permits: The City issued fourteen (14) building permits during the month of December 2025, totaling \$251,453.678. Included were nine (9) residential, four (4) commercial, and one (1) industrial.

Upcoming Holidays: City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19th. Collections will occur on Tuesday, January 20th.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THIS MONTH:

- **100th Anniversary Celebration of Police Department:** Tuesday, January 6th at 5:00PM at Conover Station.
- **Annual MLK Parade:** Saturday, January 17th at 2PM in Newton.
- **Budget Kickoff Workshop:** Tuesday, January 27th at Noon at Manufacturing Solutions Center 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NEXT MONTH:

- **54th Annual Meeting and Reception:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 3:30PM at the Hickory Metro Convention Center.

Item 12: Closed Session to Consult City Attorney Per General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) and to Prevent Disclosure of Information that is Privileged Per General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(1)

At 6:32 p.m., motion was duly made by Mayor Hayman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, to enter into closed session to consult the City Attorney per General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) and to prevent disclosure of information that is privileged

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 5, 2026 CONOVER CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

per General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(1).

AYES:	Mayor Hayman, Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, Council Member Fulbright, Council Member Green, Council Member Powell, Council Member Griffin
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Motion was duly made by Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, seconded by Council Member Green, to adjourn the closed session and return to the regular meeting at 7:07 p.m.

AYES:	Mayor Hayman, Mayor Pro Tem / Council Member Canrobert, Council Member Fulbright, Council Member Green, Council Member Powell, Council Member Griffin
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Kyle J. Hayman, Mayor

Stephanie C. Watson, City Clerk

**A RESOLUTION HONORING DR. ARON GABRIEL
ON HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEWTON – CONOVER COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Dr. Aron Gabriel was officially named Superintendent of Newton-Conover City Schools by the Newton-Conover City Schools Board of Education on August 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gabriel has devoted 29 years and 4 months of distinguished service to public education, serving students, staff, and families across Lincoln County Schools, Catawba County Schools, Iredell-Statesville Schools, and Newton-Conover City Schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gabriel faithfully served as Associate Superintendent of Newton-Conover City Schools beginning in 2013, overseeing district operations, auxiliary services, alternative education, and the district’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) program; and

WHEREAS, his leadership experience includes service as a principal in Iredell-Statesville Schools, where he was recognized as the Iredell-Statesville Principal of the Year in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gabriel also served as an English teacher and basketball coach at Bandys High School, demonstrating his dedication to both academic achievement and student development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gabriel has pursued academic excellence throughout his career, earning a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Western Carolina University in 2012, an Ed. S. in Educational Leadership degree from Appalachian State University, a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Supervision from UNC Charlotte, and a Bachelor’s Degree in English Education from Montreat College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gabriel’s accomplishments include being named the 2024 North Carolina Northwest Regional Superintendent of the Year, reflecting his outstanding leadership and commitment to school improvement; and

WHEREAS, his achievements extend beyond his professional career, as he was inducted into the Montreat College Sports Hall of Fame in 2003, demonstrating excellence both in academics and athletics; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Dr. Gabriel has exemplified integrity, vision, and service, consistently advocating for student success and educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Conover and Newton wish to extend well wishes in his future endeavor as the next President of Mayland Community College in January 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayors of the City of Conover and Newton on behalf of their Councils hereby honor Dr. Aron Gabriel for his extraordinary leadership, his nearly three decades of dedicated service, and his lasting contributions to public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Gabriel with deep appreciation and gratitude for his steadfast commitment to the students and communities he has served; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the offices of the City of Conover and City of Newton Clerks.

Adopted this the 5th day of January, 2026
by the City of Conover Council.

Adopted this the 6th day of January, 2026
by the City of Newton Council.

Kyle J. Hayman, Mayor
City of Conover

Jerry T. Hodge, Mayor
City of Newton

ATTEST:

Stephanie C. Watson
City of Conover Clerk

Amy Falowski
City of Newton Clerk



**CITY OF CONOVER
RESOLUTION 03-26**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING RETIRING OFFICER ALAN MINTON
HIS BADGE AND SERVICE SIDEARM**

WHEREAS, G.S. 17F-20 provides that retiring members of municipal law enforcement agencies may receive, at the time of their retirement, the badge worn or carried by them during their service with the municipality; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 17F-20 further provides that the governing body of the municipal law enforcement agency may, in its discretion, award to a retiring member the service sidearm of such retiring member; and

WHEREAS, Alan Minton has served as a member of the City of Conover Police Department for a period of 10 years, and is retiring from the City of Conover Police Department effective December 3, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Conover, North Carolina that:

1. The badge worn by Alan Minton during his service with the City of Conover Police Department and his service sidearm (Sig Sauer P365 Service #: 58J584109) are now declared surplus.
2. The City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 17F-20 to transfer said badge and sidearm to Robert Clark.

Adopted this 5th day of January, 2026.

Kyle J. Hayman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stephanie C. Watson, City Clerk

**CITY OF CONOVER
ORDINANCE 01-26**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025-2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Conover, North Carolina, that the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance of the City of Conover, adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, be amended as noted herein.

Section 1. To amend the General Reserve Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account		Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
520-6600-9167		Transfer to General Capital Projects Fund	50,000	
Total			\$50,000	

To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased as follows:

Account		Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
520-2990-1000		Fund Balance Appropriation - General Reserve Fund		50,000
Total				\$50,000

This will result in a net increase of \$50,000 in the expenditures of the General Reserve Fund.

Section 2. To amend the General Capital Projects Spending Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account		Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
670-3970-9152		Transfer from General Capital Reserve		50,000
Total				\$50,000

To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased as follows:

Account		Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
670-4100-7300		Capital Improvements - Downtown Building	50,000	
Total			\$50,000	

This will result in a net increase of \$0 in the expenditures of the General Capital Projects Spending Fund.

Section 3. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board, to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 5th day of January, 2026.

Stephanie C. Watson, City Clerk

Kyle J. Hayman, Mayor



CITY OF CONOVER
RESOLUTION 01-26

**100TH ANNIVERSARY
CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, THE CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR 1926 TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE CITIZENS OF CONOVER; AND

WHEREAS, FOR THE PAST 100 YEARS, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO PRESERVING PEACE, ENFORCING THE LAW, AND SAFEGUARDING THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF OUR COMMUNITY; AND

WHEREAS, SINCE ITS FOUNDING, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN LED WITH HONOR AND INTEGRITY BY NINE POLICE CHIEFS; HARLAN SIGMON, JOHN DELLINGER, JAMES FAIRCHILD, FRANKLIN TRAVIS, DALE STEWART, GARY LAFONE, STEVE BREWER, ERIC LOFTIN, AND ROBERT HOUSTON, EACH CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH, PROFESSIONALISM, AND TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE THAT DEFINE THE DEPARTMENT TODAY; AND

WHEREAS, THE CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS ACHIEVED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION, DEMONSTRATING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF MODERN POLICING; AND

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BECOME A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN POLICING METHODS, ALWAYS STRIVING TO IMPROVE TRAINING, COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY PRACTICES; AND

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS EMBRACED A TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN APPROACH, UTILIZING MODERN TOOLS AND INNOVATIONS TO STRENGTHEN ITS ABILITY TO PROTECT AND SERVE; AND

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PROGRAM, HOSTING THIS EVENT FOR CATAWBA COUNTY SINCE 1994; AND

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT BEGAN THE SANTA COP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE TOYS AND CLOTHING FOR THE CHILDREN OF CONOVER SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE AN UNFORGETTABLE CHRISTMAS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS AWARDED THE 2012 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR BY MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD); AND

WHEREAS, THE CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPLETED THE NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES RISK REVIEW ASSESSMENT IN IT'S EFFORT TO ADHERE TO THE BEST PRACTICES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT; AND

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT'S HISTORY IS ONE OF COURAGE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE, WITH OFFICERS ANSWERING THE CALL OF DUTY THROUGH CHANGING TIMES AND CHALLENGES WHILE UPHOLDING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF CONOVER WISHES TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK ALL PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS, STAFF, AND LEADERS OF THE CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERVICE, DEDICATION, AND COMMITMENT TO MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A SAFER PLACE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CONOVER CITY COUNCIL, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF CONOVER, PUBLICLY COMMENDS THE **CONOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT** FOR 100 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF CONOVER.

ADOPTED, THIS THE 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

KYLE J. HAYMAN, MAYOR

MARK R. CANROBERT, MAYOR PRO TEM

JOIE D. FULBRIGHT, COUNCIL MEMBER

JIM C. GREEN, COUNCIL MEMBER

TODD S. GRIFFIN, COUNCIL MEMBER

STEPHANIE C. WATSON, CITY CLERK

BRENDA J. POWELL, COUNCIL MEMBER

**CITY OF CONOVER
ORDINANCE 02-26**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025-2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Conover, North Carolina, that the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance of the City of Conover, adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, be amended as noted herein.

Section 1. To amend the General Capital Reserve Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account		Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
520-6600-9167		Transfer to General Capital Projects Fund	35,000	
Total			\$35,000	

To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased as follows:

Account		Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
520-2990-1000		Fund Balance Appropriation - General Fund		35,000
Total				\$35,000

This will result in a net increase of \$35,000 in the expenditures of the General Fund.

Section 2. To amend the General Capital Projects Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account		Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
670-5000-7300		Capital Improvements - City Hall	35,000	
Total			\$35,000	

To provide for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased as follows:

Account		Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
670-3970-9152		Transfer from General Capital Reserve		35,000
Total				\$35,000

This will result in a net increase of \$0 in the expenditures of the General Capital Projects Fund.

Section 3. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board, to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 5th day of January, 2026.

Stephanie C. Watson, City Clerk

Kyle J. Hayman, Mayor



**CITY OF CONOVER
ORDINANCE 03-26**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025-2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Conover, North Carolina, that the 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance of the City of Conover, adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, be amended as noted herein.

Section 1. To amend the General Reserve Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account		Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
520-6600-9167		Transfer to General Capital Projects Fund	50,000	
Total			\$50,000	

To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased as follows:

Account		Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
520-2990-1000		Fund Balance Appropriation - General Reserve Fund		50,000
Total				\$50,000

This will result in a net increase of \$50,000 in the expenditures of the General Reserve Fund.

Section 2. To amend the General Capital Projects Spending Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account		Description	Decrease/ Debit	Increase/ Credit
670-3970-9152		Transfer from General Capital Reserve		50,000
Total				\$50,000

To provide funding for the above, the following revenue budgets will be increased as follows:

Account		Description	Increase/ Debit	Decrease/ Credit
670-4300-7300		Capital Improvements - MSC Campus	50,000	
Total			\$50,000	

This will result in a net increase of \$0 in the expenditures of the General Capital Projects Spending Fund.

Section 3. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Governing Board, to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this the 5th day of January, 2026.

Stephanie C. Watson, City Clerk

Kyle J. Hayman, Mayor

