



**MINUTES OF  
CITY OF CREEDMOOR  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 20, 2026**

**Present**

Mayor Antwane Downey, Mayor Pro Tem Archer Wilkins, Commissioner Edward Gleason, Commissioner Georgana Kicinski, Commissioner Darryl Moss, Commissioner Robert Way. Also present were City Clerk Barbara Rouse, Executive Assistant Sarah Spruill, PD Chief Troy Wheless, Finance Director Lee Faines, Community Development Director Michael Frangos, City Engineer Carl Barclay, and City Attorney Kevin Hornik.

**Call to Order and Invocation |**

Mayor Downey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Kicinski offered the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

A roll call by the City Clerk determined that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Kicinski made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Discussion Item | Appointment of Chief Troy Wheless to the Position of Interim City Manager**

Mayor Downey explained to the Board that Due to a recent and unexpected health issue, City Manager Michael Turner would be out on medical leave for 6 to 8 weeks and had named Chief Troy Wheless as the Interim City Manager, in addition to his current role as Police Chief, and this interim position of Acting City Manager will include a 25% pay increase for Chief Troy Wheless. Commissioner Gleason made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-R-01, a Resolution for the Appointment of Chief Troy Wheless as Interim City Manager while also Appointing Chief Troy Wheless as Acting Budget Officer pending City Manager Michael Turners return. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Discussion Item | Swearing-In of Interim City Manager Chief Troy Wheless**

Mayor Downey administered the Swearing-In of PD Chief Troy Wheless as Interim City Manager.

**Discussion Item | Granville County's Opioid Settlement Fund**

Ms. Catherine Hazlett, MPH, Substance Use Prevention & Treatment Program Manager, GVPH and Granville County Opioid Advisory Committee Facilitator, presented information on Granville County's Opioid Settlement Fund and the work of the Opioid Advisory Committee and County Commissioners to combat opioid use in Granville County. Ms. Hazlett told the Board that as a part of the National Settlement, NC entered into an agreement to receive about \$1.4 billion (approx. \$7,125,043 to Granville County) in opioid reparations from various "Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants", adding that the overarching goal of the Settlement is to prevent and reduce opioid overdoses. Ms. Hazlett then explained to the Board that the Granville County Opioid Advisory Committee (OAC) meets monthly on the 4th Thursday, 10-11:30AM at the Expo Conference Center. Meetings are open to the public, and the County Commissioner, Jimmy Gooch, is the chair. Stakeholders who attend OAC meetings include substance treatment providers, people with lived experience, Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Vaya Health, schools, mental health providers, Granville Health Systems, pharmacists, County administrators/commissioners, law enforcement, prevention organizations, peer support specialists, faith-based organizations, among others Ms. Hazlett added. Some data was presented to the Board and Ms. Hazlett then reported that the County Commissioners recently approved using opioid settlement funds to purchase naloxone dispensers to be distributed throughout Granville County. The wall mounted dispensers would only include boxes of Narcan, while the free standing dispensers can include Narcan as well as wound care kits, 24/7 emergency

resource cards, and treatment provider directories Ms. Hazlett explained, adding that she would be responsible for ordering and delivering the dispenser(s), providing their contents, and monitoring their usage. After her presentation, there were a few questions from the Board and Mayor Downey thanked Ms. Hazlett for her presentation.

### **Discussion Item | Water Filters Discussion**

Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins opened discussion by stating that public trust in the City's water system has been significantly undermined due to ongoing water quality concerns, including reports of discolored, odorous, and chemically tainted water. He emphasized that restoring public confidence is as important as achieving regulatory compliance and noted that while long-term infrastructure improvements are underway, they do not address residents' immediate concerns. He advocated for the distribution of certified water filters as an interim public health measure while studies and infrastructure improvements through SGWASA continue, stating that waiting until federal compliance deadlines of 2029 or 2031 was unacceptable. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins further stated that regulatory compliance does not necessarily equate to safe or acceptable water quality in practice and emphasized the need for immediate action to mitigate potential PFAS exposure, particularly for vulnerable populations. He proposed conducting a resident survey to assess water quality concerns and interest in receiving water filters, stating that the survey would help determine the scope of need, guide resource allocation, and inform distribution logistics. He emphasized that the survey would demonstrate transparency and responsiveness and was intended as a preliminary step rather than a commitment to provide filters. Mayor Downey opened the floor to questions. Commissioner Kicinski raised concerns about public misunderstanding of PFAS, noting that PFAS does not cause discoloration or odor, and cautioned against conflating PFAS with visibly discolored water. She questioned whether all residents are SGWASA customers, noting that some rely on private wells or are not required to connect, including residents in "donut hole" areas. She also questioned why similar complaints had not been raised in Butner or Stem, which receive water from the same treatment plant, and noted that photographs of discolored water had not been investigated or reported to SGWASA. Commissioner Kicinski further asked what type of filters were being considered, emphasizing that different filters address different contaminants and stating that PFAS-specific filtration was her primary concern. Commissioner Moss cautioned against becoming overly focused on technical details and emphasized the importance of addressing water quality as a policy priority, noting that he had previously requested the Board prioritize water quality on August 18, 2023. He stated that the proposal involved two basic questions: whether the City should ask residents if they were interested in receiving a home water filter, and whether SGWASA should be asked to continue and expand efforts in response to citizen concerns. He emphasized that while the City cannot control actions in neighboring jurisdictions, it can respond to its own residents, noting that despite regulatory compliance, some residents continue to experience water quality issues. He urged the Board to take an initial step by seeking resident input. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins then made a motion to authorize distribution of a resident survey to every household for the purpose of gauging interest in receiving a certified water filter capable of reducing PFAS in drinking water within the City limits. Commissioner Gleason raised concerns regarding the cost of conducting the survey, requesting estimates for mailing expenses and clarification on the number of households. He questioned whether all ratepayers would need to be identified and expressed concern that a general interest survey would result in overwhelming affirmative responses and create expectations the City may not be able to meet, particularly without established eligibility criteria. Finance Director Lee Faines estimated mailing costs at approximately \$0.70 per letter, with total costs ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,400 depending on the number of households and inclusion of return postage. The City Attorney advised that while the City does not control the water system operated by SGWASA, it does have authority to conduct surveys and may have authority to implement targeted home improvement programs for low- to moderate-income households, potentially including water filters. He stated that gathering information is a reasonable first step and cautioned that survey results would likely show high interest. He recommended including questions regarding water quality experiences, SGWASA customer status, and private testing results to better inform future coordination and decision-making. Commissioner Kicinski expressed concern about liability and managing public expectations. The City Attorney recommended including a clear disclaimer stating that the survey is exploratory and does not guarantee receipt of water filters or other assistance. The Board discussed survey logistics, including return postage, online response options, internet access concerns, and availability of paper copies at City Hall. Interim City Manager Wheless stated that staff could assist with distribution, response collection, and data compilation once survey details were finalized. Commissioner Moss reiterated support for proceeding, describing the survey as a first step toward rebuilding public trust. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins emphasized that operational details should not delay initial action and stated that the Board would review the survey language prior to distribution. By consensus, the Board directed staff and the City Attorney to return with revised survey language for review. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins then made a motion to authorize distribution of a residential survey to every household for the purpose of gauging interest in receiving a certified water filter capable

of reducing PFAS in drinking water, subject to review by the City Attorney and the Board. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.


After further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins made a motion for the City to draft and send a letter to SGWASA upon receipt of the completed water surveys, subject to review by the City Attorney and the Board. Commissioner Kicinski suggested waiting until survey responses were received before drafting the letter and recommended establishing a response deadline. The City Attorney agreed that a deadline would be appropriate and noted that the letter's content would be informed by survey results, including response volume, income eligibility considerations, and potential mitigation options. The Board discussed establishing a survey response deadline of 60–90 days to avoid an open-ended process. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins restated his motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

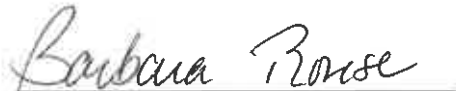
### **Discussion Item | Continuation of Pace Analytical Water Testing Discussion**

Mayor Downey told the Board that he and City Manager Michael Turner had spoken about this item and at this point he [Mayor Downey] said, “we know what they know”, and he [Mayor Downey] did not think that continuing the testing every quarter would change too many things that are happening in the City's water right now, adding that as the Board just committed to a \$1,400 survey so maybe testing should be reduced to twice or once a year. After some discussion by the Board, Commissioner Moss said that he would be in support of discontinuing the water tests, as did Mayor Pro Tem Wilkins, Commissioner Way, Commissioner Kicinski as well as Commissioner Gleason. Commissioner Moss made the motion to discontinue the PACE Analytical Water Testing. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Way made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

  
Mayor Antwane Downey

  
Barbara Rouse, City Clerk



