

Town of New London
Board of Commissioner's Meeting 7:00 pm
Public Hearing 7:30 pm
January 6, 2026

Mayor Tate Daniels welcomed everyone and opened the Commissioner's Meeting at 7:00 pm. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Bill Peak, Richard Kimmer, Bob Loflin, Timothy Higgins, and Town Manager Susan Almond. Commissioner Sid Lanier was absent from the meeting. Visitors present were Norman and Connie Williams, Rob Banks, Chuck McConkey and Deputy Scott Burleson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Peak. Mayor Daniels asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Loflin. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Daniels asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the December meeting. There being no corrections, Commissioner Peak made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Loflin. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period- Mrs. Connie Williams stated that when they were volunteering at the museum, she noticed the ceiling paint on the south side of the building was peeling. We will monitor this issue to determine what repairs are needed.

Planning Board Recommendation: Mayor Daniels stated that the Planning Board met on Monday, December 15th and made a recommendation for a text amendment to section 8.8 of the New London Zoning Ordinance to change the sign area size for freestanding pole signs from 30 sf to 60 sf in the highway business (H-B), light manufacturing (M-1) and heavy manufacturing (M-2) zoning districts. The Public Hearing for this topic will begin at 7:30 pm.

Sewer Report- Commissioner Peak reported that the Oak Street Pump Station went into alarm a few weeks ago because the pump was not running. Mr. Todd Hatley from LT Electric determined the pump was good, but the starter contactor was bad. He is researching the best replacement option.

Update on 104 Depot Street- Commissioner Higgins noted the controlled burn occurred on December 6th with several successful training runs for members of the New London Volunteer Fire Department with other local departments participating. Mr. Doug Culp did a nice job cleaning up and hauling off the debris. The Board discussed the need to aerate or sow grass in that area as well as adding gravel for a few parking spaces for the museum.

Street Lighting- Commissioner Loflin inquired about a streetlight being added to Culp Lumber Company's new entrance off Hwy 52. Mayor Daniels will contact Mr. Jimmy Faust with Culp Lumber to ask what their plans are for that area.

Street Update- Commissioner Kimmer reported the ditch at 240 E. Church St. needs to be cleaned out and a pipe installed. Mr. Rusty Russell can provide a quote for this project which is eligible for Powell Bill Funds.

Mrs. Almond reported on the following:

- **Fire Protection Agreement-** This yearly agreement states that the New London Volunteer Fire Department shall provide fire protection & emergency services within the territories of the municipality. Commissioner Peak made a motion to adopt the Fire Protection & Emergency Services Agreement between the Town of New London & the New London Volunteer Fire Department for 2026, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.
- **America 250 Banners-** The Stanly County Arts Council sponsored a county-wide student art contest for all students, K-12 grade in honor of the 250th anniversary of America's Independence in 2026. The students designed artwork for banners to be displayed in participating municipalities from Spring through Fall. Twelve winners will be selected so each banner will have a child's artwork on one side and America 250 with the town's logo on the other side. The Stanly County Historical Society will fund this initiative. Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to allow these banners to be displayed in New London, seconded by Commissioner Loflin. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Daniels opened the Public Hearing at 7:30pm.

The purpose of the hearing was to consider the Planning Board's recommendation to add a text amendment to section 8.8 of the New London Zoning Ordinance to change the sign area size for freestanding pole signs from 30 sf to 60 sf in the highway business (H-B), light manufacturing (M-1) and heavy manufacturing (M-2) zoning districts.

Public Comment: Mr. Williams asked what precipitated this. Mayor Daniels noted that we have had a few businesses to ask about our sign sizes in the highway business and manufacturing districts which prompted our comparison of other town's guidelines.

New London's maximum sign area is 30 square feet for free standing pole signs in those zoning districts. He noted that the zoning ordinance was developed years ago, before Hwy 52 was constructed as a bypass.

The Board reviewed a comparison chart of local municipalities and Stanly County's guidelines regarding square footage for free standing pole signs in Highway Business, Light Manufacturing and Heavy Manufacturing. Sign size ranged from 10 square ft in Richfield, 80 square feet in Stanly County and 120 square feet in Albemarle for Highway Business districts. Commissioner Loflin thought 60 sq ft is a more updated size for signs along Hwy 52.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Daniels closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the Commissioner's Meeting.

Decision Regarding Text Amendment- Commissioner Loflin made a motion to approve the Planning Board's recommendation to add a text amendment to section 8.8 of the New London Zoning Ordinance to change the sign area size for freestanding pole signs from 30 sf to 60 sf in the highway business (H-B), light manufacturing (M-1) and heavy manufacturing (M-2) zoning districts, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Daniels gave an update on the following:

- **Restroom Doors-** Mr. Rodney Mauldin installed weather strips and door sweeps to the bottom of the restroom doors at New London Memorial Park in an effort to improve insulation. He also noted that both restroom door frames are rusting badly at the base of the door and recommended having the rusted areas sanded, primed and repainted to extend the life of the door frames. Mayor Daniels stated that K & S Handyman Service could provide a quote for these repairs.
- **Landscaping Beside Corn Hole Boards-** The Board discussed having Piedmont Landscaping provide a quote for installing rock in the area between the corn hole boards and the big shelter since mulch continues to wash away. They will also look at the sidewalk area between shelter 3 and the message board that needs to be dug out for better drainage.
- **Clean Up at Park Entrance-** Commissioner Loflin recommended we remove the invasive plants and mulch the area from Memorial Park entrance to where the old first paved driveway was located on the park property. He will meet with Mayor Daniels about this issue and present their recommendation at the next Board Meeting.

The agenda being accomplished, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.
Minutes submitted by Susan Almond, Town Manager.