

TURIN TOWN HALL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026  
47 TURIN ROAD

**COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Sprouse, Councilpersons, Barnett and Wallin

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order by Mayor Sprouse @ 6:00 PM; Invocation by former Council Member Clarence Bolden, Mayor Sprouse led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM:**

The Mayor Pro-Tem serves in the event the Mayor of the Town is unable to attend the council meetings. The Mayor Pro-Tem can be elected annually, during a two-year election cycle or every four years. After a brief discussion, nominations were opened. A motion was made for Councilwoman Lydia Wallin. A 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Barnett. All in favor. Mayor Pro-Tem Wallin accepted.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Sprouse thanked former councilman Clarence Bolden who was present at the meeting for his former years of service to our community and for providing the invocation for tonight's meeting.

Mayor Sprouse also wanted to thank former Mayor Alan D. Starr (not attending) for over twenty years of service, having served as both mayor and former council member both when service was voluntary and later paid, noting both men's willingness to serve their community.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. BUDGET 2026 | FISCAL YEAR**

Mayor Sprouse stated the 2026 budget had not been passed in the last fiscal year. He indicated he wanted to have the 2026 budget finalized and presented to the public for final approval in May of this year. Additionally, the Mayor discussed the need to insure the 2027 fiscal year budget be approved by September 2026. Councilmembers Barnett and Wallin will work with our Town Clerk and Towns CPA to review our current fiscal status in preparation of the 2026 budget and report back to council.

**2. DRAFT CHARTER**

A draft charter was discussed with the council regarding the current and proposed charter. Council had questions regarding the draft charter as written. The draft charter is a model charter which was developed by the Georgia Municipal Association. This draft was previously submitted by Legal Council Mark Mitchell. The original town charter was developed in 1890 by the Town of Turin. It has had several amendments over the years which allowed for the creation of the Water Department and voting matters. One of the issues noted by Councilwoman Wallin dealt with the ability of the mayor to veto a Council vote. The way the draft charter currently addressed the matter was in the event three Council members elected to pass an ordinance, the mayor could veto the ordinance. The Council however could then override the mayor veto with the vote of the majority Council of four votes. Attorney Mitchell said he would investigate this further, indicating this could be changed.

It was agreed upon the draft charter will be placed on the towns webpage to allow for the towns people to review and give comment. Positive aspects of the new charter proposal would address accountability of your elected officials and meeting attendance.

**3. ENGINEERING**

In December 2025, Mayor Starr received a letter from Brennan Jones Engineering Associates, LLC regarding General Consulting Services and Zoning Administration Services withdrawing and his determination to not renew his contract with the town. The town is currently looking for a qualified replacement.

**SAFEBUILT**

SafeBuilt is currently providing some limited work for the Town and has since 2017, for building and residential inspections. We have additional need for other services which they can provide. A preliminary meeting will occur prior to the February council meeting. It is anticipated to have them provide a presentation of their services at a future council meeting, which could include engineering, building plan review, environmental and code compliance to name a few.

**INTEGRATED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

Is a company based in Newnan, GA who serves multiple counties and municipalities with multi engineering service disciplines. They also are willing to provide a presentation to the council for services they provide.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**4. CODE ENFORCEMENT | MAGISTRATE**

Currently the Council will determine the viability of funding the two positions for 2026. One of the functions SafeBuilt can provide is a code compliance officer to oversee code violations. This will be looked at for the future.

**5. APPOINTMENTS TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

Currently there are two Planning and Zoning Commission seats which have been vacated. The town received three applicants. All applications were reviewed by Mayor and Council. Following Council discussion, nominations were made in form of a motion to appoint Mr. Perry Bishop, by Council Woman Wallin and seconded by Councilwoman Barnett. All in favor. A second motion was made to accept the application of Ms. Cathryn Bankhead to serve the vacant position by motion of Councilwoman Lydia Wallin, seconded by Councilwoman Barnett. All in favor. As to the third candidate Mr. Bishop, Council and Mayor agreed to hold Mr. Bishop's application for future appointment. The Mayor and Council want to thank these citizens for accepting a role on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**APPOINTMENT TO UNFILLED COUNCIL SEAT**

The Mayor and Council are currently seeking a qualified individual to serve the unexpired term vacated on Council because of state law requiring a sitting council member to vacate the seat while running for another office. The length of the term remaining is approximately twenty-two months. Attorney Mitchell has provided Mayor and Council with, and affidavit maintained at the Town Clerks Office for any individual who would like to serve on the council during the remaining term.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Meredith Duke of Sew Senoia addressed the Council asking about rezoning of a property located at 42 South Hunter Street in Turin. The home is currently up for sale as a two-story single family residential next to the old community center. Ms. Dukes currently operates Sew Senoia a boutique quilt shop specializing in high-quality linens. Ms. Duke had asked for the viability with Council of such a venture. Attorney Mitchell said the property owner would have to make the request and then submit it to our Planning and Zoning Commission.

**COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Nothing to report

**WATER SYSTEM UPDATE**

Water Superintendent Russel advised Council he had 2 quotes for a repainting of the town water tower, which was to previously be considered by the former Mayor and Council. Both quotes are dated and he was asked to obtain quotes from the two existing and to ask for yet a third vendor. Mr. Russel also spoke of the Old Community Building. Because of the age of the building and the lack of records relative to the existing septic system, he indicated he would have to access the site to make any determination. Mr. Russell has certification in this area. Superintendent Russell also updated the council regarding a water study request posed by Mayor Sprouse.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- **KIM BARNETT**  
Council Woman Barnett wished to thank all in attendance for coming to the meeting and to acknowledge the prior service of our mayor and former council member.
- **LYDIA WALLIN**  
Councilwoman Wallin also wanted to express her gratitude for our Former Mayor and Councilman.

#### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

- **WALTER SPROUSE**
  1. **MAULDIN & JENKINS | PG 32-33, 2024-002 NONCOMPLIANCE**  
Addressed 2024 Financial Statement Findings regarding debt covenants relating to water and sewer fund loans. This prompted a request by me to conduct the water rate study from the Georgia Rural Water Association at no charge to the town. This is a fiscal responsibility.
  2. **GEORGIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**
  3. **THREE RIVERS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
I was contacted by ThreeRivers January 13, 2026, and notified regarding the need to conduct a five-year plan to update the comprehensive plan for the town to be adopted October 2026. I will meet with them in the upcoming weeks.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

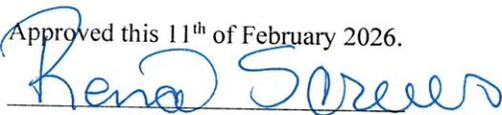
- **LEGAL | PERSONNEL**  
Mayor made a motion to move into executive session to discuss legal matters affecting the Town. A motion was presented to the council to move into executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wallin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Barnett. All in favor. Attorney Mark Mitchell made a presentation to Council. Following discussion, a motion was made to re-enter regular session by Mayor Sprouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wallin. All in favor.

Upon re-entering the regular session, a discussion was held for the February work session and council meeting. It was decided the work session would occur February 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM with the council meeting to occur at 7:00 PM.

#### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Sprouse made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Wallin. Motion carries unanimously.

Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.



Town Clerk