



# Town of Waco

P. O. Box 249 / 200 A.W. Black St.  
Waco, North Carolina 28169  
[www.townofwaco.com](http://www.townofwaco.com)

June 30, 2025

Greetings all,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Town Board members to provide updates on some of our on-going projects and to pass along information we wanted to share.

In June the Board passed their annual 2025-2026 budget with no increase in taxes. The Board is committed to continue our focus on infrastructure and to keeping the town looking good. During our budget discussions we evaluate the improvements we made to the town the previous year and look closely at the projects we were unable to fund. This year's budget includes two large Capital projects, one of which is being paid for out of NC grant funding and the other from money we received from Hurricane Helene relief FEMA funding.

With our first project we will see the completion of our Community Walking Track. We were awarded a \$145,000.00 grant from the North Carolina State Office of Budget and Management that we requested back in 2022 to develop a park. Initially we were looking for a one-to-three-acre tract of land in Waco to develop a green space with several picnic shelters, restrooms, and a walking track. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a parcel of land to purchase so we moved on to plan #2. Earlier this month, construction began on the property located behind the Town Hall for this project. When complete we will have a 1/10 of a mile lighted concrete walking track, paved parking, benches, and an additional picnic shelter all to help benefit the town's citizens and the community.

Our second capital project is repair work on Phillips Dr. that was caused by the excessive rain and flooding from Hurricane Helene. The flooding caused major erosion to the embankment and undermining of the road surface on the south side of Phillips Dr. at the creek. We applied for Disaster Assistance through FEMA and were awarded \$36,350.00 to repair the initial damage and an additional \$6,924.14 to make the embankment more stable and protect against future flooding, improve drainage and prevent erosion. The total amount of funding received was \$43,274.14. Work on this project was completed on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to focus on the appearance of the town by keeping the grass cut along the streets, cutting back overgrown vegetation, edging the sidewalks and keeping trash picked up. In March, we aggressively tackled the job of clearing the Cherryville Rd. and Putnam St. area of the CSX Railroad right-a-way. This was a project that desperately needed to be addressed. We hope you agree that the finished product has made the appearance of the town look much better. We also encourage every homeowner to do their part and help us keep Waco looking great by keeping their lawns cut and free from trash. Your attention to detail is appreciated.

Republic Services continues to service our waste removal needs and the town will continue to provide one trash bin per residence at no cost to our citizens. There have been a few questions concerning collections on holidays. Republic does provide collection service on holidays. Please remember, when you set your trash bin out for collection, make sure it's not in the road where it may get hit or close to a utility pole or mailbox.

There is no new information from the NCDOT on the S. Main St. bridge replacement or on the widening of Cherryville Rd. project. We will pass along any new information as we get it.

We are excited to see new homes being built in Waco. We have issued 7 building permits so far in 2025.

The Playground continues to be a hit with families from throughout our community. We really appreciate all the positive comments we have received. The final play structure was added in August 2024 and this year we added an additional bench and a new picnic table under the awning. We are still looking at some type of bench covers and plan to address the lighting issue at the same time we add lighting to the walking track.

As we have demonstrated, we are always looking for alternative funding for our projects. Since 2017, we have invested over a quarter of a million dollars of grant funding in our little town. Funding has helped us to renovate the Community Center and Town Hall, purchase new LED Christmas lights, repair and replace sidewalks, add a much-needed playground for kids in our community as well as funding both our walking track and Phillips Dr. projects. The Board and I are dedicated to continuing our focus on the town's infrastructure and to strengthening our town's assets and we will continue to look for grants to better the Town of Waco.

Our Community Watch program remains very active. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Community Center. The program has a Facebook group page with over 400 members where we share relevant town and community information, and members share tips about suspicious activity. Members have taken on the responsibility of quarterly road-side trash pick-up; they were instrumental in hanging many of last year's Christmas decorations; they continue to host the town's "Neighborhood Block Party" and treated many of you to a delicious "Soup and Chili Night" last March. The Community Watch program operates on donations and membership is open to anyone in the Waco Community. We strongly encourage all citizens to get involved in the program and help us better our community.

This year's "Neighborhood Block Party" is on Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. The event will include "FREE" hotdogs, drinks, chips, snow cones and popcorn and All-American Bounce House rentals will bring out a waterslide for the kids and it's always a big hit. We've asked the Waco Fire Dept., the Sheriff's Dept. and Cleveland County EMS to join us and provide safety demos and we'll have face painting and chalk art for the kids. Please mark this on your calendar and join us on August 23<sup>rd</sup> for food, family and fun. Again, everything's "FREE" and volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated. Come have lunch on us!

We are happy that the "Waco Lights Up for Christmas" contest continues to help brighten Waco for the holidays. The participation continues to exceed our expectations. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners are awarded \$250.00 and \$150.00 respectively. Congratulations to all our past Winners! Let's go even bigger this year!

It was exciting to bring a Christmas parade back to Waco last year. We navigated a few "glitches" but other than "it was too short", most comments were very positive. We are already in the planning phase for the parade for this year so mark your calendar for 5:30 pm Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>. We most definitely want to grow the participation, so if you are interested in helping with the planning and coordination of a parade, or if you want to participate or sponsor an entry, we would love to hear from you. We're looking for floats, trailers, antique cars and trucks, tractors, decorated jeeps, golf carts, side-by-sides or anything you can put lights on to join us to kick off the holiday season. If you know any dance groups or musicians, have them contact us.

We would love to see every citizen get more involved in Waco politics. The Town Board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall and the meeting is open to the public. We invite you to come to the Board meetings, join in the conversations and voice your opinions on town issues. The decisions we make affects each of you and we encourage you to get involved in what happens in Waco. We need a new generation of leaders that are ready and willing to step in and continue to move our town forward.

We scheduled a public hearing on Monday July 21<sup>st</sup> at the Town Hall to discuss a new town ordinance concerning "Discharging Firearms in the town limits". We will have our attorney and a representative from the Sheriff's Department there to participate in the discussion. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm and will be followed by our July Town Board meeting at 7:00 pm. Both meetings are open to the public. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. You can reach us by email at [townofwaco@gmail.com](mailto:townofwaco@gmail.com) or from the Town of Waco Facebook page. We also update our website ([www.townofwaco.com](http://www.townofwaco.com)) regularly. If you have any questions or comments, we would love to hear from you.

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