

**TOWN OF BOGUE
COUNCIL MEETING
January 19, 2026**

The Town Council of Bogue met on Monday, January 19, 2026, at the Bogue Town Hall, 121 Chimney Branch Road.

Mayor Robert O'Chat called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor O'Chat led a prayer.

Town Clerk Owens took roll call; all Council Members were present sans Councilmember Crose as he was excused.

Council Members present; Mayor O'Chat, JoAnn Parker, Albert Taylor, John Dale, and Allison Cannon. Also, present Attorney Donna Boggs and Town Clerk Barbara Owens. Mr. Reid Parker, of Carr, Riggs and Ingram, was in attendance to present the FY 2024-25 town audit. County Commissioner David Quinn was also in attendance.

Agenda

Mayor O'Chat said before the agenda is approved, he wants to add a resolution for a qualified source of ethics training offered by the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) required by North Carolina General Statute 160A-87.

Motion to approve amended agenda made by Councilmember Dale, seconded by Councilmember Parker, all in favor motion carried.

Minutes

Councilmember Taylor made a motion to approve December 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes Councilmember Dale seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor O'Chat stated that Commissioner David Quinn was here and if he would like to speak, he was welcome to do so. Commissioner Quinn introduced himself as the district one county commissioner. He advised a couple of updates that the county commissioners are working on for Western Carteret County. They passed a resolution last week to elicit the United States Postal Service to change the zip code that seems to be causing confusion with not only mail delivery, 911 dispatches for first responders assistance but also loss of tax revenue mainly due to online sales taxes going to Onslow County. The commissioners have been working with Representative Celeste Cairns and Senator Norman Sanderson, who have both been responsive to the request. The commissioners also requested that the USPS provide a new post office for Western Carteret County. He also mentioned the fact that groundbreaking on a new emergency clinic in Western Carteret County will be coming soon. This will help the residents of Western Carteret County and alleviate waiting times at Carteret General Hospital. Another item that is coming soon is the Carteret County owned boat ramp going in Ocean which will be open for everyone to be able to use. I have seen this county growing at such a rapid pace and I try to keep a steady hand and common sense when it comes to development and expansion. Thank you for having me, I will stay through the entire meeting if anyone has questions for me. Mayor O'Chat stated that he and Councilmember Dale are on the ILA Board for Western Carteret County Fire and EMS and we want to thank you for what you have done for this end of the County with Fire and EMS. The emergency

clinic is going to help Fire and EMS cut down transport times of injuries. We are proud of our Fire Department and appreciate what you have done to help this end of the County and also helping out the fire department in Stella with the work that they needed to have done. There is a lot of growth happening in and around Stella and they needed upgrades.

Unfinished Business

Mayor O'Chat stated there was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business

Mayor O'Chat stated the first item for new business is the presentation of the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 by Mr. Reid Parker of Carr, Riggs, and Ingram. Mr. Parker said he was glad to be here to conduct the audit presentation. (audit booklet included within minutes) The opinion that is offered regarding the audit is there is no opinion, which means a clean opinion with all financials. How do we get to that opinion? We are going to do detailed testing, we looked at details to see trends with deposits, expenditures, variance analysis; trend analysis with ad valorem taxes, sales taxes, etc. We looked at internal controls and we saw no internal control issues. Quick financial net position for year end is \$982,419.00. The fund balance on pages 13 and 14 showed an increase with a balance of \$660,072.00. The key metric the state will look at is at the bottom of page 13 the unassigned fund balance of \$603,000.00 which represents about 578% of the general fund expenditure, the town is in great shape with unassigned fund balance, to be able to meet needs as they occur. The Town of Bogue had no indicators of concern. Again, there are no concerns or financial indicators of concern. There has not been much change in the past two years. Mayor O'Chat stated that the town tries to keep money in reserve in the event of storms so we can get the town back up and running or take care of major repairs. Councilmember Taylor said we must have a nest egg for storms along the coast. Mr. Parker agreed and stated that the town needs to keep doing what they have been doing with fund balance. Mayor O'Chat stated the next item is approval from the council to purchase an updated computer system, the quote is in the packet. The current system is from 2016. Mayor O'Chat asked Clerk Owens when they could install the new system. Clerk Owens advised that at the time of the quote Connecting Point advised they were about three weeks out.

Councilmember Dale said he did not have a problem with the quote. Councilmember Taylor made a motion to approve the purchase, Councilmember Cannon seconded the motion, motion carried. Mayor O'Chat said that next is the resolution for the ethics training. He asked Clerk Owens if there were other ways to take the class. Clerk Owens stated that the North Carolina League of Municipalities offers the class online, however, the East Carolina Council just sent out the information for an in person class at their office in New Bern, which may end up being more of an in-depth class than online. To do so, the town needs to approve the resolution to take the class at ECC (East Carolina Council). Councilmember Cannon inquired about still being able to take the class online. Clerk Owens advised that you can still take it either way, online or in person. Attorney Boggs stated that Sumrell Sugg represents a lot of municipalities and that it may be better tailored to our specific municipalities as opposed to an online program. Mayor O'Chat called for a motion on the resolution. Councilmember Parker made the motion, Councilmember Dale seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mayor O'Chat said we will move on to department reports.

Department Reports

Finance: Mayor O'Chat stated total cash funds are \$671,651.00.

Budget: Clerk Owens stated that the sales tax has been received by the town through November, Property tax through December, vehicle tax through November and Utilities Franchise tax through the third quarter. Also, Powell Bill funds have been received in December.

Planner: Clerk Owens stated no permits.

ILA: Mayor O'Chat stated that he would like to remain on the ILA Board along with Councilmember Dale.

Streets: Mayor O'Chat stated he would like Councilmember Taylor and Councilmember Crose to be the representatives for streets.

Emergency Manager: None

Town Hall: Councilmember Dale no report.

Events: Mayor O'Chat stated that he would like Councilmember Cannon and Councilmember Parker to be the representatives for events.

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Adjournment

At 6:25 p.m. Council member Dale made a motion to adjourn. Council member Taylor seconded. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Chat stated the next Town Council meeting is February 16, 2026.

_____ ROBERT O'CHAT, MAYOR

_____ BARBARA OWENS, TOWN CLERK