

TOWN OF ELSMERE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2025
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Personti called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR	JOANN I. PERSONTI	PRESENT
1 ST DISTRICT	JANE MCDANIEL	PRESENT
2 ND DISTRICT	SALLY JENSEN	PRESENT
3 RD DISTRICT	VACANT	VACANT
4 TH DISTRICT	JOHN HOLLOWAY	PRESENT
5 TH DISTRICT	MARC HENRY	PRESENT
6 TH DISTRICT	ERIK ELLISON	PRESENT

Town Solicitor, James McMackin – Present
Chief of Police, Laura Giles – Present
Town Manager, Steven Martin – Present
Finance Director, Valarie Strzempa – Present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Steppi of 113 Locust thanked the Mayor and Council for having Ordinance 682 on the agenda since Elsmere has been hit hard with the NCC property tax reassessment. She stated that home affordability is scary these days being an older person. The Town of Elsmere is at an 18% poverty rate, and she is glad the Town's ordinance did not match the County and she is appreciative that this ordinance is quite generous. She continued by advocating that we should want people to stay in their homes long term and believes this ordinance sends a message that the Town is "pro resident". Ms. Steppi stated that with this recent tax reassessment, her taxes doubled, and she believes in sustainability for homeowners. For commercial properties taxes, some doubled, but alternatively, some decreased dramatically. Local businesses, many of which are the "mom and pop" shops increased but it seems the larger corporate-like in-town businesses had their taxes decreased. She wants to send a positive message that this ordinance is there to help residents and wants our residents to stay and live comfortably in the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

Consideration of Third and Final reading of Ordinance 682.
An Ordinance amending the Article III of Chapter 204 of the Code of The Town of Elsmere concerning Senior Citizens and Disabled Tax Exemption.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Jensen to approve the Third and Final reading of Ordinance 682 as it relates to Article III of Chapter 204 of the Code of the Town of Elsmere as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McDaniel.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Vacant All-in-Favor Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of First and Second reading of Ordinance 684.

An Ordinance establishing the procedure for the Special Municipal Election for the office of 3rd Council District.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilwoman Jensen to approve the First and Second reading of Ordinance 684 as it pertains to the 3rd District Special Election. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holloway.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Vacant All-in-Favor Motion Carried

Consideration of authorizing the Mayor and Secretary of Council to sign a tribute honoring Tax Clerk Jackie Moore (Ret.) on her service to the Town of Elsmere.

Mayor Personti stated that, for those who are unaware, Tax Clerk Jackie Moore has retired from the Town of Elsmere as of Friday, July 18, 2025. As a long-time employee, she requested a tribute being presented. Mayor Personti read the tribute on the record:

“HONORING MS. JACKIE MOORE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE TOWN OF ELSMERE

WHEREAS, Jackie Moore began her service with the Town of Elsmere on March 28, 2011, and has faithfully served the community for more than thirteen years as a dedicated and highly respected Tax Clerk; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as the Tax Clerk, Jackie performed her duties with exceptional professionalism and attention to detail, earning the respect and appreciation of both her colleagues and the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, Jackie's dedication and friendly demeanor made her more than just a colleague — she is a familiar face and a trusted point of contact for residents, many of whom came to know her on a first-name basis and looked forward to seeing her at Town Hall year after year; and

WHEREAS, Jackie has been a vital part of the Finance Department, always assisting with care and courtesy, while maintaining accurate records, and contributing to the efficient operation of the Town's Finance Department; and

WHEREAS, during her time with the Town, Jackie became known for her compassion, often going the extra mile to help individuals navigate difficult circumstances with respect, professionalism, and her

ability to explain complex tax matters in a way that residents could understand, thereby earning their trust and appreciation; and

***WHEREAS,** her deep roots in Elsmere extend well beyond her time in the Finance Office — as a former business owner in the Town, Jackie made a lasting impression on the community, and to this day, residents still fondly recall her earlier contributions to the community; and*

***WHEREAS,** her knowledge, reliability, and warm demeanor have made her an invaluable member of the Town staff, and her presence in Town Hall will be greatly missed; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Mayor and Council of the Town of Elsmere wish to express their sincere gratitude for her many years of dedicated service and her commitment to public service;*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Elsmere, on behalf of the entire community, that Jackie Moore be formally recognized and thanked for her outstanding service and lasting contributions to the Town;*

***FURTHERMORE,** that the Mayor and Council extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a long, happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement.*

***RECOGNIZED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Elsmere on this 18th day of July, 2025.”*

At this time, there was a round of applause for retired Tax Clerk Jackie Moore.

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Personti to approve the authorization to sign a tribute honoring Tax Clerk Jackie Moore on her service to the Town. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jensen.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Vacant All-in-Favor Motion Carried

STATEMENTS SUBMITTED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

Councilwoman Jensen asked if the Senior and Disabled Tax Exemption application will need to be amended and approved by the Mayor and Council now that Ordinance 682 has passed.

Town Manager Steven Martin replied no, that is internal and can be done by the staff.

Councilwoman Jensen then suggested that since the Code stated this ordinance needs to be reviewed every two years, a reminder should be set two years from now so that it is not overlooked again.

Councilman Holloway reported that the fencing that surrounds Maple Avenue Park is not effective, as he witnessed children leaping over it.

Mayor Personti thanked everyone for bearing with her during this time, as her uncle, long-time Elsmere resident and well-known WWII veteran, Raymond Firmani passed away. Mayor Personti then stated that the service will be next week. The viewing will be on Tuesday, July 29 at Krienen-Griffith from 6pm to 8pm. The funeral service will be Wednesday, July 31, 2025, from 11am to 1pm at Veterans Cemetery.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

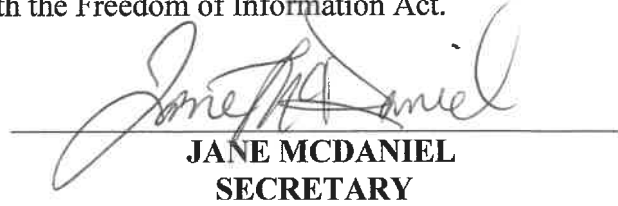
ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Henry to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McDaniel.

VOTE: 6-0 with 1 Vacant All-in-Favor Motion Carried

These minutes summarize the agenda and other issues discussed at this Council Meeting. Votes are recorded accurately. The audio recording of this meeting will be available at Town Hall for a period of two years from the date these minutes are approved. The audio recording may be reviewed at Town Hall by appointment and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.



JOANN I. PERSONTI
MAYOR



JANE MCDANIEL
SECRETARY