STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PETITION FOR

INCORPORATION

PROPOSED TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Alexander County, North Carolina

Submitted to the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee

2027 Legislative Session

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

INCORPORATION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE

Don Taylor
Petitioner / Incorporation Representative
Incorporation Committee

81
828-638-5406
Bethlehemzoningnc@gmail.com

October 19, 2026

Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee
North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, North Carolina

Re: Petition for Incorporation of the Proposed Town of Bethlehem

Members of the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Town of Bethlehem Incorporation Committee, I respectfully submit the enclosed petition and supporting materials concerning the proposed incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem in Alexander County, North Carolina, for consideration by the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee.

The enclosed binder is organized into tabs for ease of review. It includes the petition and Board of Elections materials, the Local Government Commission financial viability statement, the proposed charter, boundary map, municipal services plan and budget, financial plan, statutory and public notices, and additional supporting materials.

Please contact me if the Subcommittee or its staff requires clarification or additional information concerning this submission. I would appreciate confirmation of receipt of the petition and accompanying materials.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Taylor
Petitioner / Incorporation Representative
Town of Bethlehem Incorporation Committee

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

INCORPORATION PETITION

PACKET CONTENTS

TAB 1	Cover Letter
TAB 2	Board of Elections Certification and Petition
TAB 3	Local Government Commission Financial Viability Statement
TAB 4	Proposed Charter / Incorporation Bill
TAB 5	Proposed Town Boundary Map
TAB 6	Municipal Services Plan and Budget
TAB 7	Financial Plan and Fiscal Viability
TAB 8	Statutory and Public Notices
TAB 9	Additional Supporting Materials

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 1

COVER LETTER

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

TAB 1 — COVER LETTER

October 21, 2026

Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee
Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government
North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, North Carolina

Re: Petition for Incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem — Alexander County, North Carolina

Dear Members of the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee:

On behalf of the petitioners seeking incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem, we respectfully submit the enclosed incorporation materials for consideration by the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government.

The proposed Town of Bethlehem is located in Alexander County, North Carolina. The proposed boundaries are set forth in the verified incorporation petition and accompanying map.

The incorporation petition has been certified by the Alexander County Board of Elections, and the petitioners have obtained the Local Government Commission's statement regarding the proposed Town's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management, as required by North Carolina law.

The enclosed packet provides the Subcommittee with the petition, proposed municipal boundaries, proposed charter, financial and municipal-services information, required notices, and supporting materials concerning the proposed incorporation.

We respectfully request that the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee review the enclosed materials and consider the petition for incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem in accordance with Article 20 of Chapter 120 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted:

Don Taylor

Petitioner / Incorporation Representative
Town of Bethlehem Incorporation Committee

Taylorsville, NC 28681
828-638-5406
Bethlehemzoningnc@gmail.com

STATEMENT OF NEED FOR INCORPORATION

Proposed Town of Bethlehem
Alexander County, North Carolina

Purpose of the Proposal

The proposed incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem is intended to establish a local government capable of responding directly to the needs of a growing residential community. Bethlehem's development pattern, housing concentration, and anticipated future growth create priorities that differ in important ways from those of the more widely dispersed rural areas of Alexander County. Incorporation would give Bethlehem residents a dedicated governing body, a municipal budget, and a direct voice in determining how local services and community priorities are addressed.

The purpose of this proposal is not to diminish the efforts of Alexander County or to suggest that county government has failed its residents. Rather, it recognizes that a county must balance the needs of many communities across a broad geographic area, while Bethlehem's residents would benefit from a government focused specifically on their community.

A Community with Distinct Growth and Service Needs

Bethlehem has experienced substantial residential development and has been identified in county planning materials as an important area of growth. As neighborhoods expand and residential development becomes more concentrated, the demands associated with planning, zoning, public safety, fire protection, emergency response, street lighting, and coordination of community services become increasingly important.

The needs of a growing residential community may differ from those of rural areas where homes and development are more dispersed. Bethlehem residents may require more localized attention to development patterns, neighborhood impacts, infrastructure priorities, and the coordination of services in areas experiencing growth.

A countywide government must weigh these needs against competing priorities throughout Alexander County. Even when the County provides services effectively, its funding decisions, staffing, and service priorities may not always align with the timing or specific needs of Bethlehem's residents. A separate municipality would create a structure through which Bethlehem's residents could establish local priorities and hold their elected representatives accountable for municipal decisions.

Local Accountability and Planning for the Future

Incorporation would establish an elected Town Council responsible for municipal decisions affecting Bethlehem. It would provide a local forum in which residents could participate in decisions about development, service priorities, expenditures, and the community's long-term direction.

A municipal government could plan for existing needs while preparing for future residential growth. It could adopt and administer local planning and zoning policies, establish an annual budget, coordinate with existing service providers, and determine whether services should be delivered directly or through contracts, as appropriate and financially feasible.

The proposed Town would not need to duplicate every service already available through the County or other public agencies. Instead, it could identify the services for which local responsibility, coordination, or additional capacity is needed and use its available resources accordingly.

A Direct Voice in State and Regional Funding

Incorporation would also provide Bethlehem with a formal governmental identity through which it could represent its residents before State agencies, regional organizations, and other public entities. An incorporated municipality can pursue eligible grants and funding programs, sponsor projects where municipal sponsorship is required, and advocate for infrastructure and public-service investments that address its particular needs.

Not every funding program is available to every municipality, and incorporation would not guarantee that State funding would be awarded or reserved exclusively for Bethlehem. Nevertheless, a municipal government would provide a direct means of identifying eligible opportunities, preparing applications, establishing local project priorities, and representing Bethlehem's interests in funding and planning decisions.

This ability to speak directly for the community is an important part of local self-government. It would allow Bethlehem to present its own needs and proposed solutions rather than relying solely on countywide priorities to determine which projects receive attention.

A Responsible and Financially Planned Approach

The proposed Town's financial plan and annual budget are intended to establish a framework for providing municipal services within available resources. The plan identifies projected revenue sources, administrative and contracted-service costs, public-safety expenditures, planning and zoning, street lighting, contingency funding, and capital reserves.

The Local Government Commission's financial viability statement and recommendation, included in Tab 3, provide an independent component of the financial review. Tab 6 presents the proposed service plan and detailed annual budget, while Tab 7 explains the financial assumptions and broader fiscal considerations.

These materials are intended to demonstrate that incorporation is not simply a request for a new governmental designation. It is a proposal for a locally accountable government with identified responsibilities, a financial plan, and a framework for addressing current and future service needs.

Conclusion

The proposed Town of Bethlehem would give residents a government focused on their community's growth, service requirements, and long-term interests. It would provide a local mechanism for planning and budgeting, a direct line of accountability to residents, and a municipal voice in State and regional decisions.

The incorporation proposal seeks to complement existing county services while giving Bethlehem the ability to assume appropriate municipal responsibilities as its community develops. Its central objective is

to ensure that the needs of Bethlehem's current and future residents can be identified, prioritized, and addressed through a government specifically accountable to them.

The accompanying petition, proposed charter, boundary map, municipal services plan, budget, financial materials, and statutory notices provide the supporting documentation for the proposed incorporation.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 2

BOARD OF ELECTIONS CERTIFICATION AND PETITION

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

ALEXANDER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

PO BOX 326
TAYLORSVILLE, NC 28681

Phone: (828) 632-2990 • Fax: (828) 632-1381 • Email: elections@alexandercountync.gov

DONALD TAYLOR
526 TWINS COVE ROAD
TAYLORSVILLE, NC 28681

December 12, 2024

Dear DONALD TAYLOR,

This letter is to inform you of the status of petition BETHLEHEM MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION in ALEXANDER County.

Pursuant to North Carolina law, the entire petition and signatures submitted have been checked against the registration records of the ALEXANDER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS and that 1,076 names out of 1,250 signatures have been determined to be qualified. The Petition has been CERTIFIED on: 12/12/2024.

Attached is the list of names that have been certified.

Chairman/Director
ALEXANDER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

ALEXANDER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

PETITION BATCH SUMMARY REPORT

Petition Name	Filing Date	Batch Pages	Batch Number	Signer Status	Total
BETHLEHEM MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION	10/04/2024	31	1	APPROVED	385
				DUPLICATE SIGNATURE	1
				INCORRECT COUNTY	2
				NO RECORD	2
				NOT IN REQUIRED DISTRICT	50
				SIGNATURE REJECTED	4
				SIGNATURE WITHDRAWN	3
				Batch Total:	**447**
BETHLEHEM MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION	10/04/2024	31	2	APPROVED	363
				DUPLICATE SIGNATURE	4
				INCORRECT COUNTY	1
				NO RECORD	8
				NOT IN REQUIRED DISTRICT	36
				SIGNATURE WITHDRAWN	1
				Batch Total:	**413**
BETHLEHEM MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION	10/04/2024	28	3	APPROVED	316
				DUPLICATE SIGNATURE	5
				NO RECORD	17
				NOT IN REQUIRED DISTRICT	34
				SIGNATURE WITHDRAWN	3
				Batch Total:	**375**
BETHLEHEM MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION	10/04/2024	2	4	APPROVED	12
				NO RECORD	3

Petition Name	Filing Date	Batch Pages	Batch Number	Signer Status	Total
				Batch Total:	15
Petition Total Pages:		92		Petition Total:	1,250

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 3

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FINANCIAL VIABILITY STATEMENT

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER

BRADFORD B. BRINER
STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE DIVISION
AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

DENISE CANADA
DIVISION DIRECTOR

December 10, 2025

Robert T. Dube, Jr.
100 Washington Avenue South
Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Via Email: rdube@ecklandblando.com

Re: Statement Regarding Petition for Incorporation – Bethlehem

Dear Mr. Dube,

The Local Government Commission (Commission) has considered the petition for incorporation materials submitted to our office dated August 1, 2025 seeking the incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem. Enclosed is the *LGC Staff Recommendation Regarding the Community of Bethlehem's Petition for Incorporation*.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 120-163(c), the Commission considered "the proposed municipality's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management." At the Commission's December 2, 2025 meeting the Commission adopted the following statement:

> As directed by N.C.G.S. 120-163(c), the Local Government Commission reviewed the submission from the Bethlehem community ("the Community") to assess the proposed municipality's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management.
>
> Based on the information provided, the Community would likely be financially viable, primarily due to the strength of its projected property tax and sales tax revenues. The Community has also indicated a commitment to adopting fiscal policies and safeguards that are consistent with effective financial management.
>
> However, North Carolina continues to face a severe shortage of qualified local government finance staff — a situation affecting the majority of local governments statewide. Given this ongoing workforce challenge, the Commission cannot determine whether the proposed municipality would be able to carry out and sustain the financial management practices it has described.
>
> This statement is provided for inclusion in the Community's petition and should not be interpreted as a recommendation for or against incorporation.

3200 Atlantic Avenue • Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
Courier #56-20-45 • Telephone: (919) 814-4300 • Fax: (919) 855-5812
www.nctreasurer.gov

Commission staff are always here to support local governments and if the Community of Bethlehem is incorporated, we look forward to working with the new town.

Thank you and please contact me with any questions at Denise.Canada@nctreasurer.com or 919-814-4296.

Sincerely,

Denise Canada
Secretary, Local Government Commission;
Deputy Treasurer, State and Local Government Finance Division

Enclosure: *LGC Staff Recommendation Regarding the Community of Bethlehem's Petition for Incorporation.*

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER

BRADFORD B. BRINER
STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE DIVISION
AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

DENISE CANADA
DIVISION DIRECTOR

LGC Staff Recommendation Regarding the Community of Bethlehem's Petition for Incorporation
December 2, 2025

Overview

- In Alexander County, some registered voters ("the Community" or "Bethlehem") are seeking to incorporate the community of Bethlehem.
- When residents propose to create a new municipality, N.C.G.S. 120-163(c) directs the Local Government Commission (LGC) to issue a statement "regarding the proposed municipality's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management."
- This summary contains a recommended statement drafted by LGC staff and an explanation for that statement.

Statutory Context

N.C.G.S. 120-163(a) requires that residents who wish to create a new municipality file a petition with the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government. The petition "must be submitted to the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee at least 60 days prior to convening of the next regular session of the General Assembly in order for the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee to make a recommendation to that session" (N.C.G.S. 120-163(e)).

The petition must include "a statement from the Local Government Commission regarding the proposed municipality's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management" (N.C.G.S. 120-163(c)).

The LGC's Role

The LGC's role in municipal incorporation is limited to issuing the statement described above. It does not include determining whether incorporation is advisable.

3200 Atlantic Avenue • Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
Courier #56-20-45
Telephone: (919) 814-4300 • Fax: (919) 855-5812
www.NCTreasurer.com

Bethlehem

Residents of the community of Bethlehem ("the Community" or "Bethlehem") are seeking to incorporate their community and have requested a statement from the LGC per N.C.G.S. 120-163(c).

- **January 2025:** The Community contacted the LGC staff regarding potential incorporation.
- **February 2025:** The Community submitted its first incorporation proposal to the LGC staff.
- **March 2025:** The Community responded to LGC staff questions regarding the initial proposal; staff prepared a draft statement for the LGC's consideration at its April 2025 meeting. The draft statement read as follows:
  Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 120-163(c) and based on the information provided by the Community of Bethlehem, the Commission cannot find that the Community has sufficiently proven that it will employ effective fiscal management practices, and based on the information presented, cannot make a determination as to the Community's prospects for financial viability.
  On March 27, 2025, the Community formally withdrew its first proposal to allow time for revision and legal consultation.
- **August 2025:** The Community's legal counsel submitted a formal letter and revised proposal to the LGC.
- **December 2, 2025:** LGC staff will present this document to the Commission for consideration.

Proposed Statement

Based on a review of the information provided, LGC staff recommend that the Commission provide the following statement to the Community. **This statement does not constitute a recommendation for or against incorporation.**

> "As directed by N.C.G.S. 120-163(c), the Local Government Commission reviewed the submission from the Bethlehem community ("the Community") to assess the proposed municipality's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management.
>
> Based on the information provided, the Community would likely be financially viable, primarily due to the strength of its projected property tax and sales tax revenues. The Community has also indicated a commitment to adopting fiscal policies and safeguards that are consistent with effective financial management.
>
> However, North Carolina continues to face a severe shortage of qualified local government finance staff — a situation affecting the majority of local governments

statewide. Given this ongoing workforce challenge, the Commission cannot determine whether the proposed municipality would be able to carry out and sustain the financial management practices it has described.

This statement is provided for inclusion in the Community's petition and should not be interpreted as a recommendation for or against incorporation."

Basis for the Statement on "Effective Fiscal Management Practices"

Context: Statewide Capacity Constraints in Local Government Finance

The long-term viability of any proposed municipality hinges on its ability to implement and maintain sound fiscal management practices. At present, North Carolina faces a dire and growing shortage of qualified finance officers across its more than 1,100 existing local governments and public authorities. This shortage has created systemic vulnerabilities in local government operations, with many local units struggling to meet basic financial reporting requirements, maintain internal controls, and comply with state oversight standards.

The challenge is not isolated to any one region of North Carolina. Units across the state report difficulty recruiting and retaining experienced fiscal staff, often due to limited salary competitiveness, a shrinking pipeline of trained professionals, and the increasing complexity of local government finance. As a result, some towns have resorted to outsourcing critical financial functions or operating with unfilled positions, which can compromise transparency, accountability, and long-term financial stability. Moreover, it is a violation of N.C.G.S. 159-24 for a local unit to outsource the official role of Finance Officer.

In this context, the creation of any new municipality raises serious concerns about that unit's ability to implement and maintain sound fiscal practices.

Bethlehem's Proposed Framework for Fiscal Management

Bethlehem has demonstrated a clear understanding of the types of financial policies and practices necessary for effective fiscal management. The Community's revised proposal includes:

- A revised budget ordinance with appropriations clearly broken down by department and function.
- A contingency fund capped at 5% of the total budget, with excess funds redirected to a capital reserve fund in compliance with N.C.G.S. 159-18.
- A commitment to adopt:

  - A comprehensive internal control and governance policy, including a code of conduct and oversight responsibilities.
  - Internal control practices such as segregation of duties, approval workflows, and fraud detection protocols.
  - A clearly defined organizational structure with delegated authority and role clarity for financial staff.
- A commitment to hiring qualified personnel and supporting ongoing training and succession planning.
- An audit committee charter with defined authority, responsibilities, and membership criteria.
- A requirement for quarterly audit committee meetings and annual reporting to the Town Council.
- A first-year compliance checklist aligned with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (N.C.G.S. Chapter 159, Article 3).

Taken together, Bethlehem presents a thoughtful and well-organized framework. Yet even the strongest internal policies rely on the availability of qualified personnel to carry them out. Until the underlying and widespread workforce and capacity issues are addressed, the prospects for effective fiscal management in any new municipality remain of significant concern to the Commission.

Basis for Statement on "Financial Viability"

It is reasonable to believe that the proposed municipality could remain financially viable if it were to manage its finances in a responsible manner.

In North Carolina, local governments receive the overwhelming majority of their revenue from two revenue sources: the property tax and sales and use taxes. The proposed Town could reasonably expect to generate at least $2.4 million annually from these two sources; in addition, other smaller revenue sources would add to this total.

The Property Tax

Under N.C.G.S. 160A-209, a city is authorized — but not required — to levy a property tax of up to a combined rate of one dollar and fifty cents ($1.50) on the one hundred dollars' ($100) appraised value of property subject to taxation. The Community proposes to levy an ad valorem property tax of $0.05 (i.e., 5 cents) for every $100 of valuation.

Bethlehem's proposal estimates its assessed valuation at $1.1 billion, based on data that

Bethlehem indicated was provided by Alexander County. LGC staff note that this is approximately 26.6% of Alexander County's FY 2024-25 total valuation of $4.13 billion, as self-reported by Alexander County to the North Carolina Department of Revenue (DOR) and reported by DOR on its LG01 report.

This property tax could generate approximately $534,000 based on:

- The reported assessed valuation of $1.1 billion
- The planned $0.05 property tax rate, and
- Alexander County's 97.06% property tax collection rate (FY 2023-24 rate, most recent rate readily available).

To note, this estimate does not reflect any property that is exempt from taxation, which would lower the Town's total property tax revenue by an unknown amount.

Sales and Use Taxes

Under N.C.G.S. 105, Articles 39-46, county governments may levy multiple cumulative sales taxes with voter approval. The county's net sales tax distribution under Articles 39-42 is shared between the county and its municipalities using one of two methods authorized under N.C.G.S. 105-472. As an incorporated municipality, Bethlehem would receive a monthly sales tax distribution from the North Carolina Department of Revenue, representing a portion of the sales tax revenue currently distributed to Alexander County and Taylorsville.

LGC staff estimate that if incorporated, Bethlehem could expect to receive approximately $1.9 million in annual sales tax distributions, based on the following assumptions:

- In FY 2024-25, the most recent full year of data available, the Department of Revenue distributed $11,028,594.26 in revenue from Articles 39, 40, and 42 to Alexander County and Taylorsville.
- Alexander County allocates sales tax revenue on a per capita basis between the County and its existing municipality, Taylorsville.
- In calculating the current sales tax distributions, the Department of Revenue uses 2025 population data for Alexander County (35,958) and Taylorsville (2,361) that is provided by the Office of the State Demographer in the Office of State Budget and Management.
- The Community estimated that its population if incorporated would be 7,800.
- Had Bethlehem been incorporated for the entire FY 2024-25, it would have received 16.9% of the $11.0 million distributed to the County and its existing town, i.e., 7,800 / (35,958 + 2,361 + 7,800).

Important Considerations

The statements in this document should be taken in the context of the following considerations:

- The LGC's statement on the proposed municipality's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management does not constitute a recommendation for or against incorporation.
- The Commission's role is limited to providing a statement regarding the proposed municipality's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management; it is not to approve the proposed municipality's budget nor to recommend or approve its incorporation.
- The Commission has no role in determining whether any of the other requirements for the petition have been met or in determining whether the requirements for municipal incorporation have been met; these findings are the purview of the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 4

PROPOSED CHARTER INCORPORATION BILL

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2027

H 1

HOUSE BILL xx

Short Title:	Incorporate Town of Bethlehem.	(Local)
Sponsors:	Senator Settle (Primary Sponsor). Representative Blair Eddins For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.	
Referred to:	Government.	

Date TBD

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. A Charter for the Town of Bethlehem is enacted to read:

"CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM.

"ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION AND CORPORATE POWERS.

"Section 1.1. **Incorporation and Corporate Powers.** The inhabitants of the Town of Bethlehem are a body corporate and politic under the name 'Town of Bethlehem.' The Town of Bethlehem has all the powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities conferred and imposed on cities by the general laws of North Carolina.

"ARTICLE II. CORPORATE BOUNDARIES.

"Section 2.1. **Town Boundaries.** Until modified in accordance with law, the boundaries of the Town of Bethlehem are as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, and the common boundary line between Caldwell County and Alexander County, thence in a generally Eastern direction with Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, to its intersection with NC Highway 127, thence in a Northerly direction with NC Highway 127 to its intersection with Blankenship Road, SR 1152, thence in a general Southeastern direction with Blankenship Road, SR 1152, to its intersection with Teague Town Road, SR 1150, thence in a generally Easterly direction with Teague Town Road, SR 1150, to its intersection with Bowman's Cutover Road, SR 1151, thence in a generally Southern direction with Bowman's Cutover Road, SR 1151, to its intersection with Rink Dam Road, SR 1137, thence with Rink Dam Road, SR 1137, in a generally Southern direction to its intersection with B & T Lane, SR 1191, to its intersection with Emerald Point Drive, thence with Emerald Point Drive to the shoreline in a Western direction to Rink Dam Bridge to the intersection of the center of Middle Little River, thence in a Southerly direction with Middle Little River to its intersection with the Catawba River/Lake Hickory, thence with Catawba River/Lake Hickory in a Westerly direction to the common boundary line between Alexander and Caldwell County, thence with the common boundary line between Alexander and Caldwell County to the intersection of Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, the point and place of beginning."

"ARTICLE III. GOVERNING BODY.

"Section 3.1. **Structure of Governing Body; Number of Members.** The Town of Bethlehem shall have the Council-Manager form of government and the administration thereof shall be provided in Part 2, Article 7 of Chapter 160A-146,147 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Council shall

consist of three (3) members, not including the town Manager.

"Section 3.2. **Temporary Officers.** Until the organizational meeting after the initial election in 2028 provided for by Section 4.2 of this Charter, Donald Taylor, Kelly Suddreth, and Jean Taylor are appointed council members of the Town of Bethlehem, and they shall possess and exercise the powers granted to the governing body until their successors are elected or appointed and qualified pursuant to this Charter. The temporary officers are authorized to appoint a Town Manager and such other officers and employees as may be necessary to organize and operate the Town, subject to funds legally available for those purposes. If any person named in this section is unable to serve, the remaining temporary officers shall, by majority vote, appoint a person to serve until the initial election is held in 2028.

"Section 3.3. **Manner of Electing Town Council; Term of Office.** The municipal election shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November and every two years thereafter. Of the three Council positions to be filled in the November election following incorporation, the single candidate receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be elected to a term of four years, and the two candidates receiving the two next highest numbers of votes shall be elected to terms of two years. At each subsequent election thereafter, to be held every two years, the number of Council positions to be filled at such election shall be filled for terms of four years.

"Section 3.4. **Compensation Town Council.** The Town Council shall be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary expenses and may receive salary and honoraria only upon a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Town who vote on the question in a special referendum.

"ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS.

"Section 4.1. **Conduct of Town Elections.** The municipal elections shall be nonpartisan and decided by a simple plurality, and shall be held and conducted by the county board of elections in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.

"Section 4.2. **Date of Election.** Elections shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, with the first regular municipal election to be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November in 2028 and every two years thereafter.

"Section 4.3. **Special Elections and Referenda.** Special elections and referenda may be held only as provided by general law or applicable local acts of the General Assembly.

"ARTICLE V. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

"Section 5.1. **Form of Government.** The Town of Bethlehem shall have the Council-Manager form of government and the administration thereof shall be provided in Part 2, Article 7 of Chapter 160A-146,147 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

"Section 5.2. **Town Attorney.** The Town Council shall appoint a Town Attorney licensed t practice law in North Carolina. It shall be the duty of the Town Attorney to represent the Town, advise Town officials, and perform other duties as required by law or as directed by the Town Council. The Town Attorney shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council. Town Attorney may be, but is not required to be, authorized to accept service on behalf of the Town. In the event of litigation against the Town, the Town may, but is not required to, utilize the services of legal professionals besides the Town Attorney, including attorneys not barred in North Carolina so long as said attorneys have retained the services of appropriately-barred local counsel.

"Section 5.3. **Town Clerk.** The Town Council shall appoint a Town Clerk who shall perform duties as required by law or as directed by the Town Council. The Town Clerk shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council and duties may be combined with Town Finance.

"Section 5.4. **Town Finance.** The Town Council shall appoint a Town Finance Officer who shall perform duties required by law or as directed by the Town Council. The Town Finance Officer shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council.

"ARTICLE VI. TAXES AND BUDGET ORDINANCE.

"Section 6.1. **Powers of the Town Council.** The Town Council may levy those taxes and fees

authorized by general law. An affirmative unanimous vote of all the members of the Town Council shall be required to change the ad valorem tax rate from the rate established during the prior fiscal year.

"Section 6.2. **Commencement of Tax Collection.** From and after July 1, 2027, the citizens and property in the Town of Bethlehem shall be subject to municipal taxes levied for the year beginning July 1, 2027, and for that purpose the Town shall obtain from Alexander County a record of property in the area herein incorporated which was listed for property taxes as of January 1, 2027.

"Section 6.3. **Budget.** The Town may adopt a budget ordinance for fiscal year 2027-2028 without following the timetable in the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, but shall follow the sequence of actions in the spirit of the act insofar as is practical. For fiscal year 2027-2028, ad valorem taxes may be paid at par or face amount within ninety (90) calendar days of adoption of the budget ordinance and thereafter in accordance with the schedule in G.S. 105-360 as if the taxes had been due and payable on September 1, 2027. If the effective date of the incorporation is prior to July 1, 2027, the Town may adopt a budget ordinance for fiscal year 2026-2027 without following the timetable in the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, but shall follow the sequence of actions in the spirit of the act insofar as practical. No ad valorem taxes may be levied for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

"Section 6.4. **Ad Valorem Taxes.** Notwithstanding Section 6.1 of this Charter, the Town Council shall not approve an ad valorem tax rate greater than seven and one-half cents (7 1/2¢) per one hundred dollars ($100.00) valuation unless the tax rate is approved by an affirmative vote of a simple plurality by the qualified voters of the Town of Bethlehem. The procedures of G.S. 160A-209 shall be followed for any such election.

"ARTICLE VII. ORDINANCES.

"Section 7.1. **Ordinances.** Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the Town of Bethlehem is authorized to adopt such ordinances as the Town Council deems necessary for the governance of the Town.

"Section 7.2. **Resolutions.** Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the Town of Bethlehem is authorized to adopt such resolutions as the Town Council deems necessary for the governance of the Town.

"ARTICLE VIII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

"Section 8.1. **Extraterritorial Jurisdiction.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Town of Bethlehem shall not exercise any powers of extraterritorial jurisdiction as provided in Article 19 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.

"Section 8.2. **Public Access to Lake Hickory.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Town of Bethlehem shall not adopt any ordinances, resolutions, charter provisions, or rules that restrict public access to Lake Hickory.

"Section 8.3. **Greenways; Other Public Areas.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Town of Bethlehem shall not adopt any ordinances, resolutions, charter provisions, or rules that restrict, repeal, or interfere in any way with the terms of any agreements between Alexander County and the federal government or any other entity that are (i) related to greenways, bicycle or walking trails, and parking areas and (ii) in existence as of July 1, 2027.

"Section 8.4. **Eminent Domain.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Town of Bethlehem may exercise the power of eminent domain as provided in Chapter 40A of the General Statutes only for the public use or benefit. The Town shall not take private property for the purpose of thereafter conveying an interest in the property to a third party for economic development."

SECTION 2. This Act is effective when it becomes law.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 5

PROPOSED TOWN BOUNDARY MAP

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

Incorporated Town of Bethlehem

Town proposes to provide: Planning and Zoning, Police, Fire and Rescue, and street lighting and potentially Solid Waste Collection and Disposal. **The Town will Focus on preserving our community character.**

Annual Budget $550,000 per year based on $0.05/100 tax

Statistics:	Population	7846 based on 2020 census
	Registered Voters	6612 (ACBOE)
	Geographic Area	23.12 sq mi (google maps)
	Population density	341 people per square mile
	Assed value	$1.1 Billion (AC Tax department
	Degree of Development	Urban Residential (Medium Density)

Area to include Bethlehem voting districts 1 & 2 (see GIS map below)

Google Maps



Alexander County GIS



Additional information will be made available on
@bethlehemzoning and WWW.incorporatebethlehem.com

5.2 — WRITTEN BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, and the common boundary line between Caldwell County and Alexander County, thence in a generally Eastern direction with Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, to its intersection with NC Highway 127, thence in a Northerly direction with NC Highway 127 to its intersection with Blankenship Road, SR 1152, thence in a general Southeastern direction with Blankenship Road, SR 1152, to its intersection with Teague Town Road, SR 1150, thence in a generally Easterly direction with Teague Town Road, SR 1150, to its intersection with Bowman's Cutover Road, SR 1151, thence in a generally Southern direction with Bowman's Cutover Road, SR 1151, to its intersection with Rink Dam Road, SR 1137, thence with Rink Dam Road, SR 1137, in a generally Southern direction to its intersection with B & T Lane, SR 1191, to its intersection with Emerald Point Drive, thence with Emerald Point Drive to the shoreline in a Western direction to Rink Dam Bridge to the intersection of the center of Middle Little River, thence in a Southerly direction with Middle Little River to its intersection with the Catawba River/Lake Hickory, thence with Catawba River/Lake Hickory in a Westerly direction to the common boundary line between Alexander and Caldwell County, thence with the common boundary line between Alexander and Caldwell County to the intersection of Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, the point and place of beginning.

Source: Proposed Bethlehem Incorporation Bill — draft (3), Article II, Section 2.1.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 6

MUNICIPAL SERVICES PLAN AND BUDGET

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

TAB 6

PROPOSED MUNICIPAL SERVICES PLAN AND ANNUAL BUDGET

Proposed Town of Bethlehem — Alexander County, North Carolina

6.1 — Purpose and Basis of the Municipal Services Plan

This tab presents the proposed Town of Bethlehem's municipal services plan and full annual operating budget used in the financial planning materials for the Local Government Commission review.

The budget projects total annual revenue of $3,032,500 and total annual expenditures of $3,032,500. It replaces the earlier $550,000 high-level budget summary, which represented an initial ad valorem tax-based planning figure and did not reflect the full range of revenue sources and municipal expenditures identified in the financial plan.

The proposed services and expenditures are intended to provide a financial framework for establishing municipal operations, addressing identified community needs, and planning for future residential growth. The proposed budget includes administrative functions, planning and zoning, public safety, fire and emergency medical services, street lighting, contracted services, contingency funding, and capital reserves.

The official Local Government Commission financial viability statement and staff recommendation are included in Tab 3. The supporting financial plan is presented in Tab 7.

6.2 — Community Needs and Rationale for Local Services

The proposed Town of Bethlehem encompasses a growing residential area with planning, infrastructure, public safety, and community-service needs that warrant consideration in light of its development patterns and anticipated growth.

Based on preliminary population and land-area estimates, Bethlehem has approximately **341 people per square mile**, compared with roughly **112 people per square mile** in the remainder of Alexander County after excluding Taylorsville and the proposed Bethlehem area. This indicates that Bethlehem is approximately **three times as densely populated** as the remaining County area.

The petitioners' broader rationale for incorporation, including the community's growth, the need for locally focused planning and services, and the benefits of municipal representation, is set forth in the separate **Statement of Need for Incorporation** included in the legislative submission materials.

This Municipal Services Plan and accompanying budget identify the proposed services, staffing, contracted functions, revenue sources, and financial allocations intended to support the Town's responsibilities.

6.3 — Municipal Services

In accordance with G.S. § 120-163(c), the proposed Town identifies the following municipal services for provision no later than the first day of the third fiscal year following the effective date of incorporation:

- Planning and zoning
- Police protection
- Fire protection and rescue services
- Street lighting

These services are intended to address development management, public safety, emergency response, and neighborhood needs within the proposed corporate limits. Solid-waste collection or disposal is identified as a potential additional service, subject to further evaluation of need, delivery options, and financial feasibility.

The verified petition includes the required commitment to provide four qualifying municipal services within the statutory timeframe. The proposed service-delivery arrangements, including whether particular services will be provided directly or through contracts, must be implemented consistently with the final adopted budget and applicable law.

6.4 — Annual Revenue Budget

Revenue source	Annual amount
Ad valorem taxes (property tax)	$522,500
Article distributions	$2,015,000
Beer and wine	$26,250
Solid waste and disposal	$4,500
Natural gas	$6,750
Electricity	$337,500
Telecommunications	$60,000
Video programming	$60,000
Total projected revenue	**$3,032,500**

The revenue projections reflect the annual budget worksheet used in the financial planning materials for the Local Government Commission review. Actual receipts will depend on applicable revenue distributions, collection results, and the Town's fiscal operations after incorporation.

6.5 — Annual Expenditure Budget

Expenditure	Annual amount
Administration — salaries and related expenses	$350,000
Professional services	$200,000
Office expenses	$20,000
Furnishings and equipment	$10,000
Parks and recreation	$100,000
Snow and ice removal	$10,000
Tax collection	$50,000
Election services	$50,000
Other operating expenses	$15,000
Planning and zoning	$140,000
Police	$400,000
Fire and EMS	$600,000
Street lighting	$120,000
Insurance	$80,000
Contingency	$151,625
Capital reserve	$735,875
Total planned expenditures	**$3,032,500**

6.6 — Staffing and Contracted-Service Assumptions

The financial plan identifies three principal municipal positions:

- Town Clerk: $60,000 salary, plus fringe benefits
- Finance Officer: $100,000 salary, plus fringe benefits
- Town Manager: $120,000 salary, plus fringe benefits

The worksheet provides a total annual allocation of $350,000 for salaries and related expenses.

The plan also identifies the following contracted or service-related costs:

Service	Annual amount
Tax collection	$50,000
Election support	$50,000
Inspections	$50,000
Zoning	$90,000
Total identified contracted/service costs	**$240,000**

These figures represent planning assumptions. Final staffing arrangements, contracts, and service-delivery methods will be subject to the Town's adopted budget, procurement requirements, and implementation decisions.

6.7 — Budget Balance, Contingency, and Capital Reserve

The proposed annual budget is balanced, with projected revenue of $3,032,500 matching planned expenditures of $3,032,500.

The expenditure plan includes $151,625 for contingency and $735,875 for capital reserve, for combined budget allocations of $887,500.

The contingency allocation is intended to provide flexibility for unanticipated operating costs, changes in service costs, and other unforeseen budget needs. The capital reserve allocation is intended to support future capital requirements and provide flexibility as the Town establishes operations and responds to its evolving infrastructure and service needs.

These allocations demonstrate that the financial plan does not commit all projected revenue to immediate operating activities. They provide a mechanism for addressing unexpected costs and planning for future needs. They should not, however, be interpreted as guaranteed surplus cash or as funds that can be spent without budgetary authorization. Actual reserve availability will depend on revenues received, expenditures incurred, and the Town's adopted budget and reserve policies.

The proposed budget is a planning document. Actual fiscal performance will depend on the accuracy of revenue estimates, final service arrangements, operating costs, and the Town's financial management after incorporation.

6.8 — Additional Statutory Statements

The incorporation materials address the additional statutory criteria applicable to the proposed Town. The statements below should be read together with the verified petition, boundary map, supporting demographic and development information, and proposed charter.

Proximity to Other Municipalities — G.S. § 120-166

The petitioners have reviewed the proximity requirements applicable to proposed municipal incorporations under G.S. § 120-166.

The City of Hickory, located in Catawba County, is the nearby incorporated municipality identified in the petitioners' review. The proposed Town of Bethlehem is located in Alexander County. The Catawba River, a "major river" under N.C.G.S. § 120-166(b)(1), and Lake Hickory—an "other natural barrier" under N.C.G.S. § 120-166(b)(2), separate the two communities.

The 2020 federal census reported a population of 43,490 for the City of Hickory. Under G.S. § 120-166(a), a proposed municipality located within four miles of a municipality with a population of 25,000 to 49,999 is subject to the statute's proximity restriction.

A preliminary measurement using Google Maps indicated a distance of approximately 0.15 miles between the selected points across the Lake Hickory area. This measurement is preliminary and should not be treated as a certified measurement of the shortest distance between the actual corporate boundaries of the proposed Town of Bethlehem and the City of Hickory.

The petitioners recognize that the applicability of G.S. § 120-166(a) depends on the actual distance between the municipal boundaries and, if the statutory distance applies, whether an exception under subsection (b) is applicable.

The Catawba River and Lake Hickory trigger the natural-barrier exception in G.S. § 120-166(b)(2). They make it infeasible and cost prohibitive to provide the numerous municipal services that the Town of Bethlehem is proposing to provide. This is especially true for Fire protection and rescue services and Police service, which the City of Hickory does not provide to Bethlehem. Those services must be able to provide immediate aid and assistance to the residents, which is currently not feasible because they must, at a minimum, cross the 127 bridge before even reaching Bethlehem if they are coming from the City of Hickory. Further, the City of Hickory is in another county and thus could not offer zoning over the Town of Bethlehem even if it wanted to. As for street lighting, it is patently infeasible for the City of Hickory to provide electricity for the Town of Bethlehem across the Catawba River and Lake Hickory given the distance and infrastructure development requirements for the same.

The petitioners previously notified the City of Hickory of the proposed incorporation. In correspondence dated December 7, 2024, Mayor Hank L. Guess stated that the City of Hickory did not intend to take a position or any action regarding the proposed incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem. This correspondence documents the City's stated position at that time. It is not represented as a formal resolution expressly approving incorporation under G.S. § 120-166(b)(3). Petitioners have reached out again to the City of Hickory to identify if there has been any change in position but has not heard back as of the time of this application.

The petitioners submit this information for the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee's consideration in reviewing the proposed incorporation under G.S. § 120-166 and determining the applicability of any statutory exception.

Population and Density — G.S. § 120-167

North Carolina law requires a proposed municipality to have a permanent population of at least 100 and a population density, either permanent or seasonal, of at least 250 persons per square mile. The incorporation materials include population and land-area estimates for the proposed Town of Bethlehem. These figures should be supported by demographic information and calculations using the proposed municipal boundaries.

Degree of Development — G.S. § 120-168

North Carolina law requires at least 40% of the proposed municipal area to be developed for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, or governmental uses, or to qualify as dedicated open space under the statute. The supporting materials should document the proportion of the proposed area that satisfies this requirement.

Contiguous Boundaries — G.S. § 120-163(c)

The proposed Town's boundary is presented in Tab 5. The incorporation materials state that the proposed municipality does not contain noncontiguous areas.

Relationship to Existing Municipal and County Boundaries — G.S. § 120-169

The proposed Town of Bethlehem boundary is depicted in Tab 5. The incorporation materials state that the proposed area is not within another incorporated municipality or a county that has exercised its authority under Article 24 of Chapter 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Interim Governing Board

The three persons designated to serve on the interim governing board are:

- Don Taylor
- Jean Taylor
- Kelly Suddreth

6.9 — Source and Supporting Documentation

Source: Bethlehem annual budget worksheet used in the financial planning materials for the Local Government Commission review.

The official Local Government Commission financial viability statement and staff recommendation are included in Tab 3. The supporting financial plan is included in Tab 7. The proposed boundary map is included in Tab 5.

The budget and service plan should be considered together with the verified petition, proposed charter, statutory notices, and other incorporation materials submitted for review.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 7

FINANCIAL PLAN AND FISCAL VIABILITY

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

TAB 7

FINANCIAL PLAN AND FISCAL VIABILITY

Town of Bethlehem — Alexander County, North Carolina

This tab summarizes the financial case for incorporation using the full annual budget and the Local Government Commission's financial viability review. The detailed budget is presented in Tab 6; the official LGC statement is presented in Tab 3.

7.1 — Full Annual Budget

The current financial plan projects $3,032,500 in annual revenue and $3,032,500 in annual expenditures. The budget therefore balances without relying on an operating deficit or an unidentified funding source.

7.2 — Revenue Structure

The budget is broader than the earlier $550,000 planning figure because it includes projected Article distributions and other state-shared tax revenues in addition to property-tax revenue. The worksheet projects $522,500 in property-tax revenue and $2,510,000 from Article distributions and the listed state-shared tax sources.

7.3 — Major Expenditure Commitments

The largest planned expenditures are Fire & EMS at $600,000, capital reserve at $735,875, Police at $400,000, administration salaries and related expenses at $350,000, and professional services at $200,000. Planning and zoning is budgeted at $140,000 and street lighting at $120,000.

7.4 — LGC Financial Viability Finding

The Local Government Commission concluded that the proposed Town would likely be financially viable. Its review considered projected property-tax and sales-and-use-tax revenues and also discussed the Town's proposed fiscal-management practices and the statewide shortage of qualified finance staff.

7.5 — Relationship to the LGC Review

The full budget in Tab 6 should be read together with the LGC statement in Tab 3. The $550,000 figure previously shown in the packet was only the property-tax-based planning figure from the incorporation materials; it should not be presented as the Town's complete annual operating budget.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 8

STATUTORY AND PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION
2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Alexander County, North Carolina

8.1 — STATUTORY NOTICE LETTERS

The following are the notice letters prepared for the Alexander County Board of Commissioners and the municipalities identified for notice under G.S. 120-164.

I1

USPS CERTIFIED MAIL

9214 8901 4298 0403 6721 33

0015012947000011
Alexander County Board of Commissioners
621 Liledoun Road
taylorsville, NC 28681

See Important Information Enclosed

October 05, 2026

Alexander County Board of Commissioners
621 Liledoun Road
Taylorsville, NC 28681

Re: Notice of Intent to Present Petition for Incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

Pursuant to G.S. 120-164, this letter provides formal notice that the petitioners seeking incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem intend to present the verified petition for incorporation to the **Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee** of the North Carolina General Assembly.

The proposed Town of Bethlehem is located in Alexander County and consists of the area described in the verified incorporation petition and accompanying map.

The incorporation petition has been verified by the Alexander County Board of Elections. The petitioners have also obtained the Local Government Commission's statement regarding the proposed Town's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management.

The petitioners are proceeding with the incorporation process and intend to submit the verified petition and accompanying incorporation materials to the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee for consideration in accordance with Article 20 of Chapter 120 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

This letter is provided as the statutory notice required by **G.S. 120-164(a)(1)**.

Please retain this notice as part of your official records. A copy of the incorporation materials can be provided upon request.

Respectfully,

Don Taylor
Petitioner / Incorporation Representative
Town of Bethlehem Incorporation Committee

Taylorsville, NC 28681
Bethlehemzoningnc@gmail.com

I1

USPS CERTIFIED MAIL

9214 8901 4298 0403 6731 30

0015012985000011
Town Council
Town of Taylorsville
67 Main Avenue Drive
taylorsville, NC 28681

See Important Information Enclosed

October 05, 2026

Town Council
Town of Taylorsville
67 Main Avenue Drive
Taylorsville, NC 28681

Re: Notice of Intent to Present Petition for Incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council:

Pursuant to G.S. 120-164, this letter provides formal notice that the petitioners seeking incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem intend to present the verified petition for incorporation to the **Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee** of the North Carolina General Assembly.

The proposed Town of Bethlehem is located in Alexander County and consists of the area described in the verified incorporation petition and accompanying map.

The incorporation petition has been verified by the Alexander County Board of Elections. The petitioners have also obtained the Local Government Commission's statement regarding the proposed Town's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management.

The petitioners are proceeding with the incorporation process and intend to submit the verified petition and accompanying incorporation materials to the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee for consideration in accordance with Article 20 of Chapter 120 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

This letter is provided as the statutory notice required by **G.S. 120-164(a)(2)**.

Please retain this notice as part of your official records. A copy of the incorporation materials can be provided upon request.

Respectfully,

Don Taylor
Petitioner / Incorporation Representative
Town of Bethlehem Incorporation Committee

Taylorsville, NC 28681
Bethlehemzoningnc@gmail.com

I1

USPS CERTIFIED MAIL

9214 8901 4298 0403 6731 54

00150129730000011
City Council
City of Hickory
76 North Center Street
Hickory, NC 28601

See Important Information Enclosed

October 05, 2026

City Council
City of Hickory
76 North Center Street
Hickory, NC 28601

Re: Notice of Intent to Present Petition for Incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council:

Pursuant to G.S. 120-164, this letter provides formal notice that the petitioners seeking incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem intend to present the verified petition for incorporation to the **Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee** of the North Carolina General Assembly.

The proposed Town of Bethlehem is located in Alexander County and consists of the area described in the verified incorporation petition and accompanying map.

The incorporation petition has been verified by the Alexander County Board of Elections. The petitioners have also obtained the Local Government Commission's statement regarding the proposed Town's prospects for financial viability and effective fiscal management.

The petitioners are proceeding with the incorporation process and intend to submit the verified petition and accompanying incorporation materials to the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee for consideration in accordance with Article 20 of Chapter 120 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

This letter is provided as the statutory notice required by **G.S. 120-164(a)(3)**.

Please retain this notice as part of your official records. A copy of the incorporation materials can be provided upon request.

Respectfully,

Don Taylor
Petitioner / Incorporation Representative
Town of Bethlehem Incorporation Committee

Taylorsville, NC 28681
Bethlehemzoningnc@gmail.com

8.2 — NEWSPAPER LEGAL NOTICE

The following is the legal notices for publication concerning the intent to present the verified petition for incorporation were published in the Taylorsville Times legal section on October 7th and October 14th.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PRESENT PETITION FOR INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Notice is hereby given that the petitioners seeking incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem, located in Alexander County, North Carolina, intend to present the verified petition for incorporation to the **Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee** of the North Carolina General Assembly.

The petition has been verified by the Alexander County Board of Elections, and the petitioners have obtained the required Local Government Commission statement regarding financial viability and effective fiscal management.

This notice is published pursuant to G.S. 120-164(b).

Town of Bethlehem Incorporation Committee

Publisher's Certificate

North Carolina
Alexander County:

I, Walter Lee Sharpe, Publisher of *The Taylorsville Times*, a weekly newspaper published at Taylorsville, Alexander County, North Carolina, being duly sworn says, that the attached notice was duly published in said paper for 2 weeks, beginning with the issue dated the 7 day of October 2026.

Signed Walter Lee Sharpe, Publisher
Date October 16 2026.
Fee's 94.50 PAID

Subscribed and sworn before me this 16th day of October 2026.

Alina L Hajer

My Commission Expires May 16, 2029

ALINA L HAJER NOTARY PUBLIC ALEXANDER COUNTY, NC

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PRESENT PETITION FOR INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Notice is hereby given that the petitioners seeking incorporation of the Town of Bethlehem, located in Alexander County, North Carolina, intend to present the verified petition for incorporation to the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee of the North Carolina General Assembly.

The petition has been verified by the Alexander County Board of Elections, and the petitioners have obtained the required Local Government Commission statement regarding financial viability and effective fiscal management. This notice is published pursuant to G.S. 120-164.05.

Town of Bethlehem
Incorporation Committee

Publish one time: October 7, 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TAB 9

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Proposed Town of Bethlehem
Alexander County, North Carolina

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM INCORPORATION COMMITTEE

Submitted to the Municipal Incorporations Subcommittee
2027 Legislative Session | Alexander County, North Carolina

PETITION FOR MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION (NCGS § 120-163)

The undersigned registered voters of Alexander County, NC, petition for the creation of a municipal incorporation of a town called Bethlehem, on which Donald Taylor, Kelly Suddreth, and Marie Taylor shall serve as interim governing board. Attached to this petition are a map of the city, the proposed charter; a list of proposed services to be provided by the city; a statement of the estimated population, assessed valuation, degree of development, population density, and recommendations as to the form of government and manner of election. The proposed city shall have a budget ordinance with an ad valorem tax levy of at least five cents (5¢) on the one hundred dollar ($100.00) valuation upon all taxable property within its corporate limits. The proposed city will offer four of the following services no later than the first day of the third fiscal year following the effective date of incorporation: (I) police protection; (II) fire protection; (III) solid waste collection or disposal; (IV) water distribution; (V) street maintenance; (VI) street construction or right-of-way acquisition; (VII) street lighting; and (VIII) zoning. [Please see attachments]

IT IS ILLEGAL TO SIGN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON TO A PETITION. (NCGS 163-221).

BOE ONLY	Line No.	Print your name (Must be printed legibly)	Residential street address	ZIP code	Birth date is required (MM/DD/YYYY)	Signature
	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					
	6					
	7					
	8					
	9					
	10					
	11					
	12					
	13					
	14					
	15					

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS TO THE ALEXANDER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Board of Elections use only

Page _____ of _____ pages Batch No _____ Date received ___/___/_____

PROPOSED CHARTER FOR THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, ALEXANDER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

Section 1. The inhabitants of the area described in Section 2 of this act shall be and constitute a body politic and corporate under the name of the "Town of Bethlehem", and shall have all the power, authority, rights, privileges and immunities conferred upon municipal corporations by the Constitution and general laws of North Carolina, and particularly Chapter 160A, of the General Statutes.

Section. 2. The corporate limits of the Town of Bethlehem in Alexander County, North Carolina shall be as herein described until changed as authorized by law:

"Beginning at the intersection of Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, and the common boundary line between Caldwell County and Alexander County, thence in a generally Eastern direction with Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, to its intersection with NC Highway 127, thence in a Northerly direction with NC Highway 127 to its intersection with Blankenship Road, SR 1152, thence in a general Southeastern direction with Blankenship Road, SR 1152, to its intersection with Teague Town Road, SR 1150, thence in a generally Easterly direction with Teague Town Road, SR 1150, to its intersection with Bowman's Cutover Road, SR 1151, thence in a generally Southern direction with Bowman's Cutover Road, SR 1151, to its intersection with Rink Dam Road, SR 1137, thence with Rink Dam Road, SR 1137, in a generally Southern direction to its intersection with B & T Lane, SR 1191, to its intersection with Emerald Point Drive, thence with Emerald Point Drive to the shoreline in a Western direction to Rink Dam Bridge to the intersection of the center of Middle Little River, thence in a Southerly direction with Middle Little River to its intersection with the Catawba River/Lake Hickory, thence with Catawba River/Lake Hickory in a Westerly direction to the common boundary line between Alexander and Caldwell County, thence with the common boundary line between Alexander and Caldwell County to the intersection of Antioch Church Road, SR 1002, the point and place of beginning.."

Section. 3. The Town of Bethlehem shall have the Council-Manager form of government and the administration thereof shall be provided in Part 2, Article 7 of Chapter 160A-146,147 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Council shall consist of three (3) members, not including the town Manager. All the qualified voters of the Town shall elect all council candidates.

Section. 4. The municipal elections shall be nonpartisan and decided by a simple plurality, and shall be held and conducted by the county board of elections in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The municipal election shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November and every two years thereafter. Of the three Council positions to be filled in the November election following incorporation, the single candidate receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be elected to a term of four years, and the two candidates receiving the two next highest numbers of votes shall be elected to terms of two years. At each subsequent election thereafter, to be held every two years, the number of Council positions to be filled at such election shall be filled for terms of four years.

Section. 5. The councilors elected under this act shall take office at the first regular meeting following their election no later than December and qualify by taking the oath of office. The council shall hold a regular meeting at least once a month, and shall fix the time and place of its regular meetings.

Section. 6. The fiscal affairs of the town shall be governed by Chapter 159 of the General Statutes and all other pertinent provisions of the Constitution and general laws of the State. The territory within the corporate limits, its citizens and property shall be subject to municipal taxes levied by the town for the fiscal year after incorporation, and subsequent years. The town shall obtain from Alexander County, and the County shall provide, upon request, a record of the property within the corporate limits which were listed for taxation as of incorporation.

Section. 7. The first election held pursuant to this act shall be paid for by the county; but the Town of Bethlehem shall reimburse the county for the cost of the election as soon as the town treasury has funds sufficient on hand.

Section. 8. This Charter shall become effective upon incorporation.

Incorporated Town of Bethlehem

Town proposes to provide: Planning and Zoning, Police, Fire and Rescue, and street lighting and potentially Solid Waste Collection and Disposal. **The Town will Focus on preserving our community character.**

Annual Budget $550,000 per year based on $0.05/100 tax

Statistics:	Population	7846 based on 2020 census
	Registered Voters	6612 (ACBOE)
	Geographic Area	23.12 sq mi (google maps)
	Population density	341 people per square mile
	Assed value	$1.1 Billion (AC Tax department
	Degree of Development	Urban Residential (Medium Density)

Area to include Bethlehem voting districts 1 & 2 (see GIS map below)

Google Maps



Alexander County GIS



Additional information will be made available on
@bethlehemzoning and WWW.incorporatebethlehem.com