



The Town of St. James

JEAN R. TONER, MAYOR

The Town of St. James was established July 1, 1999.

- The Town's boundaries are greater than St. James Plantation.
- Executive Park
- South (Plantation side) - Commercial property currently undeveloped along Route 211.
- St. James, Southport, Caswell Beach, Bald Head Island, and Boiling Spring Lakes are all shared by the same Post Office, therefore the same zip code.

Town Council

- **Mayor:** Jean Toner
- **Mayor Pro Tem:** Dave DeLong

Councilors:

- Jim Board
- Lynn Dutney
- David Morgan

Why a Town?

- Involuntary annexation permitted prior to 2011
- Oak Island annexation attempt
- Town formed to prevent undesirable takeover
- 15-year agreement expires March 2025.
- No annexation allowed for these areas:
 - St. James- South to Southport
 - Oak Island- North from Town Hall to E.F. Middleton Blvd. Although, OKI did try to annex the area in 2022.



Structure



- Council-Manager form of government
- Five Councilors elected to non-partisan and at-large unpaid position
- Council elects Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem
- Provides professional Town management (Town Manager)
- Insulates staff from political control

Council Responsibilities

- Establish policies and procedures
- Approve budgets, expenditures, and contracts
- Establish tax rates
- Act as quasi-judicial board
- Representation on State and County Board of Commissioners
- Monitor activities of external agencies



Town Functions

- Levy and collect taxes
- Create balanced budget
- Long Range Planning (Comprehensive Plan every 5 years)
- Zoning, permitting, and adopting ordinances and land use regulations.
- Provide street lighting - \$400,000
- Provide yard debris collection - \$300,000
- Provide flood plain management and annual stormwater quality analysis
- Financial support of the Fire Department
- Representative to local and state agencies/officials
- Contract with county for garbage collection and water, sewer, police, and animal control services.
- Disaster response and recovery (Emergency Management)
- Own and operate the Community Center
- Wildfire protection program (Firewise Committee)
- Community engagement programs (Oyster Reef Project, UNCW Speaker Series, Environmental Fair, Shred Events, Flu Shots, Blood Drives)

Budget



- Revenue and Expenses - \$5,206,000
(must balance)
- Tax Rate – 6 ¢

Revenues

Local Option Sales Tax	\$2,550,000
Ad Valorem Taxes (Property)	\$1,968,000
Other Taxes	\$461,500
Interest – Investment	\$130,000
Facility Rental	\$88,500
Zoning Permit Fees	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$5,206,000

General Fund Expenditures Highlighting Commitments

<i>Category</i>	<i>Percent of Total (100%)</i>
Fire Department Funding	31%
Personnel & Benefits	13%
Public Safety (Emergency Management & Street Lights)	8%
Long Term Debt	7%
Environmental Protection (Trash & Yard Debris, UNCW, Public Roads)	13%
Town Facilities	7%
Governing Body & Administration (Operations Without Salaries & Benefits)	5%
Commitment to Disaster Recovery	6%
Community Center (Operations Without Salaries & Benefits)	4%
Commitment for Future SJFD Capital Needs	6%

Major Projects / Initiatives

- Established Disaster Recovery Fund
- Response management for 4 hurricanes
- Established St. James Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Fund
- Provided St. James Fire Department with \$1.2 million funding for Station #2
- Established permanent Emergency Management Operations Center
- Street Light Improvement Project
- Water Pressure Improvement Project
- Median Enhancement Project
- Mirasol mining
- Conversion of All Electronic/Communication Systems From Analog to Digital
- FEMA Certified Debris Management Site
- Refitted Community Center HVAC System – COVID
- Town Complex Enhancement Project
- Zoning Permit Electronic Conversion
- Added acoustical upgrades and streaming capability at the Community Center