



# TOWN OF SHALLOTTE

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September 8, 2021

Randell Woodruff  
County Manager  
PO Box 249  
Bolivia, NC 28422

Re: Utilities Merger Exploration and Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Program

Dear County Manager Woodruff:

For decades Brunswick County has been the regional provider of wholesale water service for the Town's water distribution system. The Town would like to consider expanding on this mutually beneficial arrangement by exploring the possibility of a merger of the Town and County water systems. We believe that there may be economies of scale that can be leveraged to benefit both county and town customers and that funding may be available through the (NCDEQ) Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant program. It is our understanding that a merger of the two utilities utility systems has not been previously evaluated and recommendations regarding the merger of the systems are not available.

The Town would like to request Brunswick County to partner with us by providing assistance necessary for the completion of the grant program application and completion of a merger/regionalization feasibility grant funded study, if awarded. The study would be used to evaluate the viability of a potential merger of the water and/or wastewater utility systems. However, the agreement by the Town of Shallotte and Brunswick County to partner for the purposes of submitting the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant program application and grant funded study does not include a commitment by either Brunswick County or the Town of Shallotte to act on the findings of the study.

Please see the attached resolution by the Town of Shallotte Board of Aldermen in support of exploring the potential merger of the utility systems and authorizing town staff to submit the required application and coordinate with county staff on the application. Please note that in order for a complete application to be processed by September 30, 2021, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners would need to issue a letter or resolution as the partnering utility. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Maria O. Gaither  
Town Manager  
Town of Shallotte

## **RESOLUTION 21-08**

### **IN SUPPORT OF GRANT FUNDING FOR A MERGER/REGIONALIZATION FEASIBILITY GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, Session Law 2015-241 with changes made to NCGS 159G created the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility grants to broaden the use of grant funds to encourage water and wastewater utilities to become viable and more proactive in the management and financing of their systems, and

**WHEREAS**, through a mutually beneficial partnership Brunswick County has been the wholesale treatment provider for Town of Shallotte's water distribution system for decades, and

**WHEREAS**, there may exist additional mutual benefits to the City, County, and their respective customers through a utility merger that leverages economies of scale, and

**WHEREAS**, funding may be available through the (NCDEQ) Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant program for a feasibility study to investigate the challenges, benefits, and implications for both utilities presented by the merger consolidation of the water system.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town of Shallotte Board of Aldermen:

- 1) To request Brunswick County to partner with the Town of Shallotte in evaluating the feasibility of a merger of a water system that investigate the challenges, benefits, and implications for both utilities presented by the merger consolidation but does not obligate either entity to act on the results of the study.
- 2) That the Town Manager of Shallotte, the Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Town of Shallotte, the Applicant, with the State of North Carolina for a grant to aid in the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility study described above.
- 3) The Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to request assistance from Brunswick County for the purpose of the completion of the Merger/ Regionalization Feasibility Grant program application and completion of the grant funded study.
- 4) The Applicant has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants pertaining thereto.
- 5) The Applicant has followed proper accounting and fiscal reporting procedures, and that the Applicant is in substantial compliance with provision of the general fiscal control laws of the State.
- 6) The Town of Shallotte, North Carolina is organized and chartered under the laws of North Carolina. All officials and employees are aware of, and in full compliance with NCGS 14-234, "Director of public trust contracting for his own benefit, participation in business transaction involving public funds; exemptions."
- 7) The Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such

application or the study; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application and study.

**ADOPTED** this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.



Maria O. Gaither, Town Manager  
Town of Shallotte

**CERTIFICATION BY RECORDING OFFICER**

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Clerk to the Town of Shallotte does hereby certify: That the above resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Town of Shallotte's Board of Aldermen, duly held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021; and, further, that such resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.



Sandy Strickland, Clerk  
Town of Shallotte