



TOWN OF DONALDS

Office of the Mayor and Town Council
P.O. Box 275
Donalds, SC 29638-0275

May 2025

Monthly Town Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 5, 2025

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Donalds Town Grange

Council Members Present:

William Scoggins, Mayor
Susan Powell, Council Member
Jana Burton, Council Member
Carol Ellis, Council Member

Council Members Not Present:

Tisha Hill, Council Member

Staff:

Morgan Davenport, Clerk

Guests:

Angela Worthington
Tracey Young
Janet Page
Melanie Kennedy
Jane Stone
Donna Gambrell
Travis Smith
Eddie Gambrell
Jasmine Latimer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scoggins called the regular meeting of the Council to order at 6:00PM.

The invocation was given by Mayor Scoggins.

QUORUM

Mayor Scoggins noted that a quorum of members was present.

Council Members and guests stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION

April Meeting Minutes – Ms. Powell made the motion to approve the meeting minutes for April. Mrs. Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

P&N Avenue – Mayor Scoggins met with Public Works who stated the road is not listed as a private drive. Mayor Scoggins spoke with Brandon Johnson with Abbeville County Council who will have to make an ordinance and present to County Council. Town to get one bid showing cost to correct. Town Council will continue to help get resolution. Angela Worthington said someone has spoken with the State previously and was told the road was not supposed to be private. The road may be too narrow for necessary equipment to gain access to complete work.

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Donalds Festival Committee – Angela Worthington presented ideas for July 4th of a craft fair/yard sale type of event, and the Junkyard Café restaurant should have barbeque that weekend. She stated that when the park is opened, the Committee would like to have a large event to “make a big deal about it” and Council was in favor of this idea. She presented an idea of having the town’s children paint a rock to be left at the park. She stated that she has spoken with UAC, who will do a fireworks event for a fee for the July 4th event. She also brought forth for the Council to do a best decorated contest for the 4th of July event. She and Council discussed food trucks coming to the Farmer’s Market pavilion area and/or the parking lot in town. Angela requested help from the Town with signage and bathroom facilities for the event.

Mayor Scoggins – Mayor Scoggins stated that Robert’s Rules and other aspects of the SC Code of Laws Section 5-7 rules have not been followed fully by the Town in the past. Over the last four (4) months, Council has taken steps to get in order and will continue to be up to date moving forward. Mayor Scoggins stated that Town Council meetings are business meetings and with this being a government entity, all rules must be followed as set by the State Code of Laws in order for the Town to be in full compliance. Mayor Scoggins has provided the Town Council MASC documents and training courses, which was suggested for the Town’s attorney and the Town’s MASC representative. Members of the Council have also shown interest in taking these courses, which will help the Town continue in compliance.

Facebook Pages – To Council’s knowledge, there are at least three (3) separate pages on Facebook as of now that are not controlled or moderated by the Town. Per the Town’s attorney, the Donalds Town Council is disavowing all Facebook pages effective immediately. This applies to any and all other social media sites that are not known by the Council at this time as well. All information will be posted on the Town’s website by the Town clerk. After tonight’s Council meeting, the Town clerk will disable the on town Facebook page she recently created to try and combat the misinformation spread on other pages, with a specific note telling people that this page will no longer be monitored (since the Town is obligated by law to keep the page online and CANNOT delete it) and to go to the Town website for official information. No other social media site is owned or operated by the Town of Donalds. If the misinformation on non-Town run Facebook pages continues, the Town may engage its attorney further to pursue every legal option available to resolve and cure this matter. Mayor Scoggins also informed Town leadership may individually have their own legal representation pursue defamation suit against any individual(s) and/or page administrator(s) spreading misinformation and specifically referenced the past actions stating that the Council was going to close or sell the park. He stated that while people are welcome to their own opinions, people are not welcome to make up their own truth and spread misinformation in an effort to incite the entire town on false narratives. The Mayor then opened discussion for Council Members to state their opinions on this matter and the

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Council Members in attendance concurred with the Mayor's comments and the direction as discussed with the Town's attorney.

Depot Property – Councilwoman Burton spoke with Lois Amick the owner of the depot property. Lois is asking \$120,000.00 for the entire property. The Town will be looking for grants to cover some of the cost to renovate the buildings on the property. Councilwoman Burton proposed that the Town purchase the property now, the restore. Council Members asked for suggestions from attendees for reimagining the depot. Jasime Latimer suggested renting the site out for events like Honea Path does with the Watkins Center. First reading of Ordinance 2025-01 to purchase property. Councilman Ellis motioned to approve. Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CDs – The CD held at Abbeville First Bank has been closed and deposited into the checking account at The Commercial Bank.

Dunlap Park – Three (3) pre-bid proposals on-site meetings are complete on park. Mayor Scoggins read the letter he prepared describing each pre-bid proposal meeting. All companies agree that the track was not laid out properly, which has created the existing asphalt condition issues. Electrical schematics from the first vendor are quoted at between \$8,000-\$10,000. The second vendor has advised us to remove the lights since they won't be needed for operational hours. Parking will need 1-2 handicap accessible spots. The third vendor agreed that removing lights from the project scope is the best idea moving forward. Handicap accessibility is needed to the playground. Small fence around the playground area only. Advised not to re-install any coverings. Reiterated to remove fencing around entire park area to keep animal from being let loose inside park area and guests will be safer without ability to be "locked in" facilities. Power panel to be upgraded in parking lot. Suggested a small wooden fence on tree line to keep people from going into the wooded area. Donna Gambrell suggested renaming the park to Huggins-Dunlap Park to honor both the Huggins and Dunlap families. Angela Worthington suggested a bench be dedicated to the Huggins family. An inspection schedule should be set for the playground equipment. Council was advised to hire a third-party inspection company or the original install company. Donna Gambrell also commented that she really likes not having the lights from the park shining into her home now that the lights were shut down and there is only the one light.

- Final Summary – The three (3) engineer firms are to look, inspect, and submit bids.
- Track – The track has been deemed inoperable by all companies, can be removed now. Eddie Gambrell stated that he is able and will complete the work for \$7500. Councilwoman Powell motioned to proceed with track removal. Councilman Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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- Lighting for the helipad – Mayor Scoggins communicated with Will Blackwell, EMD for Abbeville County via email and, also met at the park in person with Ronnie Vaughn, Kyle Vaughn, and other members of the Donalds Fire Department to discuss the need of lighting at helipad. Pad must be 150x150. Advised to contact emergency management in McCormick for more information about emergency lighting system used at their location. Council wants to see drawings before making further decisions. Councilwoman Burton motioned to accept Mayor Scoggins' report. Councilman Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Service & Training Ordinance – Ordinance 2025-02

The Town of Donalds is looking to be more compliant and will create a package for retiring individuals. Councilwoman Burton motioned to approve the first reading. Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Second Reading of the Budget – Councilwoman Powell motioned to approve. Councilwoman Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Scoggins checked the timeline on his phone calendar to make sure the minimum 30-day notice would be given for the public hearing for the Third and Final Reading of the Budget and the Second and Final reading of the depot purchase ordinance, since we could now include that in the public hearing notice, as well. With the clerk sending to the Press and Banner, the public hearing notice for publication on Wednesday, May 7th, the next meeting date to be compliant would be Monday, June 9th at the earliest, so the next meeting was announced to be on June 9th. Clerk also to post the proposed budget to the Town's website within the next week, to exceed the 15 days prior to the next meeting notification required by law.

Audit Update – Audit for FY 2023 should be near completion. All requested information has been provided to Love Bailey at this time.

Eddie to get an update to Council on the quote for work needed at the Town Hall building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04PM.

Other appearances:

- Abbeville County Sheriff's Office member (s)

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