

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
July 14, 2026

Council Attendance: Mayor Robert Martin, Councilmembers: Mike Hawkins, Chad Hawkins, McKeva Kinard-Shelton and Terry Murphy.

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Wise, Clerk Treasurer; Wesley Palmore, Police Chief and Jennifer Nichols, Town Attorney.

Mayor Robert Martin called the Regular meeting to order and asked Councilmember McKeva Kinard- Shelton to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Robert Martin presented the Minutes from June 23, 2026 Regular Council Meeting and June 30, 2026 Special Called Meeting for approval.

A **MOTION** by Councilmember Terry Murphy to approve the Minutes from June 23, 2026, Regular Council Meeting and June 30, 2026 Special Called Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember McKeva Kinard-Shelton, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one to speak in open session.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Kenyetta Gallman stated that their fun, family event on July 5th was a low turn out but we were excited about the families that came out to participate. She stated the GALA has been cancelled for July 31st but they will be posting other events in the fall. She stated we are excited about Bailey's Ice Cream Shop opening in town. She stated the next meeting will be July 20th at GG's Library.

CTC Committee:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated the CTC will meet next Tuesday. He stated we got prices for new signs with lights around them for the walking track and hopefully we can get those approved and ordered after next Tuesday.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated the buildings are up and working on the inside. She stated they are grading for the parking lots. Councilmember Murphy asked about the damaged part of the walking track. Mrs. Livingston stated Mr. West had that on his list for the contractors to fix.

NEW BUSINESS:

1st Reading of Ordinance 2026 0714- Chapter 154 Subdivision Regulations:

Mrs. Livingston stated we needed to table new business until the August meeting. She stated our text amendment to add ½ acre lots to our Subdivision Ordinance has to go through the Newberry County Planning and Zoning Commission for recommendation to approve, deny or modify the change and they will meet on July 21st.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilmember Murphy stated our Utility Department has been clearing lines on Brown Street. Councilmember Murphy asked about the trees in the railroad crossing. Discussion followed.

Public Safety:

Councilmember McKea Kinard-Shelton thanked the Police Department for answering calls so quickly and being visible in our town and other communities. She thanked Chief Palmore for being a part of Community Impact Day.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilmember Mike Hawkins asked about parking signs at the German restaurant. Discussion followed.

Parks, Recreation, Events and Streets:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins wanted to remind about raising risers for the manholes on Brown Street and McNeary Street. He stated the Boy Scouts were going to be working on the concrete barriers at the walking track.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry. He stated they assisted with the Fireworks at Newberry High School and the fun, family day on July 5th for the Business Association.

Town Attorney:

Jennifer Nichols had nothing to report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated we are waiting to hear back from the School District on the Kit Center. She stated the School District is working on a plan to clean out the center and will be getting back to us.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. PERSONNEL ISSUE- POLICE DEPARTMENT, UTILITY DEPARTMENT

B. CONTRACTUAL ISSUE POLICE DEPARTMENT

C. CONTRACTUAL MATTER- TOWN PROPERTY, RENTALS.

(Upon returning to open session, Council may act on matters discussed in executive session.)

A MOTION by Councilmember Mike Hawkins to move into Executive Session; seconded by Councilmember McKea Kinard-Shelton, and so approved unanimously.

A MOTION by Councilmember Mike Hawkins to move out of Executive Session; seconded by Councilmember McKea Kinard-Shelton, and so approved unanimously.

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to approve to tear down the Taylor house on Brown Street for \$8200; seconded by Councilmember Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Robert Martin thanked the Citizens for attending the meeting.

Mayor Robert Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer