



TOWN OF DONALDS

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

July 2025

Monthly Town Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 7, 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:

Melanie Kennedy
Jane Stone
Angela Worthington
Tracey Young
Travis Smith
Ronnie Vaughn

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

June Meeting Minutes – Councilwoman Powell made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Councilwoman Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Depot Property – Councilwoman Burton spoke with Lois Amick today who stated that she would be in Greenwood on Thursday and would be able to go to Town's attorney's office for paperwork. Councilwoman Burton to contact Town Attorney tonight or tomorrow to advise, may hand deliver documentation based on attorney response. Mayor Scoggins provided contacts to Councilwoman Burton when project starts.

Additional Properties –

- Old Gunnell's building – When vagrancy issues were addressed, Mayor Scoggins spoke to current owner who stated he is willing to take \$25,000 for property. GIS shows property value at \$38,000. Councilwoman Powell to converse with contact

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- about DHEC requirements if fuel tanks are still in ground at location. Councilwoman Powell and Councilwoman Burton want to table any further discussion until all funds are factored and allocated with existing projects.
- Mullinax properties – Mayor Scoggins called phone number posted on corner building and was told they would accept \$45,000 cash or \$55,000 if financed through current owner. Site was previously up for auction and did not receive minimum bid of \$5000 at that time. Building has since been struck by car with visible damage to exterior wall. Mayor Scoggins also mentioned that he was informed that the building was condemned by Abbeville County and there was a notice on the door of such. The response he received was that it was not condemned. Council to verify status of condemnation with Abbeville County. Mayor Scoggins was able to contact Mike Mullinax later and explained that either the properties needed to be cleaned up and maintained because the Town has adopted the International Property Maintenance Code and the Town has property maintenance ordinances in place. When Mr. Mullinax expressed interest in selling the properties, Mayor Scoggins informed Mr. Mullinax that he would discuss with the Council but regardless of sale or not, the property needs to be maintained. Mr. Mullinax proposed that Council look at GIS values for properties and make him an offer. Councilwoman Powell wants to table for now while Council reviews cash position considering existing projects at Dunlap Park and depot property in addition to lighting concerns at Dunlap Park. Councilwoman Burton agreed.

Table for now while Council researches property needs more.

2025-2026 Annual Calendar – Targeted dates already on website for future meeting dates. Council to continue review and provide any updates at August meeting.

Donalds Festival Committee – Angela Worthington was pleased with the turn out for July 4th event. She and Tracey are looking to plan something in the fall and around Christmas, with an event to celebrate the founding of Donalds. Discussion was had amongst Council and Committee to start planning the 2026 July 4th event now since that will be the 250th anniversary. Angela may contact Jenny Kelly about the event the Abbeville Historical Society is planning.

Dunlap Park – Davis & Floyd submitted bid, Landart officially sent a no bid, and EarthDesign has not responded to multiple contact attempts after telling Mayor Scoggins they would submit their bid in June. While Council would prefer to have at least two bids for comparison, there are no existing codes stating that more than one bid is necessary. Council discussed the Davis & Floyd bid details. Councilwoman Burton wants to see drawings. Councilwoman Powell agreed. Mayor Scoggins stated that the parking lot in town had a camera installed by the Abbeville County Police Department in December on a light pole that has no power to the receptacle. Duke contact says the lights weren't installed by them. Davis & Floyd to provide drawings.

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Councilwoman Burton motioned to proceed with limitation up to \$50,000. Councilwoman Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed the location of the walking track with attendees who frequented the existing walking track prior to closure. Davis & Floyd and multiple Abbeville County police officers have advised of relocating to a safer area due to the seclusion of current location to main areas of traffic. Mayor Scoggins asked for input from attendees in reference to relocating walking track to the field beside the old Town Hall. Travis Smith who used the existing walking track frequently, and even though the current location is much closer to his home, stated that the track would be safer there as there is more traffic at the old Town Hall building. Mr. Smith also made the comment that he has always felt that someone was watching him when he used the track at Dunlap Park. Jane Stone stated that it would not be safer for children at the old Town Hall building if there was no fence installed. Melanie Kennedy asked what the stipulations were with the current park property regarding closure. Angela Worthington stated that it should be up to the adults to watch any children accompanying them if there is no fencing, and that on Friday evening when she and Mayor Scoggins were at the field by the old Town Hall building discussing Saturday's event, at least four Abbeville County police vehicles were seen passing the location. Councilwoman Powell and Mayor Scoggins stated that the Council has never said anything about selling the park property. Councilwoman Powell stated that the fencing around the existing park will be removed once the site work is completed. Mayor Scoggins stated that he had previously discussed safety and drug activity issues with Abbeville County police department officers who also advised that the current location is not safe due to it being so secluded and that a park centered in the town would be safer. Mayor Scoggins also stated that if the track is reinstalled at the park, the road will need to be reevaluated and possibly made into a full two-lane road for liability. Both Councilwoman Powell and Mayor Scoggins stated again that the Council has no interest in getting rid of the property. The property is currently a designated Life Flight area and the park project in progress at this time calls for a Life Flight pad and access for emergency responders which is currently and will remain in the project scope. Mr. Smith stated that he can only recall seeing one police officer at the current park in the 18 years he has lived near it. Mr. Smith also stated that the parks in Honea Path, Due West, and Ware Shoals do not have fencing. Mayor Scoggins stated that the walking path in Belton is parallel to the main highway throughout the town and there is no fence and he has witnessed many families with children walking there. Mayor Scoggins reminded everyone that since the beginning of this project, the fence was a consensus first thing to be removed because of the issues with loose dogs and Council does not need to move one of the initial problems to another location. Tracey Young stated that she would be much more comfortable with using the walking track if it was relocated somewhere more on the main roads. Ms. Worthington stated that she could not in good conscience say that the existing park location is a safe place. Councilwoman Powell stated that she has not used the walking track at the park for many years as she does not feel safe in the area near the woods, and she has had other town citizens express similar feelings to her. Ms. Worthington stated that you would have no idea who may be in the wooded

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area as there is limited visibility. Mayor Scoggins mentioned previous issues with a Council Member's family member who reported stalking at the park. Mayor Scoggins added to Mr. Smith's comment about being watched and targeted there before it was a park as it was widely known that he was there almost daily during the 80's and was targeted for theft when his golf bag was stolen. Mayor Scoggins also referenced the reports in April 2024 by Gene Garner of drug dealing and drugs left at the Pavilion located in the Park with photographs which was investigated by the Abbeville County Police Department. Officer Anderson was asked for his opinion and he agreed that the location at the old Town Hall building would be the safest option of the two. Clerk stated that she would not go to the current park alone regardless of the time of day, even if the walking track was reinstalled at the park, because of limited road traffic and no one else has been there the few times she has been. Ms. Worthington recently had to show another town citizen the location of the current park because she had no knowledge of the park's existence after seven years of living in town.

Audit Update – There are currently three audits in process right now for years 2023, 2024, and 2025. It is known that the 2023 and 2024 audits are considered late at this time as they are to be submitted within 13 months of fiscal year closure. Clerk was not notified until late October of 2024 of audit requirement. FY23 is good other than noncompliance of timeline. Turnover with the clerk position did contribute to part of the delay. Council is to develop a continuity plan to correct moving forward. Clerk will post audits as soon as they are completed. Mayor Scoggins advised that the auditors opinion was unmodified and no discrepancies were found, only the lateness of the audit and the lack of a continuity plan were noted. Now that Katie is sending out password protected and encrypted monthly financials to each Council Member, we will have a standing agenda item for Financial discussions. The continuity plan needs to include a Council Member to serve as the transitional contracted accountant, should there be another instance of turnover at the clerk position. Mayor Scoggins stated that we need to table this until the next meeting to include all Council Members in discussion before making the appointment.

CDs – The two CDs at The Commercial Bank have been closed and deposited into the existing checking account with The Commercial Bank.

Emergency Response – When Hurricane Helene hit in 2024, the VGo station ran out of fuel several times due to it being the only station with power in all of the surrounding areas. During the week following the hurricane, many people were parked on the highway and side roads waiting for fuel. No fuel was reserved by the station for emergency responders either. Mayor Scoggins would like to discuss having the station reserve fuel and possibly limit the amounts sold if a similar situation were to occur in the future with the owners. May issue an ordinance if needed.

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Properties in Code Violation – Mullinax and Kirkpatrick properties were discussed. Councilwoman Powell mentioned the property located across from the post office also. Future liens on taxes on hold until the attorney for Abbeville County reviews how Greenwood County handles this issue for reference. Table until next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Powell made the motion to adjourn at 6:53PM. Councilwoman Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Other appearances:

- Abbeville County Sheriff's Office member (s)