

**Town of Donalds**  
**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**  
**March 10, 2025**

**Council Members Present:**

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

**Staff:**

Morgan Davenport, Clerk

**Guests:**

Jessica Moore	Sammy Moore	Ethan Moore	Janet Paige
Jenny Seawright	Steve Dunlap	Travis Smith	Angela Worthington
Doug Howell	Anita Howell	Richard Holloway	Joe Medlock
Mary Ann Lollis	Kyle Vaughn	Ronnie Vaughn	Tina Yoder
Jane Stone	Melanie Kennedy	Terri Stone	Jonathan Yoder
Donna Gambrell	Donna Leasure	Sydney Leasure	Jonathan Bedenbaugh
Gary Gambrell	Gene Garner	Debbie Garner	Walt Bunnell
Kayla Prince	Haley Hill		

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Scoggins called the regular meeting of the council to order at 6:00pm.

The invocation was given by Mr. Scoggins.

**QUORUM**

Mr. Scoggins noted that a quorum of members was present.

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

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ellis was sworn in.

Ms. Powell made the motion to accept the letter from Andy Price with the Abbeville County Building and Planning Department and amend the minutes. Mrs. Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Burton motioned to approve the February 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

January 2025 monthly financials were reviewed. No notations at this time.

Ms. Powell motioned to move into Executive Session for legal advice from the Town's attorney, Tripp Padgett. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All guests exited the building. Executive Session began at 6:10pm.

Ms. Powell motioned to move to Open Session at 6:35pm. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All guests were invited back into the building.

Mr. Scoggins presented the letter from Andy Price with the Abbeville County Building and Planning Department regarding Dunlap Park.

Ms. Powell motioned to accept the letter as written and make emergency remedies. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scoggins read the letter aloud for the guests in attendance.

Ms. Powell made the motion to have Mr. Scoggins obtain three quotes from licensed architectural firms, with an approved budget up to \$50,000. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Guest Speakers:

Ronnie Vaughn - P&N Avenue, Donalds

Commended the current Town Council for taking action to correct the issues with the park. If the park is salvageable, that would be great. He would like to see the playground equipment moved to the UAC for use. He has seen many issues at the park first hand. There are no police to patrol for Donalds. UAC has available facilities for guests to use.

Jessica Moore - 129 Teta Lane, Hodges

Jessica thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. She has seen and hosted many events the the park. The Town website has welcoming statements and addresses the availability of the park. Many people have used the park for multiple reasons. The playground is good for children. She thinks the park should be a historical site. Donalds needs more children and members.

Terri Stone - 952 Winona Church, Donalds

Terri has lived in Donalds for many years. She served on the Council and was clerk. Why not use the county facilities and offerings? Possible funds should be available. Believes that when the park was given to the Town, one condition was that if the park was closed, the property would have to go to the State.

Joe Medlock - UAC Director

The Town has been very generous to UAC over the years. The equipment currently at UAC is in bad shape. Children play at the facility frequently. Joe stated that he does not want to see the Dunlap Park closed, but does see where UAC can provide better facilities overall with direct highway access, bathrooms, fencing, and more space. Joe currently hopes to enact plans to install a walking track and a new tee-ball field in the near future at UAC. Joe stressed the need for facilities.

Haley Hill - Highway 178, Donalds

Haley has used the park her entire life for softball practice and running. She now has to go to Due West to run and would prefer to be able to continue using the Donalds Park. The park holds many memories for her and she would hate to see the park closed.

Steve Dunlap - PO Box 293, Donalds

In the late 1980s/early 1990s, States had funds available. The Donalds Area Revitalization Committee was formed. Steve and Jane Stone are the only current living members of the Committee at this time. Steve's uncle was instrumental to the creation of the park. Steve's understanding is that because the

school donated the park, the school would get the park back if it was ever closed. Why has the Town not made necessary repairs as needed this whole time. Maintain it, promote it, take care of it.

Speakers conclude.

Annual audit update - Katie needs previous minutes for the auditor. Clerk to send.

Annual budget - first reading will be at the next meeting in April.

Mr. Padgett addressed the park closure with the guests. He stressed that the Council has no plans of sale of the park, and sale is not in consideration by the Council. Sale of the park was never a consideration for the Council. To further confirm, Mr. Padgett read the February 3, 2025 meeting minutes aloud to the guests. Mr. Padgett specifically referenced, "Debbie and Gene Garner and Donna and Gary Gambrell expressed their disagreements with the current closure status and possible future closure status. They also expressed concern that the Town Council was going to sell the property. William and Susan then both spoke up and said that neither the Mayor nor the Town Council has EVER discussed selling the property amongst themselves or with anyone else outside of the Council and that rumors that the intent to close the park and sell it are totally false." Once Mr. Padgett was finished, Mr. Scoggins addressed those in attendance and again stated that neither he nor the Town Council has ever had any intention of selling the park and also told the attendees they need to stop listening to gossip and rumors on Facebook and the VGo, especially those pertaining to the park.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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





## Abbeville County Building and Planning Department

903 West Greenwood Street  
Abbeville, SC 29620  
864-366-2400 ext. 64

3/7/25

Re: Donalds Town Park

Mayor William Scoggins  
Town of Donalds  
PO Box 275  
Donalds, SC 29638

Mayor Scoggins:

I am writing in order to re-cap my comments regarding today's inspection of the park facilities at 164 Park Dr. The following points are my professional opinion of the facility and its amenities:

- The #1 hazard present on the property is the electrical system. The meter base and breaker panel located between the gazebo and picnic shelter is extremely dangerous due multiple issues including a broken latch on the cover of the meter base, a broken latch on the door of the breaker panel, missing breaker "knock-out" on the inner cover of the breaker panel, improper grounding of the electrical service, and lack of Ground Fault protection on the attached receptacles. These are just some of the electrical issues present on site. My recommendation is to contact Duke Power immediately to have both this service and another one near the water fountain completely de-energized to eliminate the hazard.
- The structural condition of the picnic shelter is very poor. The original quality of construction was substandard at best. The incorrect multi-piece ridge beam has sagged and separated, the connections from the posts to the roof structure are inadequate, and the roof structure has virtually zero uplift protection. I am very surprised that this structure survived Hurricane Helene. I would recommend complete demolition of the shelter.

- The gazebo could very easily be destroyed by a strong wind as well. Roof-to-post connections are poor, and the entire structure rests on concrete blocks with no anchorage to the ground. Again, I recommend removing the structure entirely.
- The swing on site is also a hazard due to the poor condition of the boards and the extremely unsafe manner in which it is hung from its frame.
- In its current condition, the walking track is less of a liability than the issues listed above, but its inconsistent surface, cracks, and low areas do pose potential hazards. If the town wishes to improve the track, I recommend contracting the services of a registered landscape architect to ensure that applicable ADA requirements are met.
- I am not a certified playground inspector, but in my opinion, the playground's current condition is very good and is likely compliant with current standards.

If the Town is interested in limiting liability, I would suggest starting with the hazards that I have noted above and possibly consider making the park a simple green space with no amenities. Most importantly, consult with your legal council on all of these issues as well.

As always, I am here to help if there is anything that I can do for the Town of Donalds.

Sincerely,

Andy Price, CBO, CFM

Abbeville County Building Official