



TOWN OF DONALDS

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

Monthly Town Council Meeting Minutes

October 2025

Date: October 6, 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
Tisha Hill, Council Member

Staff:

Morgan Davenport, Clerk

Guests:

Melanie Kennedy
Tracy Young
Travis Smith
Jane Stone
Angela Worthington

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

August 4th, September 8th, and September 23rd Meeting Minutes – Councilwoman Powell made the motion to approve all three of the meeting minutes. Councilwoman Burton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Festival Committee – One vendor, carnival games, kids costume contest, food vendors. Volunteers are needed.

Davis & Floyd – Michael and Jonathan provided information about the company and their personal background.

- CPTED – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design – Psychology more than physical. Territorial-influence with population and human presence and activity in the area. Crime prevention can be had by natural surveillance, proximity, maintaining sphere of influence over the property and physical barriers. Things like open fencing (i.e. farm fencing), windows, clear entryways, and signs indicating ownership are deterrents as

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well as more officers able to drive by or stop. Clearly defined entry. Visible signs can create and control the environment for crime. Property maintenance is necessary. Limits to initial design – ability to maintain. If it looks like it's falling apart, the more likely it is for crime. An officer readily available or at least a presence on a frequent basis is necessary.

- Traffic Counts – Per SCDOT, traffic counts for main roads for locations are 25 average daily trips for Dunlap Park, 3100 average daily trips for Old Town Hall Parcel, 4100 average daily trips for VGo, and 800 average daily trips for Depot Site. No traffic count available from SCDOT for roads in current park area so estimate of 25 due to non-availability and 13 parcels local to existing park.
- Davis & Floyd mentioned reference data on the sites. Mayor Scoggins also added and Davis & Floyd confirmed, they worked off all of the 2025 Council meeting minutes, Andy's inspection letter of March 2025, input from the Town Attorney and Municipality Association, as well as the Town's insurance provider and risk management at the MASC. Mayor Scoggins also requested it be documented in the minutes that per conversations with the Insurance Reserve and MASC Risk Management SCMRIF, it is Council's elected duty to eliminate liabilities and provide and maintain a safe environment. If something were to happen and was a result of condition issues not corrected, the insurance would more than likely not cover thus leaving the Town liable out of pocket, which could bankrupt the Town.
- ADA requirements are going to require parking and readily accessible routes throughout with every site.
- Based on the situation with dogs, the fence is to be an open or farm style fence. It should be enough of a barrier. Using a chain style fence would just move the problem to another location. Plus, the discussion amongst Council and recommendation from the Town attorney at the current park was to remove the fence entirely.
- Location needs to be centralized in the Town and available and readily accessible to the entire population of the Town. The current location in the woods on one side of Town isn't inclusive for the entire Town.
- Farmer's Market/Old Town Hall location – Plans show veterans memorial, playground equipment, walking track, nature area, extend Farmer's Market to area. Recommended to be a green space area.
- Current Site – Plans show helipad, walking track, playground. Smaller walking track due to limited space availability. Area is the only concept that does not include CPTED because it's not able to be included in design. Insurance will not cover if something happens and corrections have not been made. DOT doesn't even maintain the traffic count because of the current location. Initial recommendation only had the helipad because it wasn't deemed a realistic park option. Mayor Scoggins asked to include a track and parking lot just to see based on visibility to show that the current ¼ mile track wouldn't be anywhere near the size it is now.



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- Depot Site – space to tell Donalds history, two buildings, playground, open area, veterans memorial. Duke easement is a question for use.
- Property next to VGo – Site with most visibility, on main street, potential changes, playground, veterans memorial. Layout for the parking lot will be on the VGo side. Mayor Scoggins has spoken with VGo and they are open to allowing us to do whatever is needed, space wise and right of way. Mayor Scoggins will take the drawings to them after this Council meeting and report at the next meeting.
- Unable to provide firm cost figures at this time, but roughly estimated the concrete at \$70,000-90,000 plus cost of parking lot. Possibly \$100,000-200,000 total. VGo site should be less. Asphalt option may be less. Gravel option with limitation for ADA spot needing concrete with access. Veterans memorial will need ADA access. Pricing and quotes will need to go out for bid once the concept(s) are defined. Location must be determined first.
- SWOT proposed – discussion with Council and guests to review sites using this system for pros and cons of each area.
- Playground equipment – As a certified playground inspector, Michael advised to engage with inspector regimented schedule for inspection. Manufacturer recommendation is once a week and at a minimum at least every two weeks. Relocation estimated at about \$16,200. The border and base surface needs to be replaced once a year, as the current is already in need of replacement, as well as the playground needing the manufacturing to come in and inspect and did maintenance on it. The playground was installed in July 2024, and has not been inspected until Mayor Scoggins and Eddie Meyers went out there and found the existing conditions which were forwarded to Council, the Town Attorney, Davis & Floyd, and the playground manufacturer. That's when the playground manufacturer quoted the biannual inspection from a certified playground inspector on staff and recommended the routine maintenance schedule and Mayor Scoggins created a checklist and looked it over with Davis & Floyd for comprehensive compliance. Documentation was emailed to Mayor Scoggins July 23, 2025 and printed for Council and copies distributed at August meeting. Town Attorney has definitively stated that if the Town keeps the playground equipment and a park, that it MUST inspect, maintain, and have a routine preventative maintenance schedule and advised to do resolution and have the Rec Center get playground equipment if the Town cannot maintain it.
- Closing, Davis & Floyd and Mayor Scoggins confirmed this process was organically developed. As design review and engineering progressed the alternative sites were recommended to the Town, which started with the Farmer's Market, then the Depot site, and lastly the VGo site.

Land Use Planning –



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- 1- Colby McNeil is going to close on shop property soon. Town Attorney advised no bid needed this Town owned property as no other interest is known at this time. Mayor Scoggins can take the offer from Colby to Council for vote to sell.
- 2- Councilwoman Tisha Hill interest in buying lots near water department to go to auction if the Town wants to sell them because of prior outside interest from multiple people. Also general sale to Council Member is problematic alone. Since multiple people have inquired about these properties and have been told they weren't for sale, it would be problematic and bad optics to sell outright to a Council Member.
- 3- Mayor Scoggins advised Council that the Town Attorney was sending an LOI to Mike Mullinax for the old gas station across from Water Department. Offer was \$45,000 and contingent upon acceptance and Council approval of agreement and phase I and II testing of old fuel tanks.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Powell made the motion to adjourn at 7:04PM. Councilwoman Hill 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)

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