

**Town of Donalds**  
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting  
February 3, 2025

**Council Members Present:**

William Scoggins, Mayor  
Susan Powell, Council Member  
Jana Burton, Council Member  
Tisha Hill, Council Member  
Ronnie Vaughn, Council Member

**Staff:**

Morgan Davenport, Clerk

**Guests:**

Naomi Reed, Municipal Association  
Tina & Jonathan Yoder  
Debbie & Gene Garner  
Donna & Gary Gambrell  
Walt Bunnell

**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**

Dunlap Park - Tina & Jonathan Yoder explained how the closure of the park has impacted their homeschooling group and the way the park was used by this group as a place for their Physical Education requirements. William advised Tina and Jonathan that he would reach out to the Upper Abbeville REC Center to help arrange accommodation for them there. 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. Gary Gambrell expressed interest in helping with potential costs to reopen, getting the estimates needed, and doing work needed to track and park facilities. ADA requirements were discussed for the walking track and access to parking areas, entrance gates, playground, existing gazebo, and existing picnic area. Council Members discussed options of upgrading all existing structures and walking track, removal of fencing with upgrades, and use of area for a medi-center for emergency personnel as the site is currently used for Life Flights as needed. Naomi Reed gave her recommendation to follow the recommendations of the Town Attorney. Naomi also stated that because all Council Members have been made aware of the issues with dogs being allowed loose inside the park fencing, there is no one to fully monitor the park for rule enforcement, and that repairs are needed to the existing walking track, gazebo, and picnic area, that the Town is exposed to multiple liabilities and if anything were to happen related to any of these existing known conditions without address, a lawsuit would bankrupt a town like Donalds. Naomi's recommendation to correct is to get with the County for information about possible grants regarding the park, get with the County Administrator

about recommended work to the existing structures and walking track, and get subsequent quotes for necessary work. Council Members agreed to get information requested and to table any further decisions at this time.

Insurance claim at Town Hall update - Should be finalized by tomorrow, 2/4.

William provided an updated spreadsheet to budget for approved project's for COVID ledger. COVID Funds at about \$3,737.72 for Phase III allocations 3700 and the remaining \$3,971.31 from Phase I and II projects. Remainder to be used on steps at the Grange and cleaning up the old town hall and Farmers Market Pavilion after Hurricane Helene damage until the insurance pays out. Naomi commented that William has tracked this better than most larger towns in the state.

Ronnie Vaughn gave an update on the Fire Department and presented the Council with a need for donation for Lee Alewine, a current member of the Fire Department who was recently severely injured. The Fire Department will be holding a fundraiser. Requested donation from the Town in the amount of \$1000. Jana made the motion to make a donation of \$1500. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Properties in Code Violation - tabled

Depot building - Jana made the motion for William to inquire about the old train depot property purchase due to historical significance. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Due West Robotics - The Robotics team provided information about donation needed. Susan made the motion to donate \$2000 per year for the next 3 years to the Due West Robotics Team. Tisha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.