

Town Council Meeting
Town Hall Annex
July 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Billy Hollingsworth
Maria Dickerson
Anthony "Tony" Hill
Dwight Lane
Tomekia Means
Michael Thomas
Charles Worthy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carla Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer; Dawn Mosley, CPW Clerk; Assistant Chief Joshua Wilbanks, Whitmire Police Department; Jay Gardner, Whitmire Recreation; Randy Levisay, Cesh Kiesler, Kristen Hunt, Li Rhonda Butler, Johnathan Ammons, J.P. Ammons, Chrystal Harsha, Palmetto Citizens Branch Manager, Lori Gardner, Chris Alexander, Ruth Hollingsworth, Claude Worthy, Lisa Sligh, Etrulia Gilliam, Lawrence Sligh, Sabrina Ricks, Tanya and Alex Shambley, Donna Jamerson, Katie Worthy, Faran Griffin, and other concerned citizens.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Hollingsworth gave the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Councilwoman Dickerson gave the invocation to council.

MINUTES:

Minutes for June 1, 2026, June 8, 2026, and June 30, 2026 council meetings were read and approved. Motion to approve made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Dickerson. All in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The financial report for the Town of Whitmire for the month of June was as follows: The beginning balance for the Town of Whitmire was \$28,462.20, deposits \$142,796.38, expenses \$68,360.05, and ending balance of \$102,898.58. Looking at the overall preliminary amount for the Town financials, it looks like we overspent by about \$78,000.00 this year.

The financial report for the Commission of Public Works for the month of June was as follows: The beginning balance for the CPW was \$517.37, deposits \$99,738.74, expenses \$99,923.47, and an ending balance of \$332.64. Looking at the overall preliminary amount for the CPW financials, it looks like we overspent by about \$64,000.00 this year.

POLICE REPORTS:

Assistant Chief Wilbanks gave the report for June. We had 49 incidents, 25 citations, 3 warrants, and 0 traffic accidents. Some of the calls included larceny, domestic violence, breach of trust, and driving under suspension.

RECREATION:

Jay Gardner told council the football program is getting started. July 29th bookbags and school supplies will be given away at the gym. The gym is finished and we have the keys to get in it. He said we are planning on doing an open house so people can come and see it. It looks good. Jay recognized 4 young men from the baseball program who went on to all stars. The two Dixie Minors were Xander Rice and Griffen Sims. The two from the Ozone team were Zion Shambley and Jamarian Epps. Ozone finished sixth in the state.

MAYOR PRESENTS:

Mayor Hollingsworth told everyone that World Harvest would be giving away bookbags with school supplies at the Gym on July 29, 2026. He said we would have an open house sometime in August maybe on a Saturday morning.

Katie Worthy talked to Council about The Party in the Pines Festival this year. She said we added characters and the kids loved it. On Saturday we had a Bully Bash type event, but it was for show only and not a competition. Next year we may have a competition Bully Bash. She

said next year she would like to utilize the Community Center and have 4H and different groups set up on the inside. She said she would like to have a stage on Main Street. She would like to have some bigger rides next year. She said she will be looking for sponsors earlier and doing some fund raisers.

Councilman Worthy asked her how many members the Jaycees had. She said 20 members. He asked how much money they got from State and National Jaycees. She told him they receive nothing from them.

Councilman Lane asked when do you have elections. Katie told him it is mostly volunteer, but we do a little of both. Katie told everyone this is her last year to be president. She said 2 other people are taking over. She said she will be around to train the other person.

Councilman Thomas discussed booth fees with her and told her in the future we need to use professionalism and work together. He said we need more planning and we need to start making plans now.

Councilman Thomas asked her if we could get the last three years minutes and financial reports for the Jaycees. Councilman Lane asked if it was legal to ask for that. Thomas told him it is public knowledge.

Mayor Hollingsworth told her to wait on the approval for the rides until the next meeting.

BUILDING SIGNAGE AND WINDOW COVERINGS:

Mayor Hollingsworth told council the sign at the Bank looks great. Some of the other signs look great, but there are some building fronts and signs that look pretty bad. We need to get Robert to do an ordinance on how signs should be on Main Street and how the store fronts should be kept. He said we can ask the owners right now, but we can't enforce making them do anything.

Councilman Means told council, if we adopted the zoning ordinance through Newberry County, it includes windows and dilapidated property.

Councilman Thomas said it has its ups and downs. He said we lose control of our own property, but we have better guides.

Councilman Hill talked about the size of signs being based on the square footage of the building.

Mayor Hollingsworth asked council if we wanted to add another Holiday to town employees? Council discussed this and will think on it and let everyone know next month.

Council discussed picking up household once a month or getting a box to put household in once a month for \$335.00 per day. Council will think about this until next month.

Councilman Thomas said he is planning on attending the MASC Small Summit meeting on August 12, 2026.

Mayor Hollingsworth said we have several water leaks and a collapsed sewer line on Central Avenue and the road is caving in over there. He said we are aware of these leaks, but we are getting the worst ones first and working our way down.

COUNCIL PRESENTS:

Councilman Worthy asked if we had a plan about getting all these trees up from the storm. Mayor Hollingsworth told council DOT will get them from right of ways, but we will get started one day this week picking them up.

Councilman Thomas talked about the building on Market Street falling and that maybe we need to get the county to come in and inspect buildings occasionally.

Councilwoman Dickerson told everyone a Gospel Crusade is coming at the end of September. She said this Sunday we will be at the First Baptist Church and will be praying for the Town Government. She would like for some of them or all to attend.

Councilman Lane said several members had asked about when certain streets would be paved. He said per Tim Carroll this has been pushed back until 2028. They will be paving from the city limits to the school by the end of November.

Councilwoman Means told council she is working on another project and will tell them more later when she knows more. She also told council the City of Newberry gets 12 Holidays and 1 floating Holiday.

Rhonda Butler told everyone she is working with the beautification board. All money is donated to fix signs and lights.

Kristin Hunt told council she was a Jaycee member and was listed as the treasurer. She is not and has not ever been treasurer at any time.

Mayor Hollingsworth told her that this was not the time or place to discuss this matter and it would be between her and the Jaycees. The town would have nothing to do with this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters made by Councilwoman Dickerson and seconded by Councilman Thomas. All in favor.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION:

Motion to come out of Executive Session and back into Regular Session made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Dickerson. All in favor. No decisions were made in executive session. This was for discussion only.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Dickerson All in favor.

APPROVED:

Mayor Billy Hollingsworth

ATTEST:

Carla Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer