

Town Council Meeting
Town Hall Annex
March 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carla Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer; Dawn Mosley, CPW Clerk; Chief Michael Moss, and Assistant Chief Joshua Wilbanks, Whitmire Police Department; Attorney Robert Lake, IV; Officer Brian Beaman, Officer Michael Claytor, Sheriff Lee Foster, Bernadine Edmunds, Chris Alexander, Willie Claytor, Rhonda Butler, Randy Levissey, Charlene Stroud, Mary Griffen, Rick Nelson, Donna Jamerson, Jimmy Brock, Katie Worthy, Kenneth Whitener, 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 February 9, 2026 council meeting were read and approved. Motion to approve made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Dickerson. All in favor.

RECREATION:

Jay Gardner told council we had 100 children register for Baseball and Softball. He said we have 1 older baseball team, 1 younger baseball team, 3 girls softball teams, 4 T-ball teams, and 2 coaches pitch teams. He said the Beta Club is going to help with concessions. He said we are in need of a refrigerator. He asked about food trucks selling at the games and us charging them a set up fee. He said uniforms, hats, and equipment has been ordered. The season starts this Wednesday. Council decided on a \$75.00 setup fee for food trucks per game day. Motion to charge \$75.00 setup fee for food trucks per game day made by Councilman Worthy and seconded by Councilman Thomas. All in favor.

KATIE WORTHY:

Katie Worthy talked to council about the upcoming Party in the Pines. She showed council a rough draft of the flyer and the route for the festival. Cash Money Band will be here on Friday and Saturday night. Parking spots will be left open in front of Roche Pharmacy. It will still be held on the second weekend in June. The rides will be set up on Wednesday.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mayor Hollingsworth told council he was just going to go over the audit for the Town and CPW tonight instead of going over the financial reports for this month. The audit for the Town of Whitmire showed we took in \$1,189,570.00 and spent \$1,121,802.00 which ended in a net gain of \$67,772.00 for the year. The Commission of Public Works side took in \$985,120.00 and spent \$1,301,633.00 which is a \$328,000.00 net loss. With public works we also have to factor in other things such as depreciation to get a more real total. Each council member received a copy of the audit to look at closer at home.

POLICE REPORTS:

Chief Moss gave the report for February. We had 44 incidents, 33 citations, 1 traffic accident, and 16 warrants served or withdrawn. Some of the calls included pointing and presenting a firearm, domestic violence, shoplifting, larceny, possession of stolen firearm, resisting arrest, PWID methamphetamine, and PWID marijuana.

On February 20th around 7:00 p.m. we got a text about people tagging buildings around Whitmire and it was gang related. Officer Justin Beaman made a traffic stop and called for

backup. We all thank Michael Claytor for his help. His car was rammed at the Community Center during this time.

Michael Claytor with the Sheriffs Department thanked the county for letting them help us up here. He said the writing on the buildings was gang related. He said at the community center there were beer cans, liquor bottles, marijuana, and other things. Chief Moss had spoke to Greenville County and they said the subjects were not here just to party. They had guns and planned to do other damage but they were stopped before that happened. He thanked everyone from the sheriff's department and our own department for what they done. We do not want anyone hurt.

Mayor Hollingsworth said we have some of the best officers in South Carolina and they have a difficult job. He said he wanted to thank everyone involved for their help. We are going to try to make some changes on the application for the community center rental form and maybe this will help some.

Sheriff Foster said everyone in that car was out on bond for violent crimes and one had an ankle monitor. He said they were going to take over this town. He said law enforcement is an expensive operation, but it is necessary and we just have to find the money somewhere.

MAYOR PRESENTS:

Mayor Hollingsworth told council we had a water leak under the filter plant. He said we have this fixed now. The river pumps messed up and we got those fixed then the distribution pumps quit. They are running, but we are waiting on the parts to fix them. The pavers slowed us down by at least 4 days going behind them and fixing leaks. We are back to normal now and getting started on leaks we need to fix. He thanked Willie and his crew for all they do.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council one of our Water Plant operators fell on icy steps and hurt his shoulder. He is having surgery to his shoulder and is out of work for a while. Brian Taylor has agreed to help us two days a week to fill in down there. He said he is interviewing someone else on Friday to help out so we don't have to work one operator to death.

Mayor Hollingsworth said Lorenzo Whitener is not here to speak about the Bully Bash. It is my understanding this is a dog show and not dog fights. The activity is non-violent. This will be held at the Community Center/Park areas.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council he and Charles Shugart met with Senator Ronnie Cromer to ask him to appropriate money to cover match on grants. He read over the letter they gave Senator Cromer. He said this would cover new meter system, park upgrades/splash pad, and etc. He said they asked for \$375,000.00.

Mayor Hollingsworth said we have had two people ask about purchasing 2 of our vacant lots not in use by the town. One of the lots is in front of 204 Grant Street and Dennis Wallen asked about this one. One of the lots is on Nelson Street and Bo Dilleshaw asked about this one. Council discussed this and decided to table it for now that they were not going to sell.

Mayor Hollingsworth reminded everyone the Statement of Economic Interest is due by March 30, 2026. Make sure to do this or you will get fined.

Palmetto Citizens will do a Ribbon Cutting and grand opening on March 30, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. on Main Street.

The Governmental Association meeting is on March 30, 2026 in Prosperity.

The Southeast Gravel Bicycle Race is at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. There may be 600 or more people here. The Café on Main is catering and we are hoping Good Ground will still be open then.

RENTAL PROPERTY ORDINANCE:

Mayor Hollingsworth went over the rental property ordinance for a first reading after changes had been made from the last meetings discussion. Motion to accept this ordinance for a first reading made by Councilwoman Dickerson and seconded by Councilman Worthy. Five members in favor and two members not in favor. No further discussion.

COUNCIL PRESENTS:

Councilman Worthy thanked law enforcement for all that they do.

Councilman Hill thanked law enforcement for all that they do also.

Councilman Thomas said the street pavers paved over the curbs and when it rains it will flood peoples' yards. He said they need to come back and fix these.

Mayor asked to form a beautification committee from Whitmire. Each council member is to come up with someone they would recommend to be on this committee by the next council meeting and they will discuss this then. Councilman Hill said he thought this was a great idea. LiRhonda said she just wanted to get up some trash, plant some flowers, and things like that. Mayor Hollingsworth said we will try to form the committee at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Means told council the Community Center needs to be painted. Councilwoman Means also said she would like to be in the know. She was not told about the meeting with Senator Cromer or about what happened with the Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to go into executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters made by Councilman Hill and seconded 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 Worthy and seconded by Councilwoman Dickerson. All in favor.

The decision coming from executive session was to rehire James Gardner for a full time Recreation Department position and to pay him \$35,000.00 per year salary.

Councilwoman Means had concerns with this being too quick of a decision. Councilman Thomas confirms he would be on a 90-day probation. Councilman Hill rescinded his contract thought. Votes to rehire him were polled. Councilman Worthy, Councilman Hill, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Dickerson, and Councilman Lane all voted yes. Councilwoman Means voted --- no.

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED:

Mayor Billy Hollingsworth

ATTEST:

Carla Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer