CITY OF FORT TOWSON
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

A. Call to Order

Mayor Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Present- Dawn Alvey, Patricia Phillips, Tami Barnes, Catrina Evans.

D. General Consent

1. Discussion and possible action regarding all city financial accounts, city bills to be paid, city payroll, and any other additional invoices or issues to consider.
2. Briefings on facilities/city property and community committees: City Administrator: Sheina Austin, RGLA representative, Nutrition Center representative, and Fort Towson Fire Chief.
3. Discussion and possible action regarding August 20th, 2026 meeting minutes.

City Administrator, Shiena Austin- Everything is good, nothing to report.

RGLA- Back to school bash went good. They will be holding a fundraiser event at the Nutrition Center on Oct. 10th. They will have BINGO and a dessert auction.

Nutrition Center- Brandi Scott said they fed about 100 people this week. She would like to look into a grant that would allow for a warming center, a tornado shelter, and a Red Cross housing for families in crisis. The Nutrition Center will hold a Trunk or Treat from 5 P.M. to around 8 or 9 P.M. on Oct. 31st.

VFD- None.

A motion was made to approve all general consent agenda items, except for the meeting minutes that were not available and Garrett Eller, town attorney, for clarification reasons by Trustee Alvey. Trustee Evans seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote- All Ayes.

Motion Passed.

E. Scheduled Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a request to be on the agenda from Brandy Scott regarding warming stations/storm shelters.

Choctaw County does not have an adequate storm shelter for the town of Fort Towson. Choctaw Nation has agreed to help with a center that would provide 15- 20 beds, and be used as a Storm/inclement weather shelter. When Red Cross is needed, there is no where to go for families in need except Atoka or in the city, and this would also provide a small shelter for families who experience a crisis. Brandi would like to meet with council to start exploring further with the Choctaw Nation to get the shelter started.

A motion was made by Trustee Alvey to start these talks with the Choctaw Nation to explore our options and see what would be needed to get this project started. Trustee Evans seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote- All Ayes.

Motion Passed.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a request to be on the agenda from Ami Payne regarding school zones.

Mrs. Payne, Superintendent of the Fort Towson ISD, wants permission to have a 4-way stop, and possibly blocking the road way in front of the cafeteria and another block in front of the Elementary by student parking, with 'No Thru Traffic' signs posted. There are safety concerns for the students. Also, she would like to have it approved to paint paw prints. Sheina has already talked to Tony about some of these issues and he had Sheina order stop signs for the school. All of this can be approved by the town, but there are concerns that it may fall within county, the town agrees to back Mrs. Payne with the county. Also, Mrs. Payne would like to work with the town to possibly get a School Resource Officer, she has a grant that would help fund this.

A motion was made by Trustee Alvey to approve blocking roads, pending on what county says, ordering stop signs and cross walks, and to allow cheerleaders to paint paw prints on the road ways. Trustee Evans seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote- All Ayes.

Motion Passed.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment or election to fill the vacant council seat.

A motion was made by Trustee Patricia to appoint Jeff Smith to the open council seat. Trustee Evans seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote- Trustee Alvey- No, Trustee Phillips- Yes, Trustee Barnes- Yes, Trustee Evans- Yes.

Motion Passed.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding fire department charges for fuel/various.

Lacey, Town Clerk-Treasurer, was curious as to why the town pays for the Volunteer Fire Department's fuel. No answers were given, but Tami will let Lacey know when the next meeting is scheduled so she can go and get an answer.

No Action Taken.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the budget for FY 26-27

A motion was made by Trustee Alvey to approve the new budget. Trustee Evans seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote- All Ayes.

Motion Passed.

F. New Business

None.

G. Public Comment

None.

H. Member Comment

Trustee Barnes would like to move meeting to the next week or 2 weeks later, due to the bills coming in later in the month, and paying bills late.

I. Adjournment

Mayor Barnes adjourned the meeting at 6:49 P.M.