

# **Johnston Town Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 12, 2026**

*The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, January 12, 2026 at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Felder, Berry, Burton, Miller, and Nicholson. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Robert Gallenz, Annette Holloway, Debra Aston, Darlene Smith, Willie Bethay, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.*

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the January 2026 Council Meeting to order.

Prior to Public Comments, Captain Coursey introduced Officer John Silcox to Council and everyone in attendance. Silcox came to Johnston from Saluda County. Council welcomed him.

Mayor Holmes then opened the floor for public comments.

#### **Public Comments:**

Robert Gallenz briefly shined a light on Martin Luther King, Jr., because of the upcoming holiday thereof.

Mr. Willie Bethay suggested that town meeting dates be put on the sign as a reminder to citizens.

Ms. Annette Holloway reminded Council and citizens of her “Unity Fest” event taking place February 7, 2026.

Ms. Debra Aston showed concern about a tree blocking the sidewalk in the area where she resides.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Holmes closed the public comments and moved into further business.

A motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Councilman Berry, to approve the December 8, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Burton, to approve the December 2025 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the December bills.

#### **Old Business**

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- (a) A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Felder, to Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-5A “Order of Business”. The motion passed unanimously.
- (b) A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-5B “Purchasing Limits”. The motion passed unanimously.
- (c) A motion was made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Felder, to Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-5C “Abatement”. The motion passed unanimously.
- (d) A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Burton, to Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-5D “Inspections”. The motion passed unanimously.
- (e) A motion was made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Burton, to Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-5E “Limitations on Non-Profit Groups”. The motion passed unanimously.
- (f) A motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-5F “Noise”. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **New Business**

- (a) A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to go into an Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters. The motion passed unanimously. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to come out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. No action was taken while in Executive Session. A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson to consider bid from Lucas Refrigeration, totaling \$12,683. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Councilman Burton reported 20 fire calls and 1 drill since last meeting.
- Councilman Miller stated that the Arts Center sign should be completed soon and that the Citizens Park swing set has been replaced.
- Councilman Berry reported that the Department is 1 officer short, however there are interviews soon to take place.
- Councilman Berry also reported 226 dispatched calls. Berry complimented Captain Coursey for holding down the Department in Chief Perry’s absence.
- Councilman Felder complimented Public Works on their work ethic and reported a few maintenance problems with machinery.

#### **Office of Town Council**

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- Councilman Berry stated that he appreciated the announcements being put on the town's sign.
- Councilman Burton stated that the fireworks weren't as bad this year as they usually are.
- Councilman Miller reported a blood drive at KJ's Market from 1:00pm until 5:00pm this Saturday.

#### **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Holmes wished everyone a Happy New Year and gave a reminder of the Unity Fest on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Burton to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:26PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton  
Municipal Clerk