

# **Johnston Town Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **June 9, 2025**

*The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, June 9, 2025 at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Burton, Miller, Berry, Felder, and Nicholson. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Willie Bethay, Neil Cunningham, Robert Gallenz, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.*

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the June 2025 Council Meeting to order.

Prior to Public Comments, Chief Perry introduced the Police Department's new officer, David Simpson. He's originally from Calhoun Falls. Council gladly welcomed Officer Simpson.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

#### **Public Comments:**

Willie Bethay pointed out several streets with flood hazards. Mayor Holmes assured Mr. Bethay that DOT was aware of the issue and will address them soon. Mr. Bethay also recommended having a town event recognizing the contribution that the itinerant workforce makes to the community and he reminded council that mosquitoes will be bad pretty soon. Mayor Holmes advised Mr. Bethay that mosquito spraying would be at night only to be sure that bees were not subject to the spray.

Robert Gallenz handed out several compliments to the town staff. Council thanked him for his kind words.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Felder, to approve the May 12, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Council reviewed the May bills.

#### **Old Business**

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- (a) Mayor Holmes updated Council on the status of the take down of the Edwards Building. He pointed out government agency involvement in approving the project as a contributor to the delay in executing the removal of the building.

#### **New Business**

- (a) A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Felder, to Approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-3 Medical Building Sale. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Councilman Burton reported 9 fire calls and 1 drill since last meeting.
- Councilman Berry reported 910 dispatched calls since last meeting, 631 being property checks. Berry also stated that the Police Department still has 1 vacancy and hopes that will be filled within the next month.
- Councilman Felder reported that the leaf machine was still down, however the chipper is up and running. The Public Works department is at full strength.
- Councilman Miller reported the sign for the Chamber of Commerce is being repaired by Edwards in Leesville.

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

- Councilman Burton revisited a drainage issue on a lot adjacent to his property. Burton expressed that he brought the problem to Council two years ago and had not received any help in getting the problem addressed. The Mayor responded by providing points of difficulty in dealing with property rights and natural drainage on private property and made it known that it would be the owner's responsibility to correct the situation.

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

- Mayor Holmes reported that the town was in good financial standing and that the town's long time Pharmacy, Maxwell Halford, closed down. Holmes stated that they're actively searching for someone to reoccupy the store and complimented each of the town's department's work ethic this past month.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Berry to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton  
Municipal Clerk