

**TOWN OF CENTRAL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
1067 WEST MAIN STREET - CENTRAL, SC 29630
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 – 7:00pm**

Present: Mayor Andrew Beckner; Council Members Ken Dill, Joe Moss, Lynne Chapman, Robert Griffin, and Curtis Peek; Administrator Phillip Mishoe; Fire Chief Ed Reynolds; Police Chief Steve Thompson, Josh Addis, Ed Martin, Jim Palmer, Kate Palmer, Jane Dill, Debbie Peek, Judy Griffin, Jack Queener, Heather Miller, Travis Holley, Andrew Beckwith, P. Dill, Katherine Brooks, Summer Evatt, Collin Craig, Janice Wall, Ashleigh Cobey, Thomas Cobey, Shawn Cobey, Emily Holley, Sam Walters – The Journal, Sean Smith – The Journal, and Town Clerk Jessica H. Rowland. All those requesting the agenda and member of press were notified Friday, January 09, 2026 at 2:38 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Andrew Beckner who also rendered the opening prayer.

Public Session

- It was noted that no members of the public had signed in to speak
- Public session was closed

Swearing-In of New Mayor

- Mr. Dill took the oath of office, affirming:
 - He is duly qualified according to the Constitution of South Carolina
 - He will preserve, protect, and defend the Constitutions of South Carolina and the United States
 - He will faithfully discharge the duties of Mayor of the Town of Central and work to preserve the peace and carry out the laws

Recognition of Outgoing Mayor

- Former Mayor Andrew Beckner was recognized for his service
- A plaque of appreciation was presented to him for his commitment, dedication, and service as Mayor of the Town of Central from 2021 to 2025

Swearing-In of New Council Members

- The following newly elected council members were sworn in:
 - Daniel Evett
 - Doug Barry
 - Robert Griffin
- Each took the oath of office to:
 - Faithfully discharge their duties

- Preserve, protect, and defend the Constitutions of South Carolina and the United States
- Serve as council members for the Town of Central fairly and impartially

Recognition of Former Council Member

- Paige Bowers was honored for her long service
 - 16 years of service as a councilwoman
 - Over 15 years of service on the Planning Commission
- A plaque was presented to Mrs. Bowers that stated that her hard work and dedication left a positive impact on the Town of Central and the community

Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

- As required annually, a Mayor Pro Tem was appointed
- Nominations:
 - Curtis Peek – nominated by the chair
 - Joe Moss – nominated by Paige Bowers
- After nominations were closed, council voted by raising right hands:
 - Votes for Curtis Peek: 4
 - Votes for Joe Moss: 3
- Curtis Peek was elected Mayor Pro Tem
 - Congratulations were extended to Mr. Peek

Receipt and Disposition of Petitions

The Town Administrator reported receipt of a petition from Jimmy Head for 100% freeholder annexation (or related matter as referenced)

- The clerk was directed to note this for February and place on the February work session agenda for council consideration.

Administrator's Report – 2026 Project Overview

The Town Administrator provided an overview of key infrastructure projects and grants expected over the next 12 months, with handouts distributed to council and the public.

- **Green Crescent Trail – Downtown Segment**
 - Scope: From the downtown caboose to the Southern Wesleyan University property
 - Bid Timeline: Expected to go out to bid in March 2026
 - Total Project Cost: Approximately \$1,143,000
 - Grant Funding: Approximately \$1.06M (as stated)
 - Town Contribution: \$82,586
 - Schedule: Expected to be completed during the 2026 calendar year
- **Brock Street Water Line**
 - Status: Near completion; work began approximately three months ago
 - Total Project Cost: Approximately \$1,500,000

- Grant Funding: \$1,455,000
 - Town Contribution: \$53,220
 - Completion Target: Expected by April 2026 (within the next four months)
 - Additional line replacements are being added to fully utilize remaining grant funds
- **Mawbridge Road Sewer Replacement**
 - Bid Date: Targeted for April 2026
 - This is the final phase of a full town-wide sewer system rehabilitation effort that has been underway for roughly 20 years
 - Total Project Cost: Approximately \$2,000,000
 - Town Contribution: Not to exceed \$150,000
 - Once complete, the entire system is expected not to require similar rehabilitation for at least 50 years

Total 2026 Infrastructure Investment

Total infrastructure investment (calendar year 2026): ~\$4,650,000

Town's total share: ~\$340,000

Grant-funded work in 2026: Approximately \$4.3 million

- **Fire Station Project**
 - The town has been awarded a \$2,000,000 grant toward a new fire station
 - Estimated total project cost: ~\$5.5 million
 - Additional grants and value engineering will be pursued to close the gap and make the project feasible
- **Additional Grant-Funded Positions/Projects**
 - The Administrator noted this overview covers only grants he directly led
 - Other departments also secure grants:
 - Police Department currently has two grant-funded police officers
 - The recreation department receives grants as well
 - Administrator will continue to provide regular updates as projects progress, especially those that may temporarily disrupt traffic

Traffic Impacts

- Green Crescent Trail: expected to be visible but not significantly disruptive
- Mawbridge/Mauldin Road sewer work: expected to involve intermittent lane closures, not full road closures, to minimize disruption

No further questions from council

Mayor's Report

- Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

- Mayor Pro Tem Peek reported that he had contacted a local citizen regarding a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals, explained the duties, and the citizen was eager to serve.

Motion	Second	Vote
Councilmember Curtis Peek	Councilmember Lynne Chapman	Unanimous

Result: Joe Bradford appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals

- Staff will extend the formal invitation to Mr. Bradford

Temporary Committee Assignments

The mayor announced committee leadership assignments for council members, effective for this month. Assignments may be adjusted in February after individual conversations to ensure the best fit and compliance.

- **Finance & Marketing:** Daniel Evatt
- **Streets & Public Safety:** Joe Moss
- **Enterprise & Community Engagement:** Lynne Chapman
- **Recreation:** Robert Griffin
- **Planning:** Curtis Peek
- **Tourism & Economic Development:** Doug Barry

These assignments may be revisited next month to ensure “the right people in the right places.”

Annual Meeting Schedule

- A schedule of all projected council meetings (work sessions and regular public sessions) through December 2026 has been published
- The schedule is:
 - Posted on the town website, and
 - Posted in the lobby at Town Hall
- Residents can use this to plan ahead. If meetings must be canceled, it will be done in compliance with required notice procedures.

Mayor’s Closing Remarks

The new mayor offered personal remarks and his guiding principles:

- **Gratitude & Honor**
 - Thanked the people of Central for entrusting him with the honor of serving as mayor
 - Expressed humility and commitment to working with both elected officials and staff
- **Commitment to Action**
 - Early in his career, a moment of inaction made someone feel he did not care
 - Since then, he has resolved that if he makes mistakes, they will be mistakes of action, not inaction, so people know he is trying and cares
 - Residents should expect changes in the coming months that provide more information and greater transparency
- **Transparency & Accountability**
 - The mayor stated he believes citizens are smart and can handle information; he wants actions to be as transparent as possible
 - On the back of his office door, he has taped his campaign promises, so he can:
 - Regularly see what he pledged to do
 - Check them off as they are fulfilled
 - He emphasized that his integrity with the community is of high importance
- **Doing the Right Things, the Right Way**
 - He wants the town to do the right thing and do it the right way
 - Acknowledged it is possible to do the right thing in the wrong way, and said they will avoid that
 - Some processes may seem slow because of necessary checks and balances; he asked for patience as the town works through those processes correctly
- **Appreciation for Staff**
 - He praised town employees across departments—fire, police, streets, and all others—for their work protecting and serving the community
 - Encouraged residents to come meet the staff and see “the great team” serving the town
- **Vision for the Future**
 - Stated he believes Central is “the best town.”
 - Believes that by working together, doing the right things in the right way, the best days are ahead for the community

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Mayor Pro Tem declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:24pm.

Attendees were invited to stay for photos and snacks

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica H. Rowland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jessica" being the most prominent.

Jessica H. Rowland
Town Clerk

Approved: 02-09-2026