

**TOWN OF CENTRAL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
CENTRAL TOWN HALL
1067 WEST MAIN STREET - CENTRAL, SC 29630
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025 – 6:45 pm**

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Dill; Council Members S. Paige Bowers, Lynne Chapman, Curtis Peek, and Robert Griffin; Administrator Phillip Mishoe; Assistant Administrator Tom Cloer; Police Chief Steve Thompson; Fire Chief Ed Reynolds; Sergeant Sam Freeman; Josh Addis; Jack Queener; Ed Young, Jessica Wells, Doug Barry, Toya Davis, Gene Culbertson, Jason Casey, Justin Rakey, Shane Bagwell, and Town Clerk Susan A. Brewer. All those requesting the agenda and member of press were notified Friday June 6th at 11:45am.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro -Tem Ken Dill.

Curtis Peek rendered the invocation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Dill asked Town Administrator Phillip Mishoe to highlight some areas of the Budget 2025-2026 and after he was done, we would have a time of Public Comment.

Phillip Mishoe said that there was an increase in building repairs for \$90,000 for roof repair at the fire station roof. He said there was \$19,000 increase for the planner that was funded by ARPA for this last year. He said there was \$12,000 for replace the floor in the conference room. He said there was a \$20,000 increase adding a part-time codes enforcement officer in this budget. We are adding a full-time sanitation driver for commercial. We had a part-time driver and he fully retired. There is a 4% cola for all employees except police officers. Their increases will be to keep them competitive.

Public Comments

Justin Rakey thanked the Administrator, Department Heads, and Council for making the tough decision in saying yes to a part-time code enforcement officer because you have to say "no" to other things. It is important and will pay dividends here at the Town of Central.

Doug Barry approached Council. He asked Phillip Mishoe why was the roofing at the fire station put off for 10 years to cost \$90,000. He said funding. Doug Barry asked if we had the funding now? Through tax increases? Phillip Mishoe said no it was not through tax increases. We had been setting money back until we got enough. Doug Barry asked how old was the floor in the conference room. Phillip Mishoe said it was old as the building. Approximately 22years. Doug asked if it was cracked. Phillip said we had a water issue and we had grading done to fix that and now we need to replace the floor. Doug asked if there were any other repairs coming up cars, parts, buildings, parks, disc golf and things like that. Phillip Mishoe said there was not. He then asked where could he find a copy f the budget. Phillip Mishoe asked if he wanted an email or a hard copy. He said either one.

Jack Queener approached Council.
See attached for his statement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Dill asked the Chief of Police to explain the increase in the police salaries. Chief Thompson said that he chose to remove two of the requests for officers to do salary increases for the officers we have because if the salary was not competitive it wouldn't matter how many officers, they allowed him to hire they wouldn't stay because salaries were not competitive with surrounding agencies.

Ken Dill told Doug Barry the items he had asked about as far as repairs, it was in the budget for those departments.

With no objections Mayor Beckner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Brewer, Town Clerk

Approved: 07/14/2025

Good evening Mayor ^{- Pro Tem} and Council Members.

I'd like to address three issues, all of which are pertinent to the budget before you tonight

But first, I would like to respectfully request that each Council Member use the provided microphone and speak directly into it so that everyone in the audience has the opportunity to hear you do the town's business.

There are several of us who have old and/or well worn ears, and often we have difficulty hearing what is being said. I have heard people ask you to use the microphones and speak up, but I know it's easy to forget.

The Americans With Disabilities Act requires the town to assure that every member of the audience can fully participate in the meeting and that begins with being able to hear what is said.

~~Next... The way your agenda is constructed~~

Once again we are looking at an agenda which is

gobbledygook with numbers and nothingness.

It's perfectly simple to put a one sentence explanation for each item so that your constituents can see and understand what you are considering and actually acting on.

Nothing here makes plain to residents or those of us non-residents who pay to utilize the services of the Central Clemson Recreation Center that we are about to get a substantial increase in membership fees. I was disappointed to sit in the room at the joint meeting with Clemson officials and hear the representatives of the REC say that they had NOT conducted a customer/member survey in no one remembers when. It sounded something like "We know what they need and want, we don't have to ask." The REC staff needs the guidance of a joint board with representatives from both municipalities as well as non resident members. and NO I'm not interested in serving. I have wondered about the governance of the REC all the time il have been a member.

The next thing I wish to comment on is the ad hoc committee which the Mayor has unilaterally formed to advise him on "rebranding the town." I asked in an email last week for information about the makeup of the committee, the meetings and record of meetings. Not a word in response. For the record, I'm 100% in favor of citizen involvement, DONE PROPERLY. I would say that Central needs a LOT MORE citizen involvement, not more secret meetings. I just completed a survey that Clemson University did for the City of Clemson, online gathering of stakeholder input, likely free as a class project. When is the last time the Town of Central utilized the services of the flagship land-grant university which is our next door neighbor. This has to do with the budget, because I would suggest budgeting 3 or 4 summer intern slots in a few different departments to utilize the talents and network of the Clemson and Southern Wesleyan students.

Finally,

One line item in your budget tells the story of where your priorities are. According to public information, the School District of Pickens County has 25 schools, 1,300 employees and pays their top administrator a salary of approximately \$210,734

By contrast, the Town of Central has maybe 8 facilities and 28 full time employees, and is spending approximately \$136,500 (much more if you include benefits) on its top administrator. I'll let you do the math and the other comps, if you're interested.

Thank You for your time.

Jack Queener
6-9-2025