

**TOWN OF CENTRAL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
1067 WEST MAIN STREET - CENTRAL, SC 29630
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025 – 7:47pm**

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 earlier at beginning of Public Hearing.

Reading of Work Session Minutes 05.05.2025, Joint Meeting with Clemson 05.12.2025 and Regular Council Meeting Minutes 05.12.2025

Lynne Chapman made the motion to adopt Work Session Minutes 05.05.2025; seconded by Curtis Peek. The vote was unanimous.

Paige Bowers made a motion to table the Joint Meeting with Clemson Minutes 05.12.2025; seconded by Curtis Peek. The vote was unanimous.

Curtis Peek made the motion adopt Regular Council Meeting Minutes 05.12.2025; seconded by Joe Moss. The vote was unanimous.

Public Session – (30 Minutes Total)

Doug Barry approached Council. He said that it was an inconvenience and he didn't believe that was the way it was supposed to work. He said this afternoon he got copies of everything from the Town Clerk but by not having the entire council packet for citizens to be prepared for the public comment section. He also said he thought the agenda should have the Pledge of Allegiance on the agenda. He said again not getting the information on time for the ordinances that were being read. He said if they didn't have access to them, they couldn't ask questions about concerns. He said the zoning changes could be clearer. He said if they would be a little more transparent by putting all the information out for the public so they would know what is going on. Even if there was a copy made and sitting in the lobby.

Receipt and Disposition of Petitions (15 Minutes)

None

Planning – Paige Bowers

Paige Bowers reported that they have 2 positions open for the Zoning Board of Appeals if anyone was interested. She said she had 1 position for the Planning Commission. Paige Bowers made the motion to appoint Ed Young to serve as a Planning Commission member; seconded by Lynne Chapman. Ed Young said if he got this opportunity he looks forward to serving. The vote was unanimous.

Streets and Public Safety – Joe Moss

Joe Moss said the fire department had 38 calls for the month of May and 263 calls for the year.

Joe Moss asked Chief Steve Thompson to give an incident update. (See attached)

Enterprise and Community Engagement – Lynne Chapman

Lynne Chapman reported for the month of May the Water and Sewer Department completed 151 work orders. The meters were read on May 13th while rechecks were done on the 14th and disconnects were done May 28th

36 customers were disconnected for nonpayment and of these 32 were reconnected.

The sanitation department both Residential and Commercial operated on normal schedules for the month May with the exception of May 26th for the observance of Memorial Day. To accommodate residents, a double route was run for both residential & commercial on Tuesday May 27th.

Lynne Chapman also reported the Community Engagement Meeting would be held at Central United Methodist Church on June 24th at 7:00pm.

Recreation – Ken Dill

Ken Dill reported the Recreation Department is working on renovating all fields by having them aerated, verticut, and sprigged. Fields will be closed for 3-4 weeks to allow the new grass to root and will reopen early July. Parks are open to use.

Ken Dill reported the bids for fixing the 2 culvert collapses and going through FEMA are due June 26.

Ken Dill reported that Tom Cloer was working with Duke Power on new program for having receptacles installed on the 19 decorative light poles on Mainstreet to allow Christmas lights on the pole. In the past, this has not been an option but due to requests from numerous municipalities, Duke has started a new program just for municipalities.

Ken Dill reported the Central Tigers Football will kick off in mid-July with practices and hold Super Saturday Kickoff Classic on Saturday, August 23rd.

Finance and Marketing – Curtis Peek

Curtis Peek reported that his report was a little different from normal.

Curtis Peek reported our general fund currently has a balance of \$1,036,241.69 compared to the balance at the end of April that was \$1,257,631.75. This is decrease of \$221,390.06. This is a decrease of 17.6% in the general fund. He said

we know that this time of year the general fund drops because we don't have the property taxes coming in but we are in great shape and don't expect any issues moving forward throughout the year.

Curtis Peek said that the enterprise funds would be updated at a later date due to a vacation here at town hall and the numbers were not updated.

Tourism and Economic Development – Robert Griffin

Robert Griffin gave an update for events as listed below:

- The Sanders and Company car show was a big success, doubling in size from last year with over 200 cars on display
- June 20, Movie Night at the Depot presented by Mainstreet and Mill, Central Parks and Recreation, and Central Police Dept. beginning at 730pm. Movie will be Free Willy
- June 6, Karaoke night at the Depot was cancelled due to lack of participation.
- After Discussion and wanting to involve area schools in the 150-year celebration of Central, we will be planning a special event in September. We are still doing a July 4 celebration but want the schools to be involved in the official celebration. More details to come.

New Business

Curtis Peek said as Town Council, it has been brought to their attention that the property located on the in the intersection of Tarrant Street and Pepper Street, was approve for re-zoning by the plans that were presented to us by Jack Green. Since then, the property has been sold to another owner. We feel we need to revert the zoning back to the original zone of R- 12 because as it stands now it is zoned RM-16. Although we do not know what the plans are for this property it would be in the best interest for the town and citizens to revert the zone to prevent high density growth for this residential neighborhood as it would not be a good fit."

Curtis Peek made the motion that Council have the Planning Commission to start the process to revert the zoning of the property located at the intersection of Tarrant Street and Pepper Street back to its original zone of R-12 from RM-16; seconded by Lynne Chapman. Paige Bowers asked if it was just the one side of that intersection. Curtis Peek said it was. Curtis said it was the Bolick side and the property behind Daniel Evatt's house. He said that was one property if he remembered correctly. Ken Dill said sometimes this is confusing so he was going to try to help us with this. He said that land was bought and the developer came to us, showed us a plan, asked us to re-zone it so there could be basically duplexes with setbacks and buffers, trees, sidewalks, rear entrances. He said Council approved rezoning based on what he had given to them. Now he sold part the property that was rezoned. Now the part that he sold Council wants to go back to R-12 which means it can't be high density. He said the new owner wants to bring a proposal for Council to look at can be done but they are trying to be careful as a Council to say that we want this not be that kind of high density. The vote was unanimous.

Old Business

None

Introduction and consideration of new Ordinances, Policies, Proclamation, and Resolutions

First Reading of Ordinance # 07-14-2025 AMENDMENT TO ZONING SECTION 555

Paige Bowers made to motion to adopt on first reading Ordinance # 07-14-2025 AMENDMENT TO ZONING SECTION 555; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

First Reading of Ordinance # 07-14-2025 AMENDMENT SECTION 2-58

Lynne Chapman made the motion to adopt on first reading Ordinance #07-14-2025 AMENDMENT SECTION 2-58; SECONDED BY Curtis Peek. The vote was unanimous.

Resolution #06-09-2025 TG Re-appoint Tina Galbreath as Associate Judge

Curtis Peek made the motion to adopt Resolution #06-09-2025 TG; seconded by Joe Moss. The vote was unanimous.

Resolution #06-09-2025 PS Re-appoint Phillip Snow as Associate Judge

Paige Bowers made the motion to adopt Resolution #06-09-2025 PS; seconded by Curtis Peek. The vote was unanimous.

Resolution #06-09-2025 Acceptance of Loan Forgiveness

Curtis Peek made the motion to adopt Resolution #06-09-2025 Acceptance of Loan Forgiveness; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Ordinances and Policies already in possession of Council

Second Reading of Ordinance #06-09-2025 BU

Lynne Chapman made the motion to adopt on second reading of Ordinance # 06-09-2025 BU for funds containing 10,12,13,20,30,32,33,35,40,60,71,80, and 85 funds;; seconded by Paige Bowers. The vote was unanimous.

Second Reading of Ordinance #06-09-2025 RB

Paige Bowers made the motion to adopt on second reading Ordinance #06-09-2025 RB; seconded by Joe Moss. The vote was unanimous.

Second Reading of Policy #06-09-2025 BASE RATES

Paige Bowers made the motion to adopt on second reading Policy # 06-09-2025 BASE RATES; seconded by Joe Moss. The vote was unanimous.

Reports from the Administrator and Mayor:

Administrator

Mayor

Executive Session

S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) (2)

Mayor Pro-Tem made the motion to go into Executive Session for a personnel matter, Potential Real Estate Transaction, and a legal matter; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Return from Executive Session

Council returned from executive session where no decisions were made only information was shared.

Action Items

Mayor Pro-Tem entered a letter into the minutes. The Town Clerk's letter of retirement.

See attached Letter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Dill made the motion with deep felt appreciation and sadness of a loss of a great employee and friend they accept the resignation of Susan Brewer effective December 31, 2025; seconded by Paige Bowers. Ken Dill asked for all in favor to stand with applause.

With no objections, Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Dill adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Brewer, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved: 07/14/2025



Central Police Department

1067 West Main Street
Post Office Box 549
Central, South Carolina 29630-0549
Phone: (864) 639-4020
Fax: (864) 639-2610



Chief of Police
Steve Thompson

Administrative Assistant
Michelle Batson

Central Police Department

May 23, 2025

From The Chief's desk:

On May 15, 2025, at approximately 2:00 A.M., officers from the Central Police Department responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle and person. The vehicle was located at an abandoned residence in the 200 block of Aiken Street, within the Town of Central, South Carolina. Upon arrival, officers discovered what appeared to be evidence of criminal activity and immediately initiated an investigation. Assistance was requested from the Pickens County Drone Unit to support the ongoing efforts. During the course of the investigation, Jeremy Lee Basquette was identified as a person of interest in connection with the circumstances surrounding the suspicious vehicle.

Later the same morning while continuing the investigation, officers with the Central Police Department attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle operated by Basquette within the town limits of Central. This encounter led to a vehicle pursuit that ended with Basquette being mortally injured by a self-inflicted gunshot wound. This incident took place at the intersection of Highway 93 and Highway 76 in Clemson, South Carolina. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating that incident.

The events of May 15, 2025, led law enforcement to believe that a missing person case was connected to the ongoing investigation. Steve Crawford Whitmire, of Whitmire Hill Road in Liberty, South Carolina, was identified as having had recent contact with Jeremy Basquette. Initial attempts by officers and investigators to locate Mr. Whitmire were unsuccessful. Evidence recovered from the suspicious vehicle heightened concerns for his safety, prompting an extensive search throughout the area.

On May 18, 2025, detectives with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office located human remains in a wooded area in the 500 block of Massingill Memorial Drive, Pickens, SC. The Pickens County Coroner's Office positively identified the remains as Steve Whitmire, who had died from a gunshot wound to the head. Further investigation developed evidence implicating Jeremy Basquette as the suspect in Mr. Whitmire's death.

As the investigation progressed, our officers and investigators identified Joshua Mathis, a resident within the town limits of Central, as being involved in the incident. On May 15, 2025, a search warrant was executed at Mathis's residence, located at 116 Moore Street, Central, SC. During the search, evidence was recovered linking Mathis to the case. Throughout the investigation, our officers, investigators, and dispatch team collected both physical and digital evidence, which was promptly transferred to the Pickens County Sheriff's Office to support their ongoing efforts. As a result of this coordinated and diligent work, Joshua Mathis was charged on May 23, 2025, with "Accessory After the Fact to a Felony."

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of our law enforcement officers, Judge Wells, and the Pickens County Emergency Operations Center dispatch team, led by Meagan Burgess. Their swift, professional, and collaborative response was instrumental in gathering critical evidence and securing the necessary legal documentation. Their commitment and teamwork have significantly contributed to the progress and resolution of this case. Would you all stand as we recognize you for a job well done.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Thompson".

Chief of Police

June 9, 2025

Phillip Mishoe and Town Council
PO Box 549
Central, SC 29630

Dear Phillip Mishoe and Town Council,

I write this letter today with the upmost gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Town of Central. I'd like to announce my retirement with December 31, 2025 being my last day. I am giving an extended notice in hopes of a smooth transition for this position. If the town needs me to be a consultant to the new clerk I will be happy to do so at negotiated terms with the Administrator.

I appreciate the professional opportunities I have been given. I've grown throughout my tenure here such as my promotion from Utility Billing Clerk in October 2005 to Deputy Town Clerk in April 2006 to Town Clerk/Business License Official October 2010. I hope the next Town Clerk will find this position as rewarding as I have. I will forever be thankful to the Town of Central for the awesome opportunities they have provided and I thank you personally for making my experience here so special. Working here has truly been a blessing. Although the situation is bittersweet for me, I'm excited to enter into the next adventure of my life with hopes of travel.

I wish nothing but the best to you and the rest of the team going forward. The future is an exciting prospect, and if there's any way I can be of assistance to you or the team, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan A. Brewer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Best Regards," text.