

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025

Mayor James Howell called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

There was a technical problem with Zoom, so no Zoom recording was made. Facebook Live was working and the meeting was streamed via Facebook Live.

Councilwoman Inez Lee gave the invocation.

Mayor James Howell took roll call: Mayor Howell, Councilwoman Inez Lee, Councilwoman Angele Bradley (via phone), Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack, and Councilman Tyler Cook were all present.

Others in attendance: Chief Dennis Carter.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to accept the agenda for the November 10, 2025, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 13, 2025, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

No comments from citizens.

Teresa Jacobs of the Pee Dee Cog submitted a progress report for the Railroad Ave. Lift Station. Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the report as information. Councilwoman Mack seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Preston Watson of Davis & Floyd submitted a progress report for the Railroad Ave. Lift Station. Councilman Cook erroneously stated there was no support submitted; Mayor Howell corrected him. Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the report as information. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA submitted the Financial Report. Because Zoom was not working, Councilman Cook read the following information aloud:

General Fund (September 2025): Receipts - \$8,853.22, Disbursements - \$63,970.24, Decrease in cash - \$55,117.02, Ending cash balance - \$565,844.56.

Utility Fund (September 2025): Receipts - \$37,988.23, Disbursements - \$33,041.21, Increase in cash - \$4,947.02, Ending cash balance - \$45,718.96 (\$14,372.21 available for operations; \$45,718.96 for restricted grant funds).

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the financial report as information. Councilman Cook seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Tyler Cook presented and read the second reading of an ordinance to increase the monthly stipend that the mayor and members of council received. Councilman Cook reiterated the terms of the ordinance, specifically the new annual stipends for member of Council and the Mayor. He also mentioned that the stipend increases would not take effect until the new members of Council and the new Mayor are sworn in in January. He then read the following South Carolina State Code that allows for such action:

S.C. CODE § 5-7-170. Salaries and expenses of mayor and councilmen (members) determined by council through ordinance. The council may determine the annual salary of its members by ordinance; provided, that

an ordinance establishing or increasing such salaries shall not become effective until the commencement date of the terms of two or more members elected at the next general election following the adoption of the ordinance, at which time it will become effective for all members whether or not they were elected in such election.

The mayor currently receives an annual stipend of \$4,550.00. Council members currently receive an annual stipend of \$1,950.00 each. Councilman Cook proposed increasing the annual stipend for the mayor to \$6000.00 and increasing the stipend for council to \$2,400 per member. \$18,000.00 was allocated in the FY2026 municipal budget for mayor and council. This will expend \$15,600.00 of the budgeted amount.

Councilwoman Mack asked if the annualized stipends were paid over twelve or thirteen payments, as Council currently receives a “thirteenth check” (per Councilman Cook) in December. Councilman Cook stated that the ordinance only addresses the total annual stipend amounts, and that Council can decide whether it wants the amounts paid in twelve or thirteen payments.

Councilman Cook made the motion to increase the stipend to the proposed amount. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Cook presented the Police Department Report. He highlighted the success of the Trunk-or-Treat on October 30, 2025. Councilman Cook asked Chief Carter for a “guesstimate” of total attendance, and he and Mayor Howell both said that it was around 1000 people. Councilman Cook then reiterated the loose dog ordinance and that the Lamar Police Department is seeking a full-time officer. He also cautioned residents to be mindful of work crews decorating downtown for Christmas.

Councilwoman Angele Bradley stated she had no report this month for the Business & License Report.

Beautification Commission Report – Councilwoman Inez Lee

- Councilwoman Lee noted that meeting and connecting with Lamar schools continues.

Public Works Department Reports:

Water & Sewer Report – Councilwoman Inez Lee

- Councilwoman Lee submitted a written report. She highlighted several water line repairs that have been made recently, as well as the need to fill a hole at the location of a repaired leak.
- Water Purchased from DCWSA: **3,350,600** Billed: **2,112,726** Water Loss: **1,237,874**
- DES (formerly DHEC) will visit Lamar in December 2025 for a water survey.

Streets and Sanitation Report – Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack

- Councilwoman Mack encouraged residents to let her know if they see any street lights out.

Councilwoman Mack discussed the upcoming events: (1) Veterans Day, (2) Lamar Adult Education classes, (3) Christmas on Main decorating, (4) Bethany Baptist Church Clothes Giveaway, (5) Lamar Christmas Tree Lighting, and (6) Christmas on Main.

Mayor Howell congratulated the newly-elected members of Council and Councilwoman Lee for winning the mayoral race.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to enter executive session. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council entered executive session:

- **FOIA South Carolina Code Section 30-40-70 (A) (1): Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demolition, discipline or release of an employee, or an appointment to the public body.**

Councilwoman Lee moved to re-enter public session. Councilman Cook and Councilwoman Bradley seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council re-entered public session.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept employee Christmas bonuses discussed during executive session. Councilman Cook seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Minutes Taken By: Councilman Tyler Cook and Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan