

## **Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes October 13, 2025**

Mayor James Howell called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

There was a technical problem with Facebook livestream. Councilwoman Angele Bradley provided the livestream using her personal cell phone.

Councilwoman Inez Lee gave the invocation.

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

Others in attendance: Chief Dennis Carter and Crystal Altidor.

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

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 8, 2025, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Bradley 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.

Preston Watson of Davis & Floyd submitted a progress report for the Railroad Ave. Lift Station.

Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA submitted the Financial Report:

General Fund (August 2025): Receipts - \$30,645.99, Disbursements - \$36,175.08, Decrease in cash - \$5,529.09, Ending cash balance - \$620,961.50.

Utility Fund (August 2025): Receipts - \$30,183.81, Disbursements - \$32,984.97, Decrease in cash- \$2,801.16, Ending cash balance - \$40,771.94 (\$9,433.31 available for operations; \$31,338.63 for restricted grant funds).

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to receive the Railroad Ave. Lift Station Reports from the Pee Dee COG and Davis & Floyd, and the Financial Report from Doug Poston as information. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Crytal Altidor of the Pee Dee Coalition gave a presentation on Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Pee Dee Coalition is holding its Domestic Violence Awareness Walk 2025 on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Public Square in Darlington. They are asking participants to wear purple or pink.

Councilman Tyler Cook read a proclamation proclaiming the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Town of Lamar.

Councilman Tyler Cook presented and read the first reading of an ordinance to increase the monthly stipend that the mayor and members of council received. Councilman Cook pointed out that the purpose of the ordinance was to increase the stipend because it has not been raised in several decades. 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.

Councilman Cook stated that there will be a General Municipal Election for the Town of Lamar on November 4, 2025. Councilman Cook is not running for re-election (neither is Councilwoman Mack).

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

Councilman Cook presented the Police Department Report. He highlighted the loose dog ordinance. Mayor Howell reiterated the ordinance.

Councilwoman Angele Bradley gave the Business & License Report: The report was unchanged from last month.

Beautification Commission Report – Councilwoman Inez Lee

- Councilwoman Lee encouraged citizens and merchants to help keep the streets clean.

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. Mayor Howell talked about the project that the Department of transportation (DOT) is working on. He said that they encountered some unexpected issues.
- Water Purchased from DCWSA: **3,566,700** Billed: **2,011,174** Water Loss: **1,555,526**

Streets and Sanitation Report – Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack

- Councilwoman Mack said that Duke Energy has replaced several streetlights with new lights.

Councilwoman Mack discussed the upcoming events: (1) Meet & Greet for Municipal Candidate, (2) Park, Praise, & Pray (Hines Funeral Home), (3) Lamar Fall Festival, (4) Stop the Violence Event, and (5) Town of Lamar Trunk or Treat.

Mayor Howell encouraged citizens to shop locally. He also said that the new bakery is now open for business.

Councilwoman Lee 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 7:10 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan