

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes July 13, 2026

Mayor Inez B. Lee called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

Invocation was given by Mayor Inez B. Lee.

Mayor Lee took roll call: Mayor Lee, Councilwoman Angele Bradley, Councilman Keion Mack, Councilwoman Jessica Myers, and Councilman Daren Lorenzo were all present.

Tim Dargan, Dennis Carter, and Brent Bullard were also in attendance.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to accept the agenda for the July 13, 2026, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Lorenzo made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 8, 2026, Lamar Town Council meeting. Councilman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dianne Price asked several questions concerning the Town of Lamar Debris Ordinance during the citizen comment portion of the meeting. She wanted to know what the acceptable size and length were for tree branches, the height of the debris pile, the debris schedule, and when the debris that was left in her yard would be collected. She also thanked Town Administrator, Tim Dargan, for facilitating the pickup of debris left on her property at an earlier.

The Town Code Enforcement Officer, Brent Bullard, reported that Black Horse Inc. was up to speed in addressing code violations that Mr. Bullard and the Darlington County Fire Marshall brought to their attention. Mr. Bullard is working with the Darlington County Fire Marshall to address code violations in the Town of Lamar. He also said that the town would be transferring to an electric permit program. Twelve dollars (\$12.00) would be added to the permit cost, and the report would be accessed online. Mr. Bullard will assist businesses that can't access the site.

Teresa Jacobs of Pee Dee Cog submitted a written monthly progress report and the quarterly report for the Railroad Avenue Lift Station Project. Mr. Dargan stated the lift station is scheduled to be operational on August 31, 2026. Councilwoman Myers made a motion to accept the report as information. Councilwoman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA submitted a written Financial Report.

General Fund (May 31, 2026): Receipts - \$77,434.89, Disbursements - \$31,463.48, Increase in cash - \$45,971.41, Ending cash balance - \$567,605.68

Utility Fund (May 31, 2026): Receipts - \$39,521.31, Disbursements - \$28,083.06, Increase in cash- \$11,438.25, Ending cash balance - \$61,940.20 (\$30,527.46 available for operations; \$31,412.74 for restricted grant funds).

Mr. Dargan stated that the FY2025 Town of Lamar Municipal audit was ongoing.

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

Councilwoman Angele Bradley gave the Police Department Report. She discussed the ongoing stray dog issue. She implored citizens to report stray dogs. The Lamar Police Department isn't equipped to collect stray dogs, and Darlington County Animal Control response is limited due to the animal shelter being filled to capacity. Councilwoman Bradley apologized to the child that lost her cat in a stray dog attack.

Chief Dennis Carter gave a recap on Lamar Fun Day. He thanked the donors, the vendors and the participants. Chief Carter said the Lamar Police Department would be ticketing and charging drivers driving with no licenses and dead tags. He also reported that the stolen hanging flower basket from Railroad Avenue was recovered.

Mayor Lee added that she called Darlington County Animal Control to collect stray dogs but was told the animal shelter was filled and that it would be the end of the month before they could come back to Lamar.

Councilwoman Myers gave the Business License Report. The Town collected \$384.60 in fees and issued two (2) new business licenses for the month of June 2026. The previous year to date amount collected in June 2025 was \$29,223.08. The year-to-date amount collected in June 2026 was \$25,964.50. A difference of - \$3,258.50

Councilman Lorenzo gave the Water & Sewer Report. Councilman Lorenzo stated the Pearl Street Tank SCADA unit is now working properly. He mentioned that leaks are still a problem. A leak on Boykin Street was fixed on July 10th. Councilman Lorenzo gave the Water Loss Report:

Gallons Purchased: **1,759,500** Gallons Billed: **1,759,828** Gallons Loss: **9,672**

Mr. Dargan added that the Town will enforce the Water Meter Tampering Ordinance and charge late fees for delinquent water bill payments. Water service will be disconnected for accounts carrying delinquent balances.

The council discussed and made suggestions to amend Town of Lamar Ordinance 10.309 concerning debris. The maximum width and length for limbs will be 3" (width) x 6" (length). The debris should be placed 4 feet from the road, but not near water and sewer lines. In addition, leaves, pine straw, and clippings must be placed in garbage bags near the debris pile; not in the trash roll carts. The council will discuss possible action that will be taken if the policy is not followed.

Mr. Dargan read the First Reading to amend Town of Lamar Ordinance 10.309. Councilwoman Bradely made a motion to accept the amendment. Councilman Lorenzo. The Motion Carried unanimously.

Tim Dargan gave an update on the Lamar Recreation Field. He stated that the sewer and water taps had been completed. The field was fertilized and treated for fire ants. The Town is still waiting on Duke Energy for electrical service. Mr. Dargan discussed the upcoming events: Lamar Recreation Bingo (July 21st) and trip to Fuller's BBQ, Pembroke, NC (July 23rd), and the Christmas on Main Committee's "Christmas in July" (Month of July).

Mayor Lee gave closing remarks. She thanked various groups and individuals for their assistance and donations to the Town. Mayor Lee said that she welcomes assistance from citizens and organizations but asked that they run ideas by her before beginning projects.

Mayor Lee highlighted recent events including the Bright Star Camp and Food Giveaway, Harvest Hope Food Box Giveaway, the Back-to-School Bash, and Fireworks on Main. She also mentioned that school would be opening soon, the 250th Anniversary of the United States, and merchants would have cut grass and weeds around their businesses because Darlington County Trustees aren't allowed to go on private property.

Councilwoman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan

