Town of Talking Rock Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 6th, 2026

Mayor James Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

I. **Attendance**

Board:
James Bryant
Tony Hawf
Jason Little
Lynda Cagle
Darlene O'Connell
Mark McDonnell

Town Clerk: Amanda Buntin
Attorney: Seth Stroud

Others in attendance:
Mari Livsey, Jene Bryant, Mary Hawf, Michelle Godfrey, Adam Godfrey, Ashley, Michell Eubanks, Reggie Eubanks, John DaGata, Elizebath DaGata, Larry Keener, Dan, Sandra,

II. **Call Meeting to Order:**

III. **Pledge of Allegiance:**

IV. **Announcements:** Mayor Bryant announced that the town is looking for a new maintenance/ground keeper. The job description has been posted in the paper, online, and social media. We have had several applicants respond and we are working towards doing interviews, the previous maintenance/grounds keeper had to retire. The town hopes to have someone soon.

V. **Approval July 2026 Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Tony Hawf, seconded by Lynda Cagle to approve the July 2026 meeting minutes. All voted unanimously in favor.

VI. **Approval of July 2026 Financial Reports:** A motion was made by Darlene O'Connell to approve the July 2026 Financial Reports, seconded by Lynda Cagle. All voted unanimously in favor.

VII. **Summary of Maintenance:** Issue with the men's restroom at the park. The town is in the process of purchasing a new toilet and having it installed, it should be installed in the next week. We had two swings donated by Drew Helean from Down Home Dexterities to our park. They are wooden swings and will replace the old wooden swings we had, they have gotten old and were falling apart. The town is incredibly grateful to Drew and everything he has done for the town. He is also donating a large chair for the town for tourists and locals to take photos in and with. We are extremely grateful for all he and his company have done for the Town of Talking Rock.

VIII. **Old Business:**

A. **Discussion of Special Events Ordinance:** The city manager went over the ordinance the way the mayor and council had advised they would like it and notified them that it will be going to the attorney to prepare for the first draft reading at the next council meeting.

B. **School House Restoration Project:** After having the bid on the website, as well as the Towns social media site, for two months the town has only received one other bid and it was over $330k. The mayor noted with this being the case we are very hopeful that Micheal Welch will come back to the project and give us a new bid because it is the best, we have been able to get.

IX. **New Business:**

A. **GDOT Safety Study Request & Traffic Review: State Route 136:** The city manager stated she has drafted a formal letter requesting a safety study be done on State Route 136 West to see if a crosswalk is necessary for public safety. She also stated that copies of statements from the Pickens County Sheriffs Department would be included in the letter with personal statements about how dangerous the road is and the large trucks that drive extremely too fast. The mayor and council approved that the letter be sent and see if it helps to progress the crosswalk the town has been trying to install for 3 years.

B. **Vote on Johnson Paving Quote:** Three quotes were submitted to the town to pave 2nd street and fix the parking lot across the street. The city manager stated that the town is awaiting permission from GDOT to complete the work across the street. The council decided to vote for the quote from Johnson Paving for up to $42,494.08 using SPLOST funds to complete the project. The Town will be awaiting the response from GDOT before proceeding. Tony Hawf made a motion to pass the vote on the Johnson Paving quote, seconded by Lynda Cagle, all voted unanimously in favor.

C. **Discussion on Quotes to Repair the Concrete in Front of Town Hall and the Sidewalk:** It was discussed and decided that the sidewalk would need to be ADA compliant so therefore the quotes will need to be redone and the vote on the quotes will be tabled until new quotes come in with the ADA compliance listed in them.

X. **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Mark McDonnell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynda Cagle7:33pm at. All voted unanimously in favor.

The next regular council meeting will be September 3rd, 2026, at 7pm with the working group session beginning the same day at 5:30pm.

James W. Bryant Jr. Mayor

Lynda Cagle

Tony Hawf

Mark McDonnell

Jason Little

Assisted by: Amanda Buntin

Darlene O'Connell