Town of Talking Rock Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 9th,2026

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

I. **Attendance**

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

City Manager/Clerk: Amanda Buntin

Others in attendance:
Jene Bryant, Mary McDonnell, Mari Livsley

I. **Pledge of Allegiance**

II. **Mayor Announcements:** Mayor Bryant reported that the park's new swings have been installed and the pavilion roof has been painted. Touch-ups to the mural are complete. Although an installation date has not been set, the mural will be installed soon with a protective plexiglass cover. To prepare for the Heritage Days festival, Adam Godfrey will scrape the area and spread the remaining gravel, which was set aside while the first layer settled. The fire station is expected to be completed by the festival, and the town will also coordinate with the church. The town received supplemental LMIG funding for 2026 and nearly $8,000.00 in LMIG funding for 2027. All businesses will need to complete new business and alcohol license applications and renewal forms for 2026. An alcohol ordinance draft is being prepared for a future reading. Chief Prather of the Pickens County Fire Department reported that the fire station should be completed by September 22, 2026. He also received approval to hire three new personnel for the station beginning in November 2026. The town and fire department need an agreement authorizing the fire marshal to conduct safety inspections for the town. The city manager will work with Chief Prather to begin that process. A special working group will meet in September to review and finalize the alcohol ordinance draft.

III. **Approval of August 2026 Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Mark McDonnell, seconded by Darlene O'Connell to approve the August Meeting Minutes. All voted unanimously in favor.

IV. **Approval of September 2026 Financial Report:** A motion was made by Darlene O'Connell and seconded by Lynda Cagle to approve the September Financial Report. All voted unanimously in favor.

V. **Maintenance Report:** The town received a large photo chair donated by Down Home Dexterities for residents and visitors. Decorative signs for the chair have been ordered and should arrive soon. Paint touch-ups were completed on the pavilion, and a full repaint is tentatively planned for next spring. Adam Godfrey will place dirt and level the site for the new Town "Welcome" sign. The town is grateful for Adam Godfrey's offer to provide the space free of charge.

VI. **Old Business:** The schoolhouse quotes were tabled because the sole quote received was well above the town's available budget. The council will revisit the matter in the new year. Jason Little moved to approve a professional services agreement with Civic Enhancement Strategies for grant-writing services to support the town's growth. Lynda Cagle seconded the motion, and all

voted in favor. The special events ordinance vote was deferred for one month to give the council more time for a complete review. Darlene O'Connell moved to authorize execution of the standard GDOT crosswalk permit agreement for the design, installation, and maintenance of the crosswalk on State Route 136. Lynda Cagle seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

VII. **New Business:** Following advice from Seth Stroud of the town attorney's office, the town will apply for its logo through the state rather than the federal institution. Tony Hawf moved to approve the necessary funds. Darlene O'Connell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The town received three quotes to complete the concrete work outside Town Hall and on the sidewalk (ROW). Mark Mc'Donnell moved to approve Eric Roland's contract with BR Builders to complete the work as presented. Lynda Cagle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VIII. **Special Announcement:** September 16th, 2026, at 5:30pm the council will have a special working group meeting to finish the discussion of the alcohol ordinance to hopefully get a final draft to read at the October meeting.

IX. **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Tony Hawf to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynda Cagle at 7:42pm. All voted unanimously in favor.

The next regular council meeting will be October 1st, 2026, at 7pm with the working group session beginning at 5:30pm. There will be a special working group meeting held on September 16th, 2026, at 5:30pm.

James W. Bryant Jr. Mayor

Lynda Cagle

Tony Hawf

Mark McDonnell

Jason Little

Assisted by: Amanda Buntin

Darlene O'Connell