



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, July 15, 2025; 6:30 P.M.
Bennettsville Public Safety Complex**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Tyron Abraham
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE William “Bill” Jennings
3. ROLL CALL
District 1-Wanda Weaver (**absent**)
District 2-Tyrone R. Davis
District 3-Allen Taylor
District 4-William “Bill” Jennings, Jr.
District 5-Cy’Heim McRae
District 6- Gregory Scott, Sr.
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES
A. **Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, June 17, 2025** -Moved by Mr. Taylor.
Seconded by Mr. Jennings. The motion passed unanimously.
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
A. **Employees Anniversaries**-Mrs. Angela Ward announced our Employee Anniversaries for July: Charmonique Bunton (Utility Billing) 6 years, Brantley Douglas (Gas)10 years, Tracie Lee (Finance) 1 year, Jerry McClain (TPR) 1 year, David McLain (Public Works) 1 year; Howard Mumford (PW/Shop) 3 years, William Parrish (Fire) 7 years, Chet Polson (Planning/Zoning) 12 years, Johnny Roscoe (Water/Sewer) 11 years, Jason Tompkins (Police)1 year
B. **New Hires & Promotions**-Mrs. Angela Ward announced and welcomed aboard new hires: Kuavei Robinson (Public Works), Daniel Simpson (Public Works), Lisa Jones (Business Development), Jeffery Sessoms (Police), Maddox Perdue (Volunteer-Fire), Shakayla Harper, Uncertified Police Officer (Police), Elizabeth Norton (Public Works), Ricky Clark (Public Works)
C. **NAACP** -Representative was not present

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)
No Comments
7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES
No Business
8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES
No Business
9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS
 - A. **Adoption of Goals-** The council adopted a strategic plan with three categories of goals: must do, should do, and could do. These goals focus on communication, workforce development, technology modernization, and community engagement. **Approving Action:** Mayor Abraham made a motion to adopt the three goals presented as a roadmap for the city's future. Seconded by Mr. McRae. The motion passed unanimously.
10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION
No Business
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items Only)
No comments
12. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
 - A. Planning Commission (**No Cases**)
 - B. Board of Architectural Review/Tree Committee (**No Cases**)
 - C. Board of Zoning and Housing Appeals (**No Cases**)
13. COUNCIL COMMITTEES
 - A. **Finance Committee (Chairperson Jennings)**-Reports on the finance committee's meeting, highlighting positive revenue outcomes and the importance of staying within budget. He also mentions the need for continued vigilance in budget management, especially for the police and fire departments. Next, he inquired about the city's current staffing levels and the status of public service applications. Lastly, emphasizes the importance of regular meetings to stay updated on financial matters.
 - B. **Public Services Committee-** Chairperson Weaver was not in attendance. Mayor Abraham stated that a meeting was held last week, during which some Public Service employees discussed Christmas decorations. He said it was a great meeting.
 - C. **Public Safety Committee (Chairperson Taylor)**-Stated the committee has not met. Maybe they could meet in the next week or two.
14. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION
 - A. **Finance Report-** Mr. Sparkman discussed the positive revenue outcomes and the implementation of a temporary freeze on non-essential items. He mentioned ongoing discussions with a financial advisor to explore investment strategies and

capital improvement plans. Lastly, he highlighted the need to upgrade fleet vehicles and improve utility billing services to enhance customer service.

- B. **Grants Report**-Lisa Jones, the new grants writer, highlighted that we have six individual projects as part of the overall skip project. Two critical ones are associated with the Lake Paul Wallace area, including sewer upgrades, which are almost complete, and water system upgrades, which are just beginning. We are also doing our sewer system evaluation, funded through an SRF, which people understand that the VA grant is a forgivable loan. The city has secured three grants this past month, including one from the South Carolina Arts Commission and two from the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.
- C. **Upcoming Events**-Miss. Graves announced that upcoming events include a live band performance (Level 10) on Friday, July 18th, from 6 pm-9 pm; Bingo Bonanza night, Thursday, July 24th, from 6 pm-8 pm @ Bennettsville Community Center; and a National Night Out event, August 5th, from 5 pm-8 pm @City Hall.

15. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. **Community Development Meeting-(Upcoming)**-The city is planning a community development meeting to update the comprehensive plan. The apprenticeship program has two vacant positions, and the city is addressing issues related to tree maintenance and utility lines.
- B. **Board Training-(Upcoming)**- A board training session to educate the public on various commissions will be held.
- C. **Financial Consultation (Bob Damron)** -Mr. Sparkman discussed in Item 14-A.

16. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Scott thanked all our city employees for the work that they do. Next, he mentioned the Municipal Association pamphlet that's sent out monthly, highlighting their recognition of the City of Bennettsville, "City on the Move," and the City Administrator. Mr. Scott praised Richardson Park for their community cleanup efforts. He commended them on how good it looks and their commitment to community involvement.

Mr. McRae thanked all the citizens for coming out to the Council meeting. He encourages citizens to sign up for TextMyGov.com for text alerts, so that they are informed about what's going on. Lastly, he welcomed Ms. Lisa Jones, our new Grants Manager.

Mr. Jennings asked about vacancies being published and if they were filled. He asked about the Apprenticeship program and how it was coming along. He stated, "It's a great opportunity for people into fantastic opportunity. It is not a permanent position, but it seems to work, and it could lead to a lifetime position. Great opportunity for a young person."

Mr. Allen didn't have anything to say.

Mr. Davis thanked all employees and department heads for what they do. He stated that Mr. Simon and all staff are doing a phenomenal job.

Ms. Weaver-(**Absent**)

Mayor Abraham thanked all employees. He stated, "It means a lot that when you have employees, you know they get the job done. And we have challenges, but we also overcome those challenges because we want everything to be the best that we can be for the quality of life for our citizens." He asked that we send our blessings and prayers to the states and

cities affected by the floods. Lastly, to our citizens, “Every time I walk through our streets, I see that our community is more than just a place; it’s a home.”

17. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Public Comment Policy: Citizens desiring to speak at any regular meeting must make a written request to notify the City Clerk prior to the deadline. Citizens interested in commenting at a regular meeting shall sign in to speak and limit comments to no more than 3 minutes.

Mission Statement: To utilize all available resources for the development of plans, programs, and projects to improve services to the citizens of Bennettsville and establish and maintain an active role in economic and community development.