

## Town of Talking Rock Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2025

Mayor James Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

### I. Attendance

#### Board:

James Bryant

Tony Hawf

Lynda Cagle

Jason Little

Darlene O'Connell

**Town Attorney:** Seth Stroud

**City Manager/Clerk:** Amanda Buntin

#### Others in attendance:

Cheryl Sams, Jene Bryant, Jim Baumann, Mark Tanner, Dusty Eaton, Cara from the Pickens newspaper

### I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. **Mayor Announcements:** Mayor Bryant thanked everyone for all their hard work done in 2025.

III. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Tony Hawf, seconded by Lynda Cagle to approve the November Meeting Minutes. All voted unanimously in favor, except Caleb Gay who was not present.

IV. **Approval of November Financial Report:** A motion was made by Darlene O'Connell and seconded by Jason Little to approve the November Financial Report. All voted unanimously in favor, except Caleb Gay who was not present.

V. **Maintenance Report:** Jim Baumann announced everything has been going good at the park. Not much happening during the winter months.

### VI. Old Business:

A. **Survey of Parcel 020A 057:** The city manager announced that this survey had to be pushed back due to the survey company being very busy during this time of the year. The survey is still going to take place before the end of December 2025.

**VII. New Business: Vote** on FY2026 Proposed Budget: Initial Review and Discussion took place on November 13, 2025. The public hearing took place on December 11, 2025, at 6:30pm and can be found attached to this paper. A copy of the proposed FY 2026 budget for the Town of Talking Rock that was voted on this day can be found online or in the November meeting minutes file. A motion was made by Tony Hawf, and seconded by Lynda Cagle to approve the FY2026 proposed budget for the Town of Talking Rock GA. All voted unanimously except Caleb Gay who was not present.

**VIII. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Darlene O'Connell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynda Cagle at 7:28pm. All voted unanimously in favor, except Caleb Gay who as not present.

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James W. Bryant Jr. Mayor

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Lynda Cagle

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Hawf

\_\_\_\_\_  
Caleb Gay

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Little

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assisted by: Amanda Buntin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene O'Connell

# **FY2026 Proposed Budget Public Hearing**

## **For the Town of Talking Rock, GA.**

**Date:** December 11, 2025

**Time:** 6:30pm – 7:00pm


**Location:** Talking Rock Town Hall, Council Chambers-4675 HWY 136 W Talking Rock, GA 30175.

1. **Call to Order and Attendance:** Mayor James w. Bryant Jr called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
  - Present: Mayor Bryant, Council members Jason Little, Darlene O'Connell, Tony Hawf, and Lynda Cagle.
  - Staff present: City manager/clerk Amanda Buntin
2. **Presentation of the Proposed Budget:** Mayor Bryant gave an overview of the proposal and asked if there were any parts he did not cover that anyone noticed and wanted to address before the hearing started. No questions were asked.
3. **Public Comment Period:** Mayor Bryant opened the floor for public testimony. Per town rules, speakers were limited to two minutes each.
  - Resident Cheryl Sams proposed that the town add a donation to the fire department in the annual budget to help the fire fighters to afford supplies. According to Mrs. Sams the firefighters are using personal funds to purchase items needed at the department, and some of them are only volunteers. Mrs. Sams also noted that she would like to see an emergency fund added to the budget now that the town is able to do so.
4. **Council Discussion and Q&A:** Mayor Bryant said he will be looking into the firefighters using personal funds for the fire department because this should NOT be taking place. Council members Little, O'Connell and Cagle along with mayor Bryant stated that they would like to use the fiscal year 2026 to investigate adding an emergency fund to the town budget possibly in FY2027.

5. **Adjournment:** Seeing no further citizens wishing to speak, Mayor Bryant closed the public hearing at 6:39pm. No formal action was taken during this hearing, as the final vote is scheduled for the regular meeting immediately following this public hearing on December 11, 2025.

Minutes submitted by:

Town Clerk-Amanda Buntin



This public hearing was advertised in the local Pickens County newspaper called Pickens County Progress. This public hearing was also posted online on the formal towns Facebook page as well as the Talking Rock webpage.