

Town of Talking Rock Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 9th, 2026

Mayor James Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:58pm

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, Representatives from Legion Post 149 and Save the Horses

I. Pledge of Allegiance

- II. Mayor Announcements:** Mayor Bryant opened the meeting by presenting donations to two Pickens County organizations, Save the Horses and Legion Post 149. The donations came from proceeds raised during the Town's annual Bronco Stampede Event. Mayor Bryant expressed the Town's appreciation for both organizations and the valuable work they do for the county. Representatives from each group briefly thanked the Town for its support. The mayor encouraged community members to attend working group meetings when possible, noting that many topics are discussed before the regular 7:00 p.m. meeting begins. He also announced that several new businesses are expected to open in Town soon, and the mayor and council are excited to see Talking Rock continue to grow. Mayor Bryant stated that the Town is exploring the use of SPLOST funds to repair roads in need of maintenance. He emphasized the Town's commitment to serving its citizens and keeping roads in good condition. The city manager will meet with contractors this week to identify needed road repairs in Talking Rock. Mayor Bryant also announced that Down Home Dexterities is donating a large chair to the Town for public photo opportunities. The council will determine its location this month, and the chair is expected to be placed in Town soon. Talking Rock is grateful to Drew Healan and Down-Home Dexterities for the donation.

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

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

- V. Maintenance Report:** Jim Baumann announced that new wood was purchased for the swings at the park to do repairs. The weeds on the creek are in the process of being cut and a new grill was installed at the park.

- VI. Old Business:** Keep Pickens Beautiful will be getting together with the city manager soon to go over the projects that are going to be starting in Talking Rock Park. More information will be announced soon.

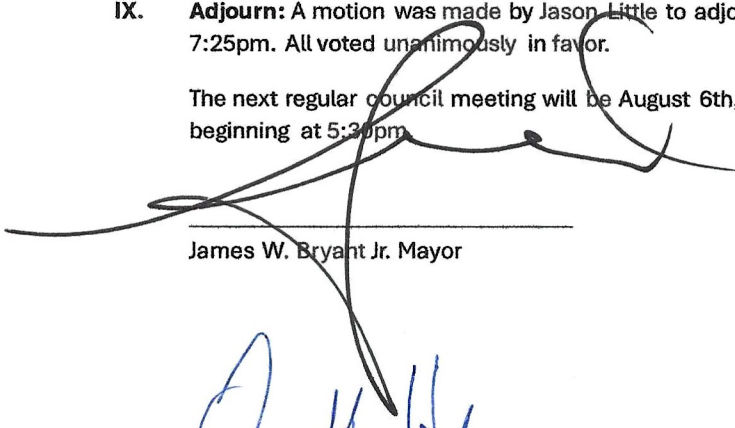
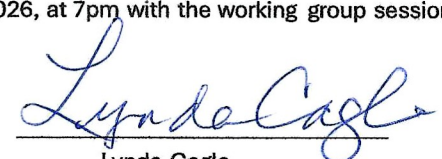
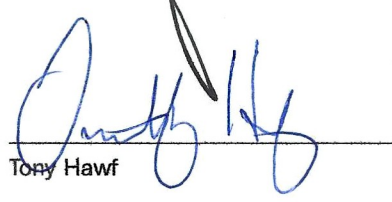
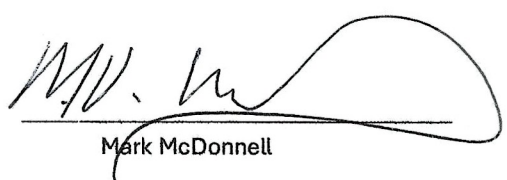
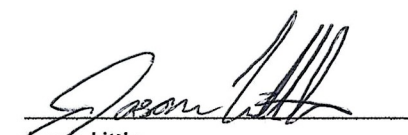
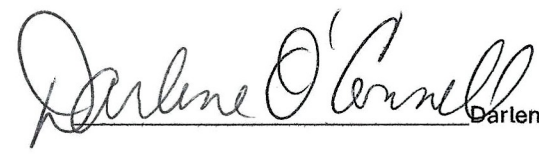
- VII. New Business:** Grant writing firm. The council agreed that the city manager may contact grant writing firms to obtain quotes for the Town. Talking Rock is growing quickly and may qualify for several grant opportunities; however, grant writing is specialized work that often requires

professional expertise. Once quotes are received, the council will vote on whether to include this service in the 2027 budget so the Town can pursue available state and federal funding.

- VIII. Heritage Days Committee:** Jene Bryant announced that Talking Rock will establish a new Heritage Days Committee for the annual Heritage Days Festival. Council members will serve on the committee, and the Town invites community volunteers to participate in committee meetings. Citizens who would like more information or wish to volunteer should contact the clerk or event planner.

- IX. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Jason Little to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynda Cagle at 7:25pm. All voted unanimously in favor.

The next regular council meeting will be August 6th, 2026, at 7pm with the working group session beginning at 5:30pm.


James W. Bryant Jr. Mayor
Lynda Cagle
Tony Hawf
Mark McDonnell
Jason Little
Assisted by: Amanda Buntin
Darlene O'Connell