



Town of St. Matthews
Post Office Box 172, 606 F. R. Huff Drive
St. Matthews, SC 29135
Phone: 803-874-2405 Fax: 803-874-4000
Email: townofstmatthews@windstream.net

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday August 5th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
1313 Bridge Street (St. Matthews Municipal Court), St. Matthews, SC 29135

Call to Order – Mayor Helen Carson

Agenda

1. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of prior Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Acceptance of Police, Fire and Animal Reports

Public Hearing – Open/Close - Amendments to Calhoun County Animal Ordinance

1. **Amendments to Calhoun County Animal Ordinance – 2nd and Final Reading**

Citizens Input

1. Each citizen must sign in and has up to **3 minutes to speak** to matters on the agenda or matters related to the Town of St. Matthews.

Mayor and Council News

1. Recognition of Town Employees
2. Town Council News
3. Calhoun CommuniT, Ms. Terri Parker – Update

Motions Period (Town Council) – None Distributed to Administration

Old Business

1. Town Events – Summer Bus Trip
2. LSCOG – Demolition Project – Update
3. Dominion Energy Land Donation - Update
4. Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Grant – Update
5. Town Council Retreat – August 27th 2025
6. St. Matthews Garden Club – Palm Tree Donation

New Business

1. 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance – 1st Reading by Title Only
2. NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Banquet – Friday, September 26th 2025
3. MASC – IMPACT Fund (Innovative Municipal Projects for Advancing Change and Transformation)
4. Small Cities Summit – Wednesday, August 13th 2025

Report of the Town Administrator

Executive Session

Adjournment

Town of St. Matthews

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 01, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

1313 Bridge Street, St. Matthews, SC 29135

Council Members Present:

Mayor Helen Glover-Carson

Eloise Shuler-Guinyard

William "Webb" Carroll

Deidre Prickett

Marla Riley

Sharon Bennett

Virgil Jacobs

Also Present:

Rosyl Warren, Town Administrator

Rosalind Johnson, Town Clerk

Gregory Sandlin, Fire Chief

Gregory Wilson, Maintenance Supervisor

Michael Smalls, Chief of Police

Mayor Carson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Jacobs opened the Meeting in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor entertained a motion to accept the prior Meeting Minutes. Council member Prickett provided clarification regarding last month's minutes, specifically the issue of overgrowth at Lake Inspiration. It was noted that Ms. Bonnett made the original statement, and Ms. Prickett reiterates her comments. The Mayor entertained a motion to ensure proper credit was given to Ms. Bonnett for her original remarks. It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Shuler-Guinyard. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda. Ms. Warren requested that the Mayor add, under Mayor and Council News, item number three, recognition of the Employee of the Quarter. Under New Business, item number four will be added, Wastewater Treatment

Plant Repair Quotes. The Mayor entertained a motion to accept the necessary changes to the Agenda. It was moved by Ms. Shuler-Guinyard and seconded by Mr. Jacobs. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Police, Fire, and Animal Control Reports were accepted for informational purposes.

Public Hearing – Open/Close – Amendments to Calhoun County Animal Ordinance

1. Amendments to Calhoun County Animal Ordinance – 2nd Final Reading

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Ms. Cindy Sarrett addressed the Mayor and Town Council regarding the current Calhoun County Animal Control Ordinance, which now applies to the Town of St. Matthews. She expressed strong opposition to the code's allowance of dog tethering, describing it as an inhumane practice.

Mr. Coey Keller addressed the Council with a complaint regarding ongoing harassment by animal activists concerning his dogs and the Tethering Ordinance. He expressed frustration over being targeted and stated that he complies with current regulations.

The Mayor entertained a motion to table the decision until the next meeting and if possible, have Calhoun County Animal Control present. It was moved by Ms. Prickett and seconded by Mr. Jacobs. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Mayor entertained a motion to close the hearing at 6:35 pm. It was moved by Ms. Bennett and seconded by Ms. Prickett. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council News

Recognition of Town Employees — No birthdays for the month of July.

Mr. Carroll mentioned that everything seems to be progressing well in the town.

Ms. Shuler-Guinyard mentioned everything was taken care of on Pearl and Flower Street.

Mr. Jacobs mentioned the kudzu vine needs to be maintained on Old Belleville Road.

The Mayor provided an update on the Town's podcast, *Now You Know*. The most recent episode featured the guest speaker, Ms. Kathleen Brown, Probate Judge of Calhoun County. Judge Brown shared important information about the services offered by the Probate Court, including estate management and assistance for families dealing with at-risk or troubled youth. Councilwoman Bennett was recognized for creating a YouTube channel titled "*Mayor Helen Carson's, 'Now You Know'*". The most recent episode is available online, with plans to upload previous episodes in the future.

Ms. Prickett expressed appreciation to Calhoun Baptist Church for hosting the "' I Love America'" Celebration in which two council members and the Town Administrator attended.

Ms. Bennett shared positive feedback regarding recent cleanup efforts around Lake Inspiration, noting that vegetation has been cut back, allowing residents to fish from various areas around the lake. She also requested that overgrown vegetation on Agnes Street, between Church Street and Lower Muller Street, be addressed, as it is beginning to obstruct the sidewalk. Additionally, Ms. Bennett asked the Police Chief to introduce all current officers to the Council, particularly the new personnel, to promote familiarity and communication.

Ms. Riley raised concerns regarding the light installation by the railroad near the bridge. She also thanked Mr. Wilson for the cover on the fishing pier at Lake Inspiration.

Employee of the Quarter: Ms. Warren, the Town Administrator, was recognized by Town staff as the Employee of the Quarter. A certificate of appreciation was presented by the Town Clerk,

acknowledging her exemplary dedication, leadership, and service to the Town.

Motions Period (Town Council): None Distributed to Administration

Old Business

Town Events

Summer Bus Trip: Tickets are now on sale for the upcoming bus trip. The itinerary includes departure from Town Hall at 7:30 a.m., travel to Broadway at the Beach, dining at the Original Benjamin's Seafood Restaurant, and a stop at Tanger Outlet Mall before returning to St. Matthews. Residents are purchasing tickets from St. Matthews and neighboring areas.

National Night Out: Scheduled for August 6, 2025. The regular council meeting time has been moved to 5:00 p.m. to allow participation in the event.

SCIIP Grant Update: Progress is going well. Equipment for the wastewater treatment plant has been ordered, and ongoing work continues at Pine Hill.

MASC Annual Meeting (July 16 – July 20, 2025): Council members are registered and confirmed to attend the meeting in Hilton Head on July 16, 2025. Hotel accommodation has been secured.

LSCOG-CDGB Needs Assessment Public Hearing (July 2, 2025): Hosted by the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, scheduled for July 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. regarding the upcoming demolition project on Mack Hill Street.

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Grant Update: The Town's pre-application has been approved, allowing progression to the complete application phase.

Calhoun County EMO POD Training Update: Town Departments attended POD training

conducted by Calhoun County EMO and SC Emergency Management Division on June 20, 2025.

The event concluded with a water distribution at Town Hall Park.

Audit Update: Tim Cornelison, CPA, announced that McKinley Cooper of Greenville will serve as the Town's auditor. The 2019 work papers are ready to be submitted, and coordination is underway to initiate the audit process.

New Business

Dominion Energy: Dominion Energy has renewed its offer to donate three parcels of land to the Town. The Mayor entertained a motion authorizing Ms. Warren to engage in discussions with Dominion regarding the donation. It was moved by Ms. Shuler-Guinyard and seconded by Mr. Carroll. The motion was carried unanimously.

Water System: Customer Appreciation Night is scheduled for Sunday, August 31, 2025, at the Columbia Fireflies game. The event will include reserved balcony seating, food, soft drinks, and post-game fireworks. Six tickets will be offered to Town employees on a first-come, first-served basis.

Potential Council Retreat: The Council discussed hosting a one-day retreat in September 2025 to conduct a goal-setting session in partnership with the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The proposed retreat would take place outside of town, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in a municipality of a similar size and structure. Potential host towns include Edgefield, Elgin, and Kershaw. The council gave consent for Ms. Warren to pursue planning the retreat.

Dominion Energy Tree Concern: Council Member Virgil reported a tree cut down by Dominion Energy's. The Town Administrator contacted Dominion's community liaison and is awaiting a

response.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Repairs quotes: Due to pivot issues at the plant, the Town plans to use remaining SCIP Grant funds for necessary repairs. Quotes received so far include one for \$12,000 and another for \$40,000. A third quote is pending.

The Mayor entertained a motion authorizing the Town Administrator to proceed with the lowest responsible bid once all quotes are received, without requiring further council action. It was moved by Ms. Shuler-Guinayard and seconded by Mr. Carroll. The motion was carried unanimously.

Shiloh Baptist Church Request: No response was given.

Report of the Town Administrator

The Town held its first all-staff meeting with full employee attendance. Mr. Mike Dennis from the Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse presented on the commission's services and the benefits of the new Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Breakfast was provided to all staff, and appreciation was expressed for the Council's support of the EAP partnership.

Fire Department Report: The Fire Chief expressed appreciation for the opportunity to host the staff at the fire department. He distributed informational handouts regarding hoarding-related fire hazards, noting that approximately 90% of structure fires involve hoarding conditions.

Police Department Report: Chief Smalls reported that four decommissioned police vehicles, two black Dodge Chargers, and a small SUV were recycled to avoid the high costs associated with transport. Proceeds from the recycling were turned over to the Town. One blue Charger, still in usable condition, will be retained. He also provided an overview of night patrol staffing, noting

that officers work overlapping shifts. Evening patrols prioritize monitoring store closures before transitioning to general community patrols. A concern was raised by a Council member regarding increased traffic in the Turkey Heights area. Chief Smalls confirmed that the area falls within the Town limits and assured the Council it will be actively monitored.

Maintenance Department Report: The SCIIP Grant project is progressing well. Construction crews are scheduled to resume work next week to continue replacing aging AC water lines. A water main break recently occurred on Pine Hill, prompting necessary engineering modifications to ensure proper isolation between the old and new water lines. The Town is also collaborating with Calhoun County to enhance landscaping and curb appeal along Lake Inspiration Drive. Code enforcement efforts have reached approximately 75% completion, with a review of remaining areas and procedures planned to address outstanding issues. Additionally, the Pou Street paving project remains on the state's schedule for completion during the current paving season, which runs from March to October.

The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the Meeting. It was moved by Ms. Prickett and seconded by Ms. Bennett. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosalind Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosalind Johnson, Town Clerk