



# TOWN OF WILLISTON

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Brett Williams, Mayor  
Michael Beasley, Town Administrator  
Kayla Jerkins, Town Clerk

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**Williston Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
November 14, 2022  
6:30 pm  
Minutes**

Notice of this meeting was posted at the Williston Town Hall and provided to the People Sentinel Newspaper at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting under the SC Freedom of Information Act.

The November 14, 2022 Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. The following officials were present: Mayor Brett Williams, Councilmember Kurt Odermatt, Councilmember Eric Moody, Councilmember Adadra Neville, and Councilmember Scott Valentine. Councilmember Annie Tyler was not present.

Town Administrator Michael Beasley and Town Clerk Kayla Jerkins were in attendance.

Town Attorney Tom Boulware was in attendance.

Representing the meeting Alex Whitback, from the People Sentinel was in attendance.

Mayor Williams called the meeting into order and stated there was a quorum.

Councilmember Odermatt led the invocation. Councilmember Moody led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Williams welcomed everyone to the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular November 14, 2022 Meeting. Councilmember Neville made a motion to approve the Agenda for the Regular November 14, 2022 Meeting. Councilmember Moody seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular October 10, 2022 Meeting. Councilmember Odermatt made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular October 10, 2022 Meeting. Councilmember Valentine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the Financial Reports by information only. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the Financial Reports by information only. Councilmember Odermatt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #8: Public Comment. Margo, representing “Keep Barnwell County Beautiful,” apart of “Keep America Beautiful,” said that she drove around Barnwell and Williston. Around the towns she saw some illegal trash dumps along the roads. The plan is to try and fix the problem by getting people involved with the Winter Wipeout, litter clean up event. The Winter Wipeout is going to be like the one that was in April. The areas planned will be Allendale Ave to HWY 77, Williston Way, East of Elko Street and to the West of the stop sign, HWY 37 West of Walton Drive, Main Street until Main Street turns to Black Street Willis Pond to Ackerman Road, Halford Street, Schuler Street where the illegal dump site is, where the mattresses are laid, and HWY 37 South to HWY 78 to HWY 278, and HWY 37 to Williston Way. An Excel file will be typed provided by Keep Barnwell Beautiful at the event.

Mayor Williams asked where the meeting site will be located.

Margo said we rate the places 1-4, with 4 being the highest. The date was picked because of it being the day before the parade. The meeting location can be at the Folk’s Funeral Home like last time.

Mayor Williams agreed to the meeting location.

Margo suggested the school’s Beta Club or other clubs looking for community service hours could participate again like last time.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #9: Council Recognition: First Responders. Mayor Williams said they are trying to show the good in Williston and asked the First Responders to stand and come forward. Mayor Williams publicly thanks the First Responders and tells them that their service does not go unnoticed.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #10: Discussion: Tree Lighting Event. Mayor Williams said Councilmember Tyler made contacts with a singer. A person to present the Christmas Story has been contacted. The local churches plan to help and will open their doors for the townspeople and will be giving out cookies. Mayor Williams talked with a gentleman at Kelly Edwards that helps with the kid’s program. The announcement for Citizen of the Year will be made. Santa Claus will be at the event.

Councilmember Neville asked if the time will be at 5:30 or 6.

Mayor Williams said the event will take place at 5:30.

Councilmember Valentine asked if the date would be December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Williams said the date would be December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #11: Discussion of Employee Christmas Luncheon (Possible dates: Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> or Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup>). Mayor Williams said the date would be December 16<sup>th</sup> and a time would be determined.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #12: Discussion- Citizen of the Year Banquet (2020-2022). Mayor Williams said they are planning for the past three winners because of COVID the previous ones were canceled. Mayor Williams asked if anyone had any reservations in a time frame around January or February. Mayor Williams asked if anyone had any reservations for doing all three winners at one time. Mayor Williams said a time could be presented at the next meeting and Mayor Williams asked if anyone had a preference on the day.

Councilmember Neville said all three could be done at one time.

Councilmember Valentine said in the past the banquet has been held during the week.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #13: Discussion- Town Hall Holiday hours: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Administrator Beasley said it is usually one full day and the surrounding communities will be closed one full day. The Town of Williston's manual gives one full day, but there is also a floating day, which is why there is two proposed half days. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the holiday hours including the two half days. Councilmember Neville made a motion to approve the holiday hours including the two half days. Councilmember Valentine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Williams asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #14: Consideration of the acceptance of donation of property on Blacks Drive by Southeastern Housing Authority: Beth Overton. Attorney Boulware said that the property is a foundation. Mayor Williams said the property neighbors the Lift Station on Blacks Drive by the Sugar Hill neighborhood. The Southeaster Housing Authority is wanting to donate the property.

Attorney Boulware said there were waiting on the deed and the title. Attorney Boulware said the property could be accepted with a clean title, deed, and a corporate resolution.

Mayor Williams said Blighted Property waited 10 years and wants to donate the property to the Town. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to accept the property on Blacks Drive if the title, deed, and corporate resolution comes back clean.

Councilmember Moody made a motion to accept the property on Blacks Drive if the title, deed, and corporate resolution comes back clean. Councilmember Odermatt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #15: Approval of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual DIG Stem Festival. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the DIG Stem Festival. Councilmember Neville made a motion to approve the annual DIG Stem Festival. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Williams moved to line item # 16: Approval: Disc Golf Events. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the Disc Golf events: January 14<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Councilmember Odermatt made a motion to approve the Disc Golf Events. Councilmember Valentine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Williams asked to make sure the shelter isn't rented out to others.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #17: Presentation: Williston Craft and Vender: Joe Owens. Owens said that they formed an organization to help and wanted to donate to the fire department this year. Owens also wanted to recognize David Hall for doing such a good job helping Owens bring everything together in relation to the events. Owens presented Hall with a gift.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #18: Eastern Star Group: Joe Owens. Owens said they are trying to let people know about the Town and wants to do a fundraiser at the parade and sell cookies.

Councilmember Neville asked Owens where they would like to set up.

Owens said its up to council but thought about in front of Meeting on Main.

Mayor Williams told Owens they would get back with her.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #19: Approval: 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2022-03, to hold a special election to fill the vacant council seat. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-03. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-03. Councilmember Neville seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Williams said he last day to file is December 31<sup>st</sup>, the election is January 31, and early voting is January 16<sup>th</sup>- January 27<sup>th</sup>. The voting must be done at the county office.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #20: Executive Session (if needed). Mayor Williams skipped line item #20 Executive Session.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #21 Administrator's Report. Administrator Beasley said the General Liability .739 on the Town's insurance means the Town saved 26%, however there was a state increase of 13.7%. The cost range was \$73,000 to \$ 76,000 but is now \$83,000 because of the state increase. The Town is in the top of the state with the lowest increase. Administrator Beasley said he is working with the department heads with structure and wants to set up a workshop this week with council.

Administrator Beasley said he shared a lot with the mayor and wants to share with council.

Administrator Beasley said that law enforcement filed for a grant and received a \$4,000 check.

Administrator Beasley was working with the Fire Department to receive the same grant.

Councilmember Odermatt asked if there are any measures to lower the insurance.

Councilmember Moody asked if Administrator Beasley knows how much is in the Dominion funds, maybe some power lines could be buried.

Administrator Beasley said he was researching to see how much the cost would be. Administrator Beasley also said he was working with the SMIRF to see about the options on the insurance.

Councilmember Moody asked for an update on the fence for the Town Park.

Administrator Beasley said they would talk about it in a workshop.

Mayor Williams moved to line item #22: Mayors Report. Mayor Williams thanks the people for early voting and about 400 people came early to vote. The Town hosted a voting center for two weeks. Mayor Williams said Mayor Marcus Rivera. of the City of Barnwell, invited the council to the Barnwell Christmas Parade and the Tree Lighting on December 2 from 4 pm-7 pm.

Mayor Williams moved to line item # 23: Adjournment. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting. Councilmember Moody made a motion to adjourn the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting. Councilmember Valentine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

TOWN OF WILLISTON, SC

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Brett Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kayla Jerkins, Town Clerk

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Date