

SHARON TOWN COUNCIL Minutes Sep 08th 2025, at 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION: Mayor, Nicole Perkins presiding, Herschel Browne Jr (Mayor Pro-Tem) Council Members Present: Margarette Parrish, Jay Gorley, Town Administrator Dawn Helms, Fire Chief Oliver Dowdle

1. **Mayor:** Nicole Perkins presiding, remember September 11th
2. **Moment of silence/prayer:** Remember September 11th 24 years since attack
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK: (Present but do not care to speak – Jennifer Ramsey and 2 children, Skylar Grant)

MINUTES: Minutes of Aug 11th, 2025, Regular Council Meeting recorded. Any issues with Summary version? Emailed 09/08/2025. Word for Word has been 70 pages or more. July Minutes still open. Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Town Funding - Local, State, and Federal and Grant Opportunities-ARPA \$16K open-EOY 2026**

2. **State Grants - Dennis Moss - Town Upgrades -2022 meeting with Dennis Moss state grant. Applied Grants 02/15/2023.**

Grants applied and approved-

a) **Park Equipment- Harmon Park –New Park Equipment-Complete**

b) **New Well - \$66K Open. Location search in process.**

c) **Community Center Annex-HVAC/electrical-\$42k complete**

d) **Burri Building HVAC & upgrades-\$71k-Open Review quotes** Palmetto & Adkins. Vendor has not been decided yet.

e) **Lawson Building HVAC -26k – Complete** Flower Shop/Clothing Store.

f) **Sharon VFD Water Overflow/New Bathrooms \$60K- Partial Complete. Open.**

Usage of 2 Outside New Restrooms on hold. Need to paint outside bathroom brick wall/install Soffit, connect new plumbing for bathrooms. Jaime Sandifer is going to come over and look at the area of concern. Drainage pit to be put in and extra rock taken up and moved to other areas of town and put down crush and run rock and this should help. Jaime checked his schedule and let us know when to expect him to start. Oliver asked to be notified as soon as we know. Margarette inquired if there is any guarantee of the work if what he does doesn't fix the problem. Nicole said she feels like whatever Jamie does he will guarantee. Oliver advised that everything is working fine right now since it is so dry.

Previously Installed new rain gutters and new down spouts. Put in drains for all down spouts including the HVAC condensation line. Put in drive over catch basins. Installed new drain field 200ft hard pipe due to parking/driving over lines not a residential system. Installed prebuilt twin bathrooms and rebuilt roof over bathrooms and storage room.

g) Sharon VFD HVAC- \$30k HVAC Complete

h) Bank of York Loan community Center Roof -\$111k Complete. Loan paid off.

3. Town Tractors and Town Storage building cleanup.

4. Town Maint- Remind residents and neighbors to not blow grass on sidewalks or roadways. Be considerate of others

- a. Blowing grass on sidewalks and roadways are hazardous to walkers, bikers, and drivers.**
- b. Grass in roadways and sidewalks causes grass to grow in those areas which causes cracks in sidewalks and roadways.**

a. Town sidewalks-repairs needed. Starting on Woodlawn. Quote.

We have received resident complaints on Woodlawn St about the sidewalks, Scott and Nicole have been out there and they are in bad shape in some areas. Where Coltharp owns property near Ms. Doris it is in definite need of repair. Scott has marked the areas and met with one of the concrete companies that say they can repair some of what is there which would be cost saving. No repairs to driveway at Coltharp property, but at Herschel Brown Jr residence that is shared with the Chambers. Discussion needs to happen with the church to get some sidewalks. Nicole will talk with Max about it.

Margarette brought up the grass growing on the sidewalks. Council did not approve quote from Sam Pike for removing the grass. Scott is taking care of the problem and spraying the problem areas.

Nicole advised we will continue to do reminders to town residents to not blow grass or other yard debris onto sidewalks or streets. It is dangerous to people walking and riding bikes, motorcycles.

c. Pump Station Maintenance- McCall Brothers-pump replacements? hold

d. Water Tank Maint Southern Corrosion. Inspection collection completed. Washout scheduled for Fall 2025. Contact Mark.

Brownie mentioned that it was noted during our insurance appraisal inspection that we have a fence around the tank. Nicole advised that it is a good move on the town's behalf to fence the tank off. Limits access to tank.

5. **Ordinance 9- Filling of pools is not allowed on Town Water system. Consider changing rates. Discuss Fee & Increase fee structure? (Work session)** Nicole would like this to be discussed during the winter months and figure out what we want to do before spring.
6. **PMC/Tenet EMT Rental-** Local leadership and Corp approved. Increase to start Sep. New flooring install to start. Waterproof laminate has been ordered and will be done soon. Question was asked why 3 bids were not obtained. Nicole responded because this was a good quote and often it is not easy to get companies to come out and give quotes. The vendor we are going with has been used by York County. Jay believes it is the prudent thing to do by getting 3 bids anytime we can. Nicole advised there were deadlines to meet with getting the flooring done per the contract signed with Tenet.
7. **Comporium Grant-Wi-Fi Community Center. Free no obligation to renew. Vote accept contract.**
8. **Harmon Harris Park- Complete.** Bell Avenue increased sidewalk for better wheelchair accessibility. \$1100. Added additional wheelchair accessibility from tennis court to Shelter 2, sidewalk 40ft by 5ft \$1800. Allow us to receive more state or county grants.

People can access the park to watch their kids or grandkids playing. Brownie asked if we now have wheelchair access from the parking lot to the park? Scott advised that yes, that is the case, and we will have signs showing where they can unload and park.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Fall Ball has started EOM Sep. Emily Jeffrey Concessions 1% hospitality tax.**
This will add a small income to the town.
2. **All fire extinguishers inspected in town**
3. **SCDES-SC Department of Environmental Services Inspection Sep 8th.**
This inspection took place today; it was called a sanitation inspection. The inspector went through the water system book with Matthew and asked detailed questions about our water system and then Matthew took them out in the field to check the wells.
4. **Town Property appraisal conducted on Sep 5th for Insurance Reserve Fund**
Browne took the appraiser around town to the facilities that were to be inspected this year. The appraiser did make notes about the grills at the park having been removed, the fence is 4 feet and not 6 feet, merry-go-round was removed from the park, and the tire swings are no longer there. These changes could help our costs to go down.
5. **Sep 18th- Meet w/Sheriff and Staff-Residents encouraged to ASK questions-voice concerns-police presence in town, safety, etc. Brownie provides a speaker and microphone. Council wear Town of Sharon Shirts.**
Residents have brought up to Nicole police presence in town and safety. We do hope everyone can be there for that. Dawn advised that the invitation has been extended to

Smyrna and Hickory Grove to attend the meet and greet. No way of knowing how many may attend. Nicole asked the Sheriff if he was visiting all off the towns and he advised that he was not. Hickory Grove and Smyrna do have the same concerns regarding police presence, so they are just as interested in talking to the sheriff as we are. Like us they have areas available if they deputies needed office space to work from. We could rent them an office at the Burri Bldg. It would help Eddie Brimer out and then it may help by having a patrol car in the area more often.

Another issue regarding safety, the shooting at Dollar General. An online petition has been signed, and we will be giving that to Dollar General to submit to their corporate offices to consider putting cameras outside their store. We as a town utilize cameras, we have them in the parks, Sharon Grill has cameras, and Scott has cameras as well as other businesses. We need to get some cameras on that side of town. According to the managers at Dollar General they are more concerned about the merchandise in the store not the outside of the store. The manager is concerned for her employees as well as for her own safety.

Dawn mentioned that the original flier that she designed said meet 5-0 and Sheriff Breeden asked that we add and his staff to the flier, that is very admirable. Dawn also shared that the Sheriff's office has a webpage that contains daily activity reports, and you can see the types of calls the sheriffs department is responding to and where. There was not much activity in our area. These may just be actual 9-1-1 calls but something we need to ask about.

6. New Business to Town-Jerry Lee's Building-Ken and Lori from York Barbershop.

These are long-time residents from York but now they are coming to Sharon.

7. ION Data Systems Demo on 09/02 (new/previous water vendor) GWorks expires

ION is the vendor we had previously, and we will be going back to them. It is a system we are familiar with. The system is more user friendly.

8. Events: Save the Date

A. Sharon Farmers and Artisan Market & Cars for Coffee Combined event- Contact Dave Ladish at Sharon Grill. Produce and Craft Vendors needed.

The attendance is not great at the market, so they are going to have it every Saturday until the weather gets cooler. Margarettte inquired whether this is our event or Dave Ladish's event? The event did originally start to be organized by the town, but Dave is spearheading it now. Margarettte went to the market this past weekend and there were only 5 vendors there, 3 of the vendors were bakeries. She also was told that Clover was having their event on the same dates we were and thought this was a reason for low attendance. Dawn indicated we can mention this to Dave, Clover's event is a lot bigger event. Jay does agree that by having the

market weekly for a while that it could catch on. Dave thought that by having the market on the same day as Cars and Coffee that would help draw people but so far it has not.

- B. Senior Luncheon Sharon Methodist** -Fri-Sep 19th at 11am -12:30 pm-free meal and entertainment.

Dawn will check the newsletter and webpage to be sure the correct date is listed of the 19th.

- C. Community Center-Rentals** – No rentals scheduled at this time.

D. Keep Sharon Beautiful (KSB!) Yard of the month 1718 Dr Saye Ln (Austin) – they received a \$25 gift card for having the best yard. Dawn will do a reminder to let people know they can make recommendations on the best yards. September is the last one since in October people decorate for Halloween then there is Christmas. Nicole does not want us to worry about recognizing anyone in October.

- E. Halloween is Friday, October 31st-Big night in Sharon! All local businesses and residents love to participate.**

- F. Election Day: Tuesday Nov 4, 2025**

- G. Christmas in Olde Sharon, December 13th (2nd Saturday).**

Planning will start soon, and all help is appreciated.

5. Christmas Decorations-

A. Feedback on Vendor list of Christmas Decorations-order 10?

Decisions need to be made on lights; we do not want to put those gigantic wreaths back up that are so heavy and usually need to be worked on. Margarett did provide feedback to the websites and vendors that we were looking at. Discounts are going to end soon. Dawn asked for clarification from Oliver if the plug ins are okay to use, Oliver advised that they are. Something always needs to be repaired or replaced. Nicole advised we do not have money to replace all the lights. Oliver suggested doing the center of town.

A work session scheduled for Monday, September 15th at 11 am to discuss Christmas light purchase options.

B. Contract with Duke-status-finalize plan.

6. Dave Ladish at Sharon Grill suggested we print some of our Town Newsletters and he would add them to his tables and counters for customers to read while waiting. Nicole took newsletters to Dave at Sharon Grill and distributed newsletters to Broad River Wellness and Amanda's Salon.

REPORTS/COMMITTEES: **2025 Think of area below you would be best to serve.** Council to discuss any issues concerning the following: Which area? List of responsibilities.

- 1. Ballfield:** Condition field, new poles and light Installation, Electrical wiring from lights.

2. **Community Center and Annex:** Set up as shelter or disburse supplies? Store Food, water, Blankets, and extra Generators. Cleanup Annex- metal recycled. Advertise Key Shop & Ken's Warehouse Collection. Advertise Key Shops & vendor sales in newsletter?

Dawn checked with Emergency Management on this and although they do send people to shelters, Red Cross handles sheltering. I did jot down some things to consider if opening a shelter. People are going to expect bedding, food, snacks, are you going to allow pets? Will there be staff to help with shelter? Nicole said maybe just have somewhere to go to get supplies. Water, extra food. When we have severe weather, we have always had water. Dawn said that is where you need to teach people to be accountable for themselves. So why not have a safety fair? We could have it at the community center, invite community churches and other essential groups to attend, my thoughts are geared more towards seniors, but we could invite everyone. Broad River Wellness – bp and glucose monitoring, Sharon FD – addressing signs, Sharon Town Hall – we can get people to sign up for newsletter and alerts via our webpage, Sharon has a chiropractor in town; she lives here but has office in Clover. Code Red, CNS emergencies do not pertain to us. 9-1-1 could come and talk to us about that – alarm registrations and special needs. Find a nutritionist, CVS – medicine sorters, Pilates, Brownie could do music. It is all well and good to say we are going to provide for people, but we need to encourage them to take care of themselves.

Nicole said that the person that she talked to wanted to give back to the town somehow, so she was talking about blankets and water and other supplies. Dawn asked who is going to distribute these things?

Oliver brought up that the only facility in town with power is the fire department because of their generator but they do not have the ability to store things there.

Brownie reported that he and Jay visited the community center and would like to see us get it cleaned and make a push to rent out some of those rooms. Nicole indicated that most people would not want to move at the end of the year, but we can start cleaning and getting ready to advertise. Nicole would like to get the carpet put back down in the hallway and then get the rest of the building cleaned out. The fire room has stuff in it. Oliver indicated not all of it is their stuff. Scott advised when fall baseball is over, he could start working at the community center.

Jay believes the very first thing we should do is get the internet to work at the community center. We cannot utilize the system that breaks up the power bills. Jay feels as if we would have difficulty renting to someone if they do not know the amount of power they are using or will be billed for.

Nicole reminded everyone that we had internet with Spectrum, and it never worked. Spectrum has since been taken out of the building, and we are now going with Comporium. Comporium is providing us with two years' service of wi-fi for free and then after that we can negotiate the price if we want to keep them. Brownie inquiring if the wi-fi will just work in the auditorium or the entire building? That is something we will need to ask about.

Scott asked if a tenant was interested in getting internet would they be able to tie into our system? Brownie advised that our focus right now is getting the Leviton system up and running so we can have tenants moved in.

Jay suggested that for now we take care of the common areas, paint hallways, bathrooms and let them do their own décor. All agreed with Jays suggestion. Lastly Jay touched on moving town hall to the community center. He said for safety reasons we would not have to be concerned with someone driving through the front window. There are lots of rooms to choose from and we could rent out what is currently town hall. Nicole advised that Council in the past has talked about this and disapproved of it. Dawn mentioned that she thought the Lawson Building would be a good town hall. Brownie stated that although the current town hall is a wonderful old building, it needs a lot of work. Conversation to be continued at work session.

3. Fire Department: (Oliver Dowdle)-update.

Oliver advised that the fire department is having a fish fry on October 18th – part of proceeds to benefit Boy Scout Troop 137. They are in financial stress right now.

Nicole wants to talk to Midge about the Scouts and try to get some more interest in scouting. There are lots of kids in town that need something to do.

Oliver said that it is over \$100 per child per year. That does not include a uniform, camp or anything else. They do have a place to meet but it could use some work too. Lots of expenses come out of the leader's pockets. Oliver said that Woodlawn church has been good to help. Dawn suggested putting something in the newsletter. We can ask businesses to help them out maybe.

Another thing is the county has come out with a 3-year plan and a 10-year plan. It includes 6 goals that the county has established. It includes incentives for volunteers, training, a fire tax for the whole county, 24/7 fire service, etc. Oliver will email the information to town hall. Brownie asked how many calls Sharon FD ran last year, Oliver

advised 193 calls which is the most they have ever run in the history of the fire department.

4. **Rental Buildings:** (Herschel Brown)
5. **Parks:** (Jay Gourley) Request for additional swings.
6. **Scout Hut, Concession Stand** (see Parks):
7. **Streets:** (Margarette Parrish):
8. **Sidewalks:** Keep Sharon Beautiful KSB
9. **Town Hall:** **Safety Ideas due to recent accident.** Revamp Office for safety. Move desk and equipment away from front windows. Quotes? Update-paint inside walls, storm door.
10. **Water:** (Matt Glenn) Update status of water system. Nicole did talk to Matthew today but did not mention anything with the water system.

Dawn, Matthew did mention Shannon St that the state is about to start paving Shannon St and he is concerned about any damages that could occur with this work. Matthew said we may want to get “Boil Water Notices” ready, just in case. Paving from Pinkney St to Hill Building.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

1. **Citizen Concerns/FYI:** Anyone from the Mayor, Council, Staff or Public can bring an issue to the Council that was not on the agenda. Please limit your comment to 5 minutes or less.

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS:

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Recorded

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. **Next Council Meeting:** Regular Town Council Meeting Monday Nov 10th, 2025, at 7:00 pm

ADJOURN: **Adjourn:** Council to vote on adjournment

Motion: Margarette Parrish Second: Herschel Brown Jr Time: 8:13 pm