

SHARON TOWN COUNCIL Meeting Minutes - May 11th, 2026, at 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION: Nicole Perkins - Mayor, Herschel Browne Jr -Mayor Pro-Tem, Council Members: Margarette Parrish, Jay Gorley, Rebecca Rees, Oliver Dowdle, Fire Chief, George Ward – Asst. Fire Chief, Dawn Helms, Town Administrator

1. **Mayor:** Nicole Perkins presiding.
2. **Moment of silence/prayer:**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK: Please sign in to speak. When speaking, please come to the front of council table. State your name and address before speaking. Any comments made during the meeting, please request opportunity to speak. Stand, state your name, and comment to the council to be recorded in our meeting minutes.

Nicole: Asked for people wishing to speak.

Heather Hudson introduced herself and her husband Kelvin. Lived in York most of her life. First daycare opened in September 2020. A year later another daycare center was opened. Both businesses started with no loans, everything done out of pocket. Heather started getting a few phone calls from people urgently looking for childcare. This compelled Heather to reach out to Ms. Betty to see what was going on. They have been on a very tight time frame since Ms. Betty has given the parents and staff a 30-day timeframe. Some of the staff will stay, some are moving on. There will have to be some changes but hopes that those changes are not negative. Heather has received a report from the State Fire Marshalls office and will be meeting with DHEC soon. A transfer of ownership has been requested to avoid closing the center and reopening it. Heather was curious about sign requirements and indicated they would be making changes to doors, locking them so that not just anyone could come and go.

Nicole indicated that council was working on getting the lease to Heather as soon as possible. Also, shared with Heather that Ms. Betty chose not to promote that her business as a daycare. Having a sign is fine, if Heather would like she may post another signs/banner around town (ballfield, park, etc).

Dawn made Heather aware of the \$100 water deposit that will be required as well.

MINUTES: Minutes of Apr 13th, 2026, Regular Council Meeting recorded.

Dawn Indicated that she corrected the spacing on the minutes Nicole provided making it 25 sheets, rather than the 35 sheets Nicole sent out.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Town Funding - Local, State, and Federal Grant Opportunities-ARPA EOY 2026

2. State Grants - Dennis Moss - Town Upgrades state grants 02/15/2023.

a) New Well \$66K Hold Use funds for Shannon Street line replacement.

a. Brownies lot Well Faulkner spec sheet (2023-2024) Hold

b) Burri Building HVAC & upgrades \$71k-Hold Use for Shannon Street.

Nicole and Margarette have reached out to Dennis Moss and have not received any responses. Nicole also sent emails to Ralph Norman.

3. Margarette Update- Grant Replacement Water lines on Shannon Street-Margarette

Parrish. Requested matching funds help from Dennis Moss and Ralph Norman .

Representatives are back in session. Emailed the grant information to Federal and State representatives. Special Thank you to Margarette for all her hard work.

Margarette or Dawn will reach out to the COG for updates on grant request.

4. Harmon Park New Bathrooms-Event use only. Shane Benfield completed work.

Nothing on this.

5. Town Maint-

a. Sidewalk Woodlawn Complete-partial. Restart Spring-Marion status?

Brownie advised that 35 yards of concrete have been poured and that 6 yards remain to be completed. He will be checking the current prices of concrete. The work that remains to be done is two driveways and some sidewalks. Brownie will provide a scope of work.

b. Harmon Park Restroom-Open for Hillcrest or have porta johns delivered?

Hillcrest usually has additional porta johns brought in from Pink Portables. Dawn will confirm this with Tina. Oliver reported that Hillcrest is using the fire department to serve their meals from and setting up tables.

6. Community Center Meeting-Cleanup work to be done. Status on list of tasks.

Still ongoing. Question was brought up regarding the concrete and other debris behind the community center.

7. Quotes for painting interior Town Hall-See quote.

Dawn asked that item #7 be removed from the agenda. Also, Jay preferred that we hold off making any improvements to town hall and consider moving to the community center. Dawn brought up safety issues, being one of the main reasons for making some changes at town hall. Dawn has concerns about being in front of the window as well as having difficulty hearing people on the telephone with the traffic that comes through town.

8. Intergovernmental agreement with County-Ordinance Enforcement-County to send us the agreement to sign.

Nicole has been in touch with the county; they are in the process of writing that up. This is not the same as the park's intergovernmental agreement, but certainly something we could use some assistance with.

9. Resident calls concerning water taken from hydrants. No one should be taking water from Hydrants. Permission must be approved by council.

No further calls on this matter. Dawn suggested this be removed from agenda.

10. Adkins Heating & Air-pricing for HVAC Maintenance all town buildings see list

Dawn forwarded the prices provided by Adkins Heating & Air; all the town facilities are not listed on this quote. Dawn did ask Scott about changing filters for some of the units and he did not seem comfortable with this. Nicole agreed that Scott may not be familiar with all the hvac equipment around town. Brownie will get another quote from Palmetto Comfort. Jay suggested Browns out of Clover.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Water Bills-Memo added to water bills.** Water bills are due by the 20th each month. We will no longer be sending out past due notices. If payment not received by 5pm on May 26th. Water will be disconnected and \$50.00 reconnection fee will be added to the bill.

Water bills have had some new verbiage added to them. Lots of residents do not pay on time or pay the morning of cut-off. A comparison has been made with some of the surrounding towns, and we are the only ones that still write past due letters, we still call and/or text people. This is very time-consuming and costly. Dawn indicated it is usually repeat offenders. Water bills are due by the 20th, if not paid by the 26th they are subject to be cut off and a \$50 reconnect fee will need to be paid. Dawn pointed out that this is a burden to Matthew as well, when we have cut-offs, he needs to go out post a note on the door and cut the meter off. Then sometimes Matthew is not even back in his truck, and the resident is at town hall paying the bill and the reconnect fee and then Matthew must go back. It is an issue for all involved. Dawn does indicate to residents that have water cut off that Matthew is a part time employee and he comes back to turn water on at his discretion not ours. Jay suggested that we let residents know that our water billing system is the indicator for turning water off, it is not at my doings, remove personal aspect out of it.

- 2. Jennifer Jonas property 3124 Warmoth**-sent emails and left voicemail. No response. Add property to list property issues to be discussed with York County as part of intergovernmental agreements.

We did contact Jennifer Jonas, still no response to date. Dawn suggested that we develop a list of properties that need to be shared with the county for ordinance violations. The Rural Water Assoc. has been contacted to see how they can assist us. No meeting date scheduled yet. Dawn asked that in addition to the derelict structures and abandoned cars do we want to investigate doing something about the two homes (Ricks and Bradham) that are being lived in with no water or electricity? Margarete advised may not be enforceable.

- 3. Betty Chason Small World Daycare retiring**- Ms. Betty met with Heather Hudson of New Beginnings. New lease to be approved.

Correct name of daycare is Bright Beginnings.

- 4. Meeting with Rural Water Association to discuss their role/help with small towns.**

No date established

- 5. Events: Save the Date**

- a. Sharon Farmers and Artisan Market**– has resumed. Sat early am.

Good crowd at last market!

- b. **Senior Luncheon Sharon Methodist** -Fri-May 22 11am -12:30 pm-free meal and entertainment.

Correct date is May 15th.

- c. **Keep Sharon Beautiful- (#KSB!)**- Start yard of the month in Spring. Residents email addresses for top 3 YOM suggestions. Tie-breakers Council vote.

A nomination has been received but Dawn has not had an opportunity to write letter or take sign to the winner. Residence on Woodlawn Acres, it is a real cure single wide.

d. Events in Park

- i. **May 16th Hillcrest Baptist Harmon Park**
- ii. **May 23rd Mental Health Awareness Event**

Dawn advised that she will keep everyone posted on the Mental Health event, the organizer had not contacted speakers when she reserved the park.

e. Discussion of Town Events-continue?

- i. **4th of July celebration-** Danny Dickerson has Sharon on calendar for June 27th . Needs 4 people to help. Is Fire Department willing to help Danny?
Danny checking on cost for electronically setting off Fireworks.

Danny Dickerson does have us on his calendar. Per George, Danny checked on the electronic fireworks show but it was too late for this year. He will let us know about possible having that for next year. Danny does not have anyone else to help with fireworks and needs assistance from the fire department. Oliver said that the fire department will figure out something. Oliver has a meeting on Sunday and will advise if he has enough help. Dawn will be starting the application process for the permit soon. Fireworks only this year, no food trucks. Nicole said if they just pulled up and were self-sustaining then maybe then. Dawn said it would be havoc for vendors to show up on their own. No band either. May be a good night for Sharon and Scoops.

- ii. **Christmas in Olde Sharon-discuss plans to continue for 2026?**

It was Dawns impression that it was decided during our work session that Sharon FD will do their visit with Santa, we would hang lights. It was asked if we would do a tree in the park. Questions asked if power works in the park. Brownie advised that right now it is

working. Brownie also suggested that perhaps the cedar tree at his gin could be decorated for Christmas. Discussion about the Duke agreement for lighting, Dawn advised that she does not understand it. Oliver has looked at the agreement and sent back a response. What we really want to do is expand the existing service that we have to have between Brownie's store and the Hill building. Then do away with the individual circuits. It would be safer in the long run. Nicole asked that I forward Oliver's comments to everyone for review. Oliver advised that right now the outlets must be changed almost every year, they are GFI outlets and they go bad. The only way to change them out is energized, you do not kill any power. It is a very tedious job. Jay asked Oliver if he would touch base with Duke directly. Oliver wanted everyone to see what he typed up first. Oliver would like to speak with someone face to face rather than trying to figure this out via email. Oliver advised we need to speak with an engineer.

6. After hours Emergency contacts

- a. Water related Matthew Glenn 803-242-3061
- b. After hours other emergency issues:
 - Mayor Nicole Perkins 803-517-2568
 - Mayor Pro Tem Herschel Brown Jr 803-627-0052

REPORTS/COMMITTEES: Council to discuss any issues concerning the following:

1. Ballfield: New season started

There are 2 games tonight, these are playoff games. Some are make-up games due to the weather. Scott has finished repairs on the deck. Nicole would like someone to look at the deck; it is old and it may need to be taken down and rebuilt. Brownie advised he will go look at it. Nicole thinks the footing needs to be looked at also. Nicole did receive a call from an individual that his foot went through one of the boards, he was just making her aware that it had happened. It was suggested to close one side of the concession stand and use the other window.

2. Community Center/Annex:

May 16th Community Center rental-1 year old birthday party.

- a. May 31st Greater Unity Zion Church Friends & Family event.
- b. Annex-New renter Mike Baker photography, painting, book binding

The new tenant would like to have a utility sink installed in his room. If we wanted to take the one out of Nikki's old room or the front room, he would be okay with that. Jay suggested just purchasing a new one rather than paying for old sink to be removed then re-

installed. Need to get a quote with a sink and without. Nicole agreed that just buying a new sink is best.

Dawn asked if anyone was able to check on the Leviton system at the annex. Brownie is working on it. Dawn indicated that since we have four tenants in the annex currently it would make it so much more accurate in regard to usage.

3. Advertise Key Shop & Treasures, Local Shops & vendor sales in newsletter.

4. Fire Department: (Oliver Dowdle) update

Oliver advised that the radiological exercise went well. Their radios have not been updated yet, the template must be built. Oliver also met with York County, and they have backed down for now, using the argument that most of the calls they respond to us out of town so it is his opinion that they should still get funding for that. Oliver thinks that perhaps the county agrees with him and may remove it from the current proposal. Ongoing conversations about rural fire tax, maybe discussing that more with the town. Oliver does not agree that this is the time for that, but we may hear from the county. We still need to evaluate the allowance given to Oliver and George. Oliver also advised that Dennis Moss reached back out to him and Sharon VFD has been awarded a grant. They hope to buy a mini pumper. It is not a huge fire truck, many of the areas they respond to you cannot take a full-size truck in to. This would carry a hose and other equipment for an initial attack giving us the ability to get water to it. It is like an F600 chassis. The process started a couple of years ago, and just now getting the funding. Oliver does not consider it a done deal until the check is received. It is in the approval of the House budget now.

5. Rental Buildings: (Herschel Brown)

6. Parks: (Jay Gourley)- Shelter rentals. Residents need to post sign showing paid on day of event. Town hall will print receipt on bright pink paper for display.

Nicole asked about the status of signage for park. Dawn advised we have really bright colored paper to print the park rental agreement on for the person renting it. Dawn advises the persons renting the park that they affix it to the shelter so others know. Nicole asked that I send shelter rental dates to the whole council so that everyone is aware.

7. Scout Hut, Concession Stand (see Parks): check schedule with vendors – no report

8. Streets: (Margarette Parrish): Pratt Street-Speed pumps-painted – no report

9. Sidewalks: repairs on Woodlawn

Brownie is getting some costs together prior to any further work being done on Woodlawn St.

9. Town Hall: Revamp Office for safety. Move desk and equipment away from front windows. Update-paint inside walls, storm door.

10. Water: (Matt Glenn) Ken Smart forwarded latest Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. Will be distributed to residents and posted on webpage.

Brownie giving water report for Matthew Glenn. Matthew advised that we need to let everyone know to start conserving water, given the drought conditions. Brownie had conversation with Matt about the contractors behind the community building, trucks, reels of pipe and water tanks. Brownie said they had permission but should no longer be there. Margarette saw trucks still there. Matthew will be reaching out to the contractors and asking them to leave. Dawn asked if we needed to change the combination lock code. Dawn reminded everyone that we have tenants that use the back entrance into the community center. Brownie will follow up with Matt to see if everyone should be gone now. Dawn pointed out not only the fact they are parking there but they are leaving trash behind, but they are rutting up the back lot. Oliver brought up that there is a drain field behind the community center.

George asked about the concrete that is piled behind the community center. Conversation about possible locations that it can be moved to, no conclusions. Nicole advised we could contact Joey Bolin to have it moved.

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.

Jay spoke with the Edward Jones office in Clover in length, she advised if we had given her the money in our CD back in 2020 it would be worth 40K. She recommended a mutual fund at 6.9% growth, which is better than the 3% at the bank. She welcomes anyone to reach out to her to discuss.

Nicole to reach out to First Citizens to see if both she and Brownie must be present to conduct a transaction. Nicole said it may be able to be done electronically.

Margarette had a question about an email received from Dawn about perhaps the county being able to pave the parking area and walking track at Rainey Park. Dawn advised that an email was received with a quote for paving from Neelands Paving for resurfacing the walking track \$12,000 and parking lot \$6000. Dawn was not aware that a project was being considered. Dawn suggested reaching out to York County to see if their streets department

could do this in lieu of the \$15,000 county funds available for capitol projects. Nicole thinks that the county may have been the ones that put the parking lot and trails in. Margarett advised that the costs are so high because when this was paved initially there was nothing there, now the asphalt would be more difficult to spread with the landscaping, lights, etc. there now. Oliver recalls that there was funding that was found by the county that took care of that. Dawn will email county to see if an option.

Dawn reached out to Jennifer Ramsey to see if they had a date in mind for the presentation for Nancy Scronce, they are considering June 20th.

Ms. Norma Mowles' home has been sold to Ms. Joe Gullibeau.

Dawn ordering an appreciation for Ms. Betty Chason from Crown Awards, it will arrive on Thursday.

Dawn was given direction from Jay on where to look for information about deeds on the York County website. A deed was located detailing the sale of property from Bradley's to the Chambers. What we don't know is they have everything else they need to complete the sale of the property. The deed found does indicate the mobile home as well. Nicole said that Darren Chambers is trying to sell this mobile home. Margarett said it needs to be done in 30 days. Dawn will scan and forward the deed found online to Mac Brice's office. Possible conflict of interest with Brice's office.

Dawn just wanted to share that local York Police Chief, Brian Trail, was featured in an Uptown magazine.

Going into Executive Session.

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS:

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Recorded

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. **Next Council Meeting:** Regular Town Council Meeting Monday June 8th, 2026, at 6:00 pm

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

Motion: Margarett Parrish Second: Rebecca Rees

Time: 7:52pm