

## TOWN OF IVA, SOUTH CAROLINA

### Minutes

#### Special Called Town Council Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 4:00 PM – 204 East Jackson Street, Council Chambers

A regular meeting of the Iva Town Council was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, in the council chambers of the Iva Town Hall, located at 204 E. Jackson Street in Iva. Notice of the meeting was given in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

The following members of Town Council were in attendance:

Mr. Bobby E. Gentry, Mayor  
Mr. Paul Hart, Mayor Pro-Temp  
Mr. Elmer Powell, Council  
Mr. Dwayne Kelley, Council

Mr. Dallas Botts was absent from the meeting.

Others Present for the meeting were: Mr. Tim Taylor, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Ms. Mary McCormac, Town Attorney; Mr. Josh Bench, Chief of Police

1. *Call to Order* - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gentry at 4:00 p.m.
2. *Invocation* – The Invocation was offered by Mr. Hart.
3. *Pledge of Allegiance* – Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
4. *Oath of Office* – The Oath of Office was administered to Mayor and Council Members for the 01/01/2026 – 12/31/2027 term. Mr. Taylor administered the oath to Mayor Gentry, Mr. Hart, Mr. Powell and Mr. Kelley.

*Mayor Pro-Temp and Council Committee Appointments* – Mr. Powell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelley to have Mr. Hart remain as Mayor Pro-Temp for the 2026-2027 council term. The vote was 4-0. Mayor Gentry made the following appointments:

Finance – Mr. Botts

Police/Public Safety – Mr. Kelley

Public Works/Cemetery – Mr. Powell

Mayor Gentry and Mr. Hart will each serve with members on each committee.

#### 5. *Citizen Comments*

Mr. Frank Busterna commented on the need for more Blessing Boxes in Iva and offered his support in supplying them and offering assistance in building/placing them. Mayor and Council offered

their support and consent to proceed with building and placing them. Mayor Gentry commented that the town will work with Mr. Busterna in the coming weeks to get the project started.

6. *Consent Agenda*

None

7. *Old Business (Ordinances for Second and Final Reading)*

None

8. *New Business (Ordinances for First Reading)*

None

9. *New Business (Resolutions for First and Final Reading)*

a. 2026-001

Resolution 2026-001 was presented to Mayor and Council for approval. The resolution supports and accepts a South Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation (PARC) grant in the amount of \$28,000 to upgrade and install new playground equipment at the Elsie Evans Memorial Park. The Resolution also commits a match in the amount of \$7,000. Mr. Taylor commented that the town has also received a grant in the amount of \$3,500 for Duke Energy for the Elsie Evans Memorial Park. Mr. Kelley made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Powell. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

10. *Motions*

None

11. *Executive Session*

a. *Personnel matter (Benefits Matter) – Section 30-4-70a1*

Mr. Powell made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Mr. Kelley. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

Mr. Hart made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Mr. Powell. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

b. *Possible action following executive session.*

Complying with the Town of Iva's "Extended Absence for Personal Illness-Wage Continuation Benefits" Policy, council discussed benefits paid by employees while on leave. Mr. Kelley made motion that employees on leave will be responsible for the first two months, amounting to two full months of the normal weekly deduction, for health benefits after all PTO and extended wages have been paid in which benefits are deducted, with the full amount due of the benefits in the third month and forward while on leave. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

12. *Mayor and Council Comments*

Mr. Bench provided an update to the Mayor and Council from the Police Department. During 2025, there were 2,750 interactions, approximately 230 per month. Mr. Bench noted there were several burglaries at the end of 2025 in which arrests were made. During 2025, there were a total of 153 arrests. The Iva K9 made 50 deployments, of which 22 were for narcotics and 28 for patrol. There was no dog bites made in 2025. The K9 and Officer Bannister received 299 hours of training and re-certifications in 2025. The Iva

Police Department received two donated patrol vehicles from Anderson County in 2025. Mr. Bench also notified Mayor and Council that a grant was applied for and award for new in-car radios – totaling \$36,000. Mr. Bench also informed Mayor and Council that the department will be looking at a new reporting system in 2026. He is currently talking with various software vendors. Mr. Bench commented that three of the officers have been certified as training officers. This will be beneficial to the department in completing the required annual training and re-certifications needed for officers.

*13. Adjournment*

Mr. Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hart. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned.

*Tim Taylor*

Tim Taylor  
Town Clerk/Treasurer