

**CHAPIN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday January 9, 2026
2:00 p.m.**

Council Chambers

Members Present: Mayor Bill Mitchell, Council Member Leland Teal, Council Member Vicky Shealy, Council Member Mike Clonts

Members Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Gregg White

Staff Present: Police Chief Thomas Griffin and Municipal Clerk Shannon Bowers

Guests: Malane Pike, Joanie Winters

Call to Order: Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Mayor Mitchell then determined there was a quorum and acknowledged the appropriate notifications in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act had been met.

Mayor Mitchell opened the meeting by asking if anyone from the public would like to lead the pledge of allegiance, which a volunteer stepped forward. Mayor Mitchell then asked if anyone from the public would like to offer a prayer, which a volunteer stepped forward.

Mayor Mitchell thanked the public for attending the meeting and stated that regardless of positions and views, they were there to do what was best for the Town of Chapin. He then explained that they would go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Prior to entering executive session, Council Member Shealy addressed Mayor Mitchell and asked if she could ask a few questions. Mayor Mitchell agreed.

Council Member Shealy asked for the contract between the Town and the special projects attorney Malane Pike. Council Member Shealy stated she has asked for the contract several times and has not received it to date, and asked why that was. Mayor Mitchell stated that he signed a contract and would provide it.

Council Member Shealy asked how attorney Pike was getting paid, who was paying her, and what she's had access to, since financial records and other town documents have been moved into the Mayor's office. Mayor Mitchell responded by stating those terms were in her contract and Ms. Pike does not get access to the records except what he gives her access to.

Council Member Shealy then asked who the person was that was over the financial department in the interim. She stated that it was her understanding there was person who was a friend of the mayor's family and the position has not been posted for equal opportunity employment or any background checks done. Mayor Mitchell responded by stating he contracted with an individual to ensure the 29 employees at town hall would get paid and to keep the town running after the Director of Finance resigned.

Council Member Shealy then asked about the real estate meeting he had with a realtor at town hall during business hours. Mayor Mitchell responded by stating that he never had any real estate meetings at town hall.

Council Member Teal then questioned where the money was coming from for these extra contracts, as historically Town Council would view and approve any amendments to the budget to accommodate requests. Mayor Mitchell responded by stating that the town government operates in two separate branches, Administrative and Legislative, and he would never side step the roles of each branch, but he is able to move money around in the budget to accommodate such requests.

Mayor Mitchell ended the questioning by calling for a motion to enter executive session.

Executive Session: Discussion of personnel matters pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(1):

Council Member Teal made the motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters, pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(1). Council Member Clonts seconded the motion.

Mayor Bill Mitchell:	Yes
Council Member Leland Teal:	Yes
Council Member Vicky Shealy:	Yes
Council Member Mike Clonts:	Yes

Council entered executive session at 2:11 p.m.

Council Member Clonts moved to return to regular session. Council Member Teal seconded the motion. Council resumed regular session at 3:05 p.m.

Adjournment: Council Member Clonts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Teal seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

COUNCIL APPROVED: January 20, 2026