

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

7 Jan 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Shane Kornberg, Sandy Clayborne and Randy Stanton

Town Attorney: Todd Johnson

Meeting was opened with a prayer led by Chief Fowler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rob Chase.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 10 Dec 2024 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 10 Dec 2024 Council Meeting. Shane Kornberg moved to accept the minutes of the 10 Dec 2024 Council Minutes. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the*

Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

The Mayor presented to the Council the Financial Report. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report. Andy Lopez moved to accept the Financial Report. Randy Stanton seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the 2025 Budget with this being the Second Reading. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the 2025 Budget with this being the Second Reading. Shane Kornberg moved to accept the 2025 Budget with this being the Second Reading. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed. The Budget for 2025 is now set at \$652,820.*

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report and the Beer and Wine Renewals for 2025.

Todd Johnson presented the Zoning and Appeals Board Report.

Matters of Information

- Mayor completed Immigration Report
- Bagby House and Church Bldg being evaluated
- PTSD program participation

Discussion was made to move the Council Meeting to the second Tuesday of the month. Therefore, the next meeting will be held on the 11th of February 2025.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Council Meeting 11 Feb 2025

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick - Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

11 Feb 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Shane Kornberg, Sandy Clayborne and Randy Stanton

Town Attorney: Todd Johnson

Meeting was opened with a prayer led by Chief Fowler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andy Lopez.

Councilman Andy Lopez asked to go into Executive Session. Shane Kornberg seconded the motion.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 7 Jan 2024 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 7 Jan 2024 Council Meeting. Andy Lopez moved to accept the minutes of the 7 Jan 2024 Council Minutes. Randy Stanton seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Councilman asked for a motion to postpone the Financial Report. Randy Stanton seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

No report was presented from the Zoning and Appeals Board.

Matters of Information

- Voting in 2025- Public Service Commission, Primary in June and General Election in November. Also Town General Election in November
- Small Town Grant – minimum of \$1,000,000

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Council Meeting 11 March 2025

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick - Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

11 March 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Shane Kornberg, Sandy Clayborne and Randy Stanton*

*after the pledge

Town Attorney: Todd Johnson

Meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer led by James Bramley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rob Chase.

Paul Patterson, new Fire Chief for Whitfield County, addressed the group.

Tim Jones from the Optimist Club addressed the group regarding the caboose.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 11 Feb 2024 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 Feb 2024 Council Meeting. Andy Lopez moved to accept the minutes of the 11 Feb 2024 Council Minutes. Randy Stanton seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the Financial Reports for February and March. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Financial Reports for February and March. Shane Kornberg moved to accept the Financial Reports for February and March. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

Bill Morgan presented the Court Report.

No report was presented from the Zoning and Appeals Board.

Bids were presented for a new mower that is to be paid out of SPLOST. *Shane Kornberg moved to accept the bid from B & B Tractor of \$13,519.20. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Matters of Information

- LMIG grant submitted
- Fish Hatchery update
- House next to Community Center
- Bldg Permits issued
- Property Sales
- House Demo
- Wood Chips
- July 4th Celebration will be held June 28th

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez made a motion to adjourn. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next Council Meeting 8 April 2025

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick - Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

8 April 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Shane Kornberg, Sandy Clayborne

Absent: Randy Stanton

Meeting was opened at 6:03 p.m. with a prayer led by Todd Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rob Chase.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 11 March 2025 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 March 2025 Council Meeting. Shane Kornberg moved to accept the minutes of the 11 March 2025 Council Minutes. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the Financial Report. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report. *Shane Kornberg moved to accept the Financial Report. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Beer and Wine License application of Cohutta Wine and Stationhouse. Shane Kornberg moved to accept the Beer and Wine application of Cohutta Wine and Stationhouse. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

No report from the Cohutta Zoning and Appeals Board.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the use of the walking track by Cohutta School for a Story Walk grant. Andy Lopez moved to accept the use of the walking track by Cohutta School for a Story Walk grant. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Matters of Information

- Completed the ARPA report
- Cohutta Song Fest Oct 3rd and 4th
- Bank Bldg Lease
- Update on Heavenly Vision
- No Liquor Store

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez made a motion to adjourn. Shane Kornberg seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Next Council Meeting 13 May 2025

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick – Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

13 May 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Shane Kornberg, Sandy Clayborne and Randy Stanton

Meeting was opened at 6:01 p.m. with a prayer led by Chief Fowler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andy Lopez.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 8 April 2025 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 8 April 2025 Council Meeting. Shane Kornberg moved to accept the minutes of the 8 April 2025 Council Minutes. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Shane Kornberg moved to table the Financial Report until June.. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Emily Varnell, Media Specialist at Cohutta School spoke of the Story Walk grant. They should hear if it is awarded to the school by the end of May or June.

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

No report was presented from the Zoning and Appeals Board.

Matters of Information

- Cohutta Song Fest date changed to Oct 18 and 19
- The Artsy Teacher – opening May 31
- July 4th Celebration to be held June 28th
- Fireworks total \$6000

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez made a motion to adjourn. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Next Council Meeting 10 June 2025

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Minutes transcribed by Pam Shinnick
as taken by Sandy Clayborne

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

10 June 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Sandy Clayborne and Randy Stanton

Absent: Shane Kornberg

Meeting was opened at 6:01 p.m. with a prayer led by Sandy Clayborne.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the group.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 13 May 2025 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 13 May 2025 Council Meeting. Andy Lopez moved to accept the minutes of the 13 May 2025 Council Minutes. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the Financial Report. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report. Sandy Clayborne moved to accept the Financial Report. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

The Zoning and Appeals Board will be hearing 3 cases on 5 August 2025.

The Mayor presented to the Council that the Police have requested some funds out of SPLOST to purchase 4 police vehicles for a total of \$12,700. *The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the request. Andy Lopez asked for a motion to approve the request from the police to purchase 4 police vehicles for a total of \$12,700 out of the SPLOST funds. Randy Stanton seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council estimates for replacement batteries for the Weather Siren. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the battery priced at \$1970. Sandy Clayborne moved to accept the battery priced at \$1970. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the Commercial Building Permit Fees which are the same as Whitfield County. *Andy Lopez moved to accept the Commercial Building Permit Fees. Randy Stanton seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Matters of Information

- July 4th Celebration – June 28th
- Fireworks Donation \$3500
- Election of Public Service Commission Seats- June 17
- Father's Day – June 15
- Town Attorney
- Grand Opening of Depot @ Cohutta – Aug 30

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez made a motion to adjourn. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Council Meeting 12 Aug 2025

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick – Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

12 August 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Sandy Clayborne, Randy Stanton and Shane Kornberg

Meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Dean Thompson

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rob Chase.

Tom Brown presented an update on the Cohutta Song Fest which is scheduled for Oct. 17 and 18. Presently 30 vendors have already signed up.

Wendy Conner presented to the Council the issue she had with her horse and fireworks. *The Mayor presented to the Council HB 614 for inclusion within the town ordinances with this being the First Reading. Andy Lopez moved to approve HB 614 for inclusion within the town ordinances with this being the First Reading. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor asked for a motion to postpone the reading of the minutes of the 10 June 2025 Council Meeting. Shane Kornberg moved to postpone the reading of the minutes of the 10 June 2025 Council Minutes. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

The Mayor presented some amendments to the Budget. They are as follows: *Increase TAVT revenue from \$30,000 to \$45,000, Municipal Court revenue from \$75,000 to \$185,000 and Franchise Fees from \$62,000 to \$66,000 and increase the Court Budget from \$50,000 to \$58,000. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve these amendments to the Budget. Shane Kornberg moved to approve the above outlined amendments to the Budget. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

The Zoning and Appeals Board report was presented to the Mayor and Council. Their recommendation was to approve the rezoning of five acres of Parcel No. 11-059-01-000 from RA to R1. *The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the rezoning of five acres of Parcel No. 11-059-01-000 from RA to R1. Andy Lopez moved to approve the rezoning of five acres of Parcel No. 11-059-01-000 from RA to R1. Shane Kornberg seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Matters of Information

- SPLOST- Trash Truck Replacement
- Surplus Equipment
 - X- mark mower, bucket truck, hummer
- Fish Hatchery update
- Walking Track – county removing tree
- Election – Qualifying Aug 20, 21 and 22 9-5 \$75 fee

- Street Dance sponsored by Ruritan Sept. 20

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez made a motion to adjourn. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Council Meeting **9 Sept 2025**

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick – Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting

9 Sept 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Sandy Clayborne and Shane Kornberg

Randy Stanton did not come until the vote for the Financial Report *

Meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Dean Thompson

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andy Lopez.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 10 June 2025 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 10 June 2025 Council Meeting. Andy Lopez moved to accept the minutes of the 10 June 2025 Council Meeting. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council that were present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 12 August 2025 Council Meeting. *Shane Kornberg moved to amend the minutes to reflect that the financials for August were tabled. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Shane Kornberg moved to amend the minutes of the 12 August 2025 Council Meeting to reflect that the financials for June were tabled. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

*Andy Lopez moved to table the Financial Report for this month. Randy Stanton * (was present for this vote and all others afterwards) seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

The Mayor presented to the Council HB 614 for inclusion within the town ordinances with this being the Second Reading. *Shane Kornberg moved to approve HB 614 for inclusion within the town ordinances with this being the Second Reading. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council for their approval the name of Amy Ridley as the new Court Clerk (replacing Adrianna Salazar) and with associated banking privileges. *Andy Lopez moved to approve Amy Ridley as the new Court Clerk and with associated banking privileges. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council for their approval the name of Bryan Rayburn for Town Attorney. *Andy Lopez moved to approve Bryan Rayburn as the Town Attorney. Shane Kornberg seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Matters of Information

- Street Dance sponsored by Ruritan Sept. 20
- Song Fest Oct 17 and 18

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez made a motion to adjourn. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Next Council Meeting **14 Oct 2025**

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick – Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting
11 November 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Shane Kornberg, Randy Stanton and Sandy Clayborne

Meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Sandy Clayborne.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andy Lopez.

The Mayor presented to the Council the minutes of the 14 October 2025 Council Meeting. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 14 October 2025 Council Meeting. Andy Lopez moved to accept the minutes of the 14 October 2025 Council Meeting. Randy Stanton seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the Financial report. *The Mayor asked for a motion to amend the State of Georgia Fire amount to \$84,000 from \$76,000. Shane Kornberg moved to amend the State of Georgia Fire amount to \$84,000 from \$76,000. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the Financial report for the month of October. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Financial report for the month of October. Shane Kornberg moved to accept the Financial report for the month of October. Andy Lopez seconded the motion.. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

The Mayor presented to the Council the First Reading of the 2026 Budget. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the First Reading of the 2026 Budget. Andy Lopez moved to accept the First Reading of the 2026 Budget. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.* Budget Meeting to be held Tuesday, December 2nd, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

Zoning and Appeals Board Report

- David Haynes withdrew his application
- No issue on annexation on Standifer Road
- Vote on approval on the survey on Tax Parcel 11-119-01-006 was held to approve the variance of
 - (6) five-acre tracts to be zoned as R-1
 - (2) 14-acre tracts to be zoned as R-A
 - (1) 40-acre tract to be zoned as R-A

Andy Lopez moved to approve the variances on Tax Parcel 11-119-01-006. Shane Kornberg seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Melissa Warner presented the Cohutta Celebrates America250 plans to the Council. *The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the Cohutta Celebrates America250 plan. Andy Lopez moved to accept the Cohutta Celebrates America250 plan. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion.* Stacy Newby made a donation of \$500 towards the tee shirts.

Matters of Information:

- Cell Tower Easement through the cemetery is being negotiated through our Town Attorney
- Decorate the Town – Saturday, Nov 15 @ 9:00 a.m.
- Christmas Parade – Saturday, Dec 6 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Cohutta Christmas Market – Saturday, Dec 6 downtown merchants 11-5
- Caroling on Martin's Corner – Wednesday Dec 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez made a motion to adjourn. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. Next Council Meeting **9 December 2025**

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick – Town Clerk

TOWN OF COHUTTA

Council Meeting
9 December 2025

Present: Mayor Ron Shinnick

Members of the Council: Andy Lopez, Shane Kornberg, and Sandy Clayborne

Absent from the Council: Randy Stanton

Meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Sandy Clayborne.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ed Painter.

The Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the agenda. Andy Lopez moved to suspend the agenda. Sandy Clayborne seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Public discussion was held on the property rezoning on Wheeler Dam Road. *The Mayor asked for a motion that all parcels on Tax Parcel 11-119-01-006 to be rezoned as RA. Shane Kornberg moved to have all parcels on Tax Parcel 11-119-01-006 to be rezoned as RA. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.*

Public discussion was held concerning safety concerns with two police officers during the 4th of July Celebration and the Christmas Parade.

Chief Fowler presented the Public Safety Report.

Public discussion was held on the type of tree for the planting of the Liberty Tree.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Beer and Wine Licenses for the following businesses in Cohutta conditional on a clean background check:

1. Cohutta General Store
2. AAA Oil & Food Inc Kwik Serve 9
3. Red Wolfe Grill
4. Cohutta Market
5. Station House Wine Room

Shane Kornberg moved to approve the Beer and Wine Licenses for the above-stated businesses conditional on a clean background check. Andy Lopez second the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Sandy Clayborne moved to designate \$695- if needed- to the America250 Committee to carry out their projects for the year. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Matters of Information:

- Caroling on Martin's Corner – Wednesday Dec 17 @ 6:30 p.m.
- GDOT
- Downtown activities this past weekend

Andy Lopez moved to go into Executive Session. Shane Kornberg seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed. 7:34 p.m.

Andy Lopez moved to exit Executive Session. Sandy seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Sandy Clayborne made a motion to adjourn. Andy Lopez seconded the motion. All members of the Council who were in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Next Council Meeting **13 Jan 2026`**

Ron Shinnick – Mayor

Pam Shinnick – Town Clerk