TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Town Council Chambers, Moncks Corner Municipal Complex, 118 Carolina Avenue
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr. at 6:00 p.m.

Present:
Mayor Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem David A. Dennis, Jr.
Council Member Leroy S. Dingle, Jr.
Council Member James N. Law, Jr.
Council Member Latorie S. Lloyd
Council Member Chadwick D. Sweatman
Council Member James B. Ware, III

Staff Present:
James E. Brogdon, Town Attorney
Jeffrey V. Lord, Town Administrator
Marilyn M. Baker, Administrative Services Director/Clerk to Council
Justine H. Lovell, Finance Director
R. Logan Faulkner, Public Service Director
Mohamed A. Ibrahim, Technology Director
James C. Jackson, III, Fire Chief
Elizabeth B. Rentz, Recreation Director
Antwan L. Richardson, Police Chief
Justin S. Westbrook, Community Development Director
Carter France, Town Planner

INVOCATION

Invocation was delivered by Pastor Jonathan Vaughn of Connexus Community Church of God.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Council Member James B. Ware.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Proclamation:** Recovery Month, September 2026

   Mayor Hamilton presented a proclamation to Nanci Steadman Shipman of Wake-Up Carolina, representatives with FAVOR Lowcountry and the Berkeley County Coroner's Office proclaiming September 2026 as Recovery Month in the Town of Moncks Corner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. **Regular Meeting Minutes:** August 18, 2026

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 18, 2026. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

REPORTS

3. **Mayor's Report:** Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr.

Mayor Hamilton reported the following:

August 19:

He attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Benny's Pizza. Council Members Dennis, Lloyd, and Dingle also attended.

August 21:

- He attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Win-Win Restaurant and Catering. Council Members Dennis, Lloyd, and Dingle also attended.
- He traveled to the SLED Complex in Columbia to learn more about evidence collection, processing, and storage, including the procedures for submitting and retrieving evidence. He thanked Officer Jasmine Sullivan for taking the time to explain the process and provide this informative experience.

August 22:

He welcomed the travel ball teams competing in the tournament at the Recreation Complex.

August 23:

He participated in an interview with a local social media representative to discuss his role and responsibilities as Mayor.

August 31:

He attended the "Light The Way For Hope" event at Unity Park, hosted by Wake Up Carolina. This meaningful event honored the memory of loved ones lost to drug overdose, offered support to their families, and renewed the community's commitment to preventing future tragedies. Council Members Dennis, Sweatman, Lloyd, and Dingle also attended.

September 1:

- He had the opportunity to meet with two second-grade classes, read a book to the students, and participated in a question-and-answer session.
- He attended the Girls and Boys State Banquet at the American Legion Post 126. These young women and men spent a week learning about local, county, and state government. Council Member Dennis also attended.

September 4:

- He attended the Berkeley High School Band Kickoff, where the band performed for family and friends.
- He attended the community cookout on Nelson Ferry Road and delivered the opening remarks. Council Members Lloyd and Dingle also attended.
- He attended the awards ceremony for the NICA Mountain Bike Race Series. A total of 315 boys and girls in grades five through twelve competed. This event brings many visitors to our town and provides valuable support to our local businesses.

September 8:

He attended the swearing in ceremony for our new Police Officer Spenser Parker Shoudy.

September 9:

- He received a tremendous outpour of love and well wishes for his birthday. He thanked everyone for making his day special.
- He attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Panda Express. Council Members Lloyd and Dingle also attended.
- He attended and read to one of the first-grade classes at Whitesville Elementary School.
- He was invited to participate in the ceremonial coin toss with other local mayors at the Citadel versus Charleston Southern football game at The Citadel's stadium.

4. **Administrator's Report:** Jeffrey V. Lord

Administrator Lord reported the following:

Fire Station III Project: The State budget includes $4 million in approved funding for the construction of a fire station in the Carolina Groves area. He expressed special appreciation to Representatives Sylleste Davis and Mark Smith, Senator Larry Grooms, and the other Berkeley County Legislators for their efforts in securing the funding.

NRCS Project: Authorization has been received to proceed with the first eight properties. Surveys and environmental reviews are expected to begin within the next few weeks. The next batch of applications will be submitted while those activities are underway.

Winter Street Project: This project is complete. We will begin applying for the RIA Grant for the Main Street/Lacey Park Culvert Project in the Spring.

Lacey Park Project: The project continues to progress. A change order is under review for the removal and replacement of unsuitable soil. This work is addressed in the contract and is considered straightforward.

Heatley Parking Project: The project continues to progress. The Town is working with Wells Fargo to obtain a stormwater easement for the ditch between the properties, which will be piped as part of the project.

NEW BUSINESS

5. **Consideration:** Main Street On-Street Parking Improvements.

   Administrator Lord reported that an August study identified 44 parking spaces if parking on Main Street were striped. At Council's direction, staff initiated the SCDOT permit process, which reduced the proposed number of spaces to 17, with the possibility of five additional spaces following further discussions. He returned the proposal to Council for consideration.

   Mayor Hamilton expressed concerns about the reduction in parking, access to businesses, and communication with business owners. He stated that most owners he spoke with were unaware of the proposal and that none supported it. Based on these concerns, he opposed proceeding.

   Motion: Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis made a motion to deny the proposed improvements, seconded by Council Member Lloyd.

   Further Discussion: During discussion, Council Member Law expressed concerns about speeding, inefficient use of unmarked parking spaces, and pedestrian safety. He noted the parking and accessibility improvements in other communities and expressed frustration with the limitations affecting the Town's proposal. He also noted the Police Department's limited ability to monitor these issues and emphasized the need to pursue an alternative approach.

   Motion to deny was unanimous as follows:

   Voting Nay: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

6. **Consideration:** Scope Amendment for Design and Engineering of Murray Drive Public Parking Lot.

   Administrator Lord reported that the scope amendment for design and engineering of Murray Drive will include approximately 25 additional public parking spaces at Lacey Park and future realignment of Murray Drive with Broughton Road. The site for improvements will be on the recently acquired property located at 117 West Main Street (TMS#142-06-04-023).

   Staff recommended approval of Amendment#2 with Wood + Partners for the additional professional services totaling $60,200, consisting of $43,400 for design

development and construction documents, $9,600 for permitting, and $7,200 for bidding and construction administration. If approved, the project will be funded out of the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis and seconded by Council Member Sweatman. Motion to approve was unanimous as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

7. **Consideration:** Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Town of Moncks Corner and Berkeley County Regarding Fee Abatements.

   Motion was made by Council Member Law and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis. Motion to approve was unanimous as follows:

   Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

   Mayor Hamilton thanked Administrator Lord and Attorney Brogdon for their hard work getting this agreement completed.

8. **Resolution:** Resolution No. 2026-R04

   A Resolution committing the Town of Moncks Corner to providing a local match for a Municipal Association of SC Big Idea Grant and following its procurement policy when securing services and products with grant funds.

   Administrator Lord reported that if approved the Town would provide 5% or $5,000 of local match for a $100,000.00 grant. Funds will be used toward the timber design elements for the new Town Hall project.

   Motion was made by Council Member Law and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis. Motion to approve was unanimous as follows:

   Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

9. **First Reading:** Consider an Zoning Map Amendment (ZA-26-06) request for two (2) parcels (143-05-00-015 & -068) totaling ~2.032 acres, located on Rembert C. Dennis near Cooper River Blvd. The parcels are requesting to be zoned Office & Institutional (C-1).

   Community Development Director Westbrook provided Council with a brief overview of the request. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

   Motion was made by Council Member Law to approve. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis. Motion to approve carried by majority vote of 6-1, as follows:

   Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

   Voting Nay: Council Member Dingle

OLD BUSINESS

10. Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance No. 2026-11

An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 2025-08 and the budget attached thereto and to adjust certain revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending 2026.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public.

Motion was made by Council Member Law to approve the amendments for the FY 2026 Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

11. Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance No. 2026-12

Consider a Conditional Zoning Map Amendment (CZ-26-03) request for a parcel (142-00-01-009) totaling ~0.86 acres, located at 311 W Main Street. The parcels are requesting to be zoned Conditional Zoning - General Commercial (CZ C-2).

Community Development Director Westbrook provided Council with a brief overview of the request. Staff recommended consideration.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to approve the zoning request. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Walter Brown, of 114 Fennick Drive, expressed concerns about the potential traffic access through George and Fennick Drive for the commercial zoning of the two the (2) parcels (143-05-00-015 & -068), located on Rembert C. Dennis near Cooper River Blvd.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

12. Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to go into executive session to discuss the following:

- Contractual and real estate matters regarding additional fire protection within the Town of Moncks Corner.
- Contractual matter related to the construction of the new Town Hall.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

Out of Executive Session and Reconvene to the Regular Meeting:

Motion was made by Council Member Law to come out of executive session and reconvene to the regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows.

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

Mayor Hamilton announced that there was no action taken during executive session.

13. Carolina Groves Public Safety Parcel:

Motion was made by Council Member Law to call the option for the Carolina Groves Public Safety Parcel. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Law and seconded Council Member Lloyd to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Motion was approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

A copy of this meeting's agenda was e-mailed to the Post and Courier, The Berkeley Independent, Channel 4, Channel 2, and The News Journal Scene. The agenda was posted on the Municipal Complex bulletin board and the Town Website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Minutes Approved and Adopted:

_____ *October 20, 2026*

Marilyn M. Baker/Clerk to Council *DATE*