



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Town Council Chambers, Moncks Corner Municipal  
Complex, 118 Carolina Avenue  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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## 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 DeWayne G. Kitts  
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  
Elizabeth B. Rentz, Recreation Director  
R. Logan Faulkner, Public Service Director  
Robert L. Gass, III, Fire Chief  
Stephen G. Young, Police Chief  
Lee W. Mixon, Jr., Police Captain  
Justin S. Westbrook, Community Development Director  
Rebecca Walker, Business Development Manager  
Mohamed A. Ibrahim, Technology Manager

### INVOCATION

Invocation was delivered by Darien Jamel Jones, Pastor of the Moncks Corner AME Church

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Council Member Latorie Lloyd.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. **Proclamation:** Honoring Municipal Judge Shaheena Bennett - Incoming President of the SC Bar Association

Mayor Hamilton read a Proclamation Honoring Judge Bennett for her recent appointment as President of the South Carolina Bar Association. He and Town Council congratulated her on her recent appointment and thanked her for her service to the Town of Moncks Corner.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2. **Regular Meeting Minutes:** May 21, 2024

Motion was made by Council Member Law to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 21, 2024. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Kitts, 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:

- Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – He along with Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Lloyd and Council Member Law attended the ribbon cutting for Big Mikes ice cream shop.
- Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – He attended the BHS Junior Firefighters Graduation.
- Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – He attended the Memorial Day Service at the Berkeley County Veteran's Memorial Monument.
- Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – He toured the Berkeley County Welcome Center at the Nesbitt House.
- Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, He attended the Walmart Ribbon Cutting for their newly renovated store.
- Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – He attended the 2024 Tri-County Orange Walk. Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, Moncks Corner Police Department and Goose Creek Police Department partnership with the Bradley Blake Foundation.
- Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – He attended the Moncks Corner Baptist Soup Kitchen Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
- Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – He attended the Jazz and Art Show in the Park. The event was held at Unity Park on Main Street. Local artists displayed their work and music was provided by the BHS Jazz Ensemble.

- Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – He had the opportunity to tour the Kennedy Center on Airport Road.
- Monday, June 10 – The Moncks Corner Fire Department and Moncks Corner Police Department sponsored the "Battle of the Badges". The American Red Cross collected 27 units of blood.
- Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> – He had the opportunity to tour the Berkeley County Mental Health Center, Berkeley Citizens and their work centers.
- Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – He along with Council Member Latorie Lloyd, Mayor Pro-Tem David Dennis and staff members attended the Beltone Ribbon Cutting.
- The week of June 10 – 14<sup>th</sup> The Police and Recreation Departments held their summer camps. I was invited to go with the Police Department to the water park. On Friday, I volunteered to participate in the dunk tank. The children had a great time dunking the Mayor and the Chief of Police.
- Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – He attended the Juneteenth Festival at Kitfield Recreation Center.
- Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – The Town will hold their Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration from 6 – 10 p.m. at the MC Regional Recreation Complex. The Custom Four and Friends will be playing along with Full Code Entertainment. There will be food trucks, vendors, children's activities, fireworks and more.
- He received many texts, calls and visited many Town residents to discuss issues that they have. He added that we are here for our residents.

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

Administrator Lord began his report by congratulating Judge Bennett on her recent appointment. He mentioned another recent achievement of Judge Bennett is the implementation of virtual court conference software in the court room. The new virtual software allows our Judges to virtually hear cases from inmates from inside the jail in lieu of having them transported to the court room. It also allows our Judges the option to virtually hold court if they cannot be physically present in the court room due to a conflict. This is really a great accomplishment.

Administrator Lord recognized Fire Chief Gass. Chief Gass reported that he along with his Administrative Assistant Lisa Beavers, Firefighter McKenzie Cone, and Captain Corey Denny attended the SC Fireman's Association Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach on Friday. During the conference they were awarded a Certificate of Achievement for "Community Risk Reduction". He added that he was proud of his staff for receiving this award.

## NEW BUSINESS

**5. Resolution:** Authorizing 2024 Lease Purchase - Intersection Improvements at Foxbank Blvd. and Highway 52

Administrator Lord explained that the Town received bids through the assistance of First Tryon for a traffic signal installation and related improvements in the amount of \$1,609,000. The project would be financed through a Lease Purchase structure with a security interest in the traffic signal, equipment and related improvements thereon. First Tryon reached out to eight financial institutions to assess interest in the structure. Of the eight, three responded with indicative non-binding taxable interest rates. Bids received were from First Citizens at 5.93%, Huntington at 5.61% and South State who was the lowest bid at 5.53%.

Council Member Law asked Administrator Lord to explain why we are obtaining this loan. He responded that the project is over \$1.6 million and for the Town to accomplish this project, and per our agreement with the Developer, they are responsible for installing the traffic light. The Town is doing the borrowing, and the Developer is responsible for making the payments. The Town has instruments in place that guarantee payments by the Developer. The amount that the Developer pays is reduced by the amount of tax credits that we receive off the property. For example the annual payment is \$285,000 and we will receive \$100,000 in property tax credits. They will then pay the balance of \$185,000. They are either paying through the property taxes or direct.

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

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

**6. Consideration:** Engineering Firms for Indefinite Delivery Contracts

Administrator Lord explained that every five years the Town solicits qualifications from engineering firms interested in providing their services to the Town. We solicited qualifications on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, and received them on March 1, 2024. Staff reviewed and scored the ten submittals and invited five firms to be interviewed. After the interviews staff ranked the firms by activity as follows:

#### Site Design and Construction Management

1. Seamon, Whiteside and Associates, Inc.
2. Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
3. Cranston, LLC

#### Stormwater Reviews and Ordinance Drafting Assistance

1. Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, Inc.
2. Cranston, LLC
3. Seamon, Whiteside and Associates, Inc.

#### Stormwater Mapping, Project Design, and Construction Management

1. Seamon, Whiteside and Associates, Inc.
2. Cranston, LLC
3. Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, Inc.

#### Roadway/Traffic/Intersection Design and Ordinance Drafting Assistance

1. Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Where appropriate, we intend that the highest rank firm on each list would serve as primary and we would move down the list should there be capacity or conflict concerns. The one that only has one firm listed may be revisited if we are unable to agree on contract terms.

He recommended that Council approve the engineering firm rankings and authorize the Town Administrator to execute indefinite Delivery Contracts with the listed firms.

Motion was made by Council Member Law to approve. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows:

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

#### **7. Employer Resolution Addendum:** State Insurance Benefits Program Regarding Council Coverage

Administrator Lord explained that in March 2024 the PEBA Board voted to change the definition of employee that is eligible for insurance coverage. In that they require that Council affirm by resolution, whether members of Council will be considered for that coverage. We were notified in May, and we must give PEBA an answer by July 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that some Council Members are already receiving insurance benefits. If Council chooses not to be considered Active Employees for the purpose of participation in the State Insurance Benefits Program, then the ones receiving benefits will lose their benefits effective immediately and benefits cannot be continued under Cobra. Also, this decision once made is irrevocable during the Employers period of participation in the program. He added that this does not affect Council Members participation in the SC Retirement Systems.

Council Member Law asked for Administrator Lord to confirm for the record that this decision will not increase costs, it is just continuing as it has always been. Administrator Lord responded yes.

Motion was made by Council Member Sweatman to approve. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis. Mayor Hamilton requested a roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Ware – Yes  
Council Member Kitts – Yes  
Council Member Sweatman – Yes  
Mayor Hamilton – Yes  
Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis – Yes  
Council Member Lloyd – Yes  
Council Member Law – Yes

Motion to approve was unanimous.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **8. Old Business:**

There was no old business to be brought before Council

## **PUBLIC INPUT:**

There were no comments from the public.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn the regular meeting of Council was made by Council Member Law, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis. Motion was approved unanimously as follows.*

*Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Kitts, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware*

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.*

*A copy of this meeting's agenda was e-mailed to the Post and Courier, The Berkeley Independent, Live 5 News, Channel 4, Channel 2, and The News Journal Scene. As required, 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:*

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Marilyn M. Baker/Clerk to Council

July 16, 2024

DATE