



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Town Council Chambers, Moncks Corner Municipal
Complex, 118 Carolina Avenue
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 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 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
Gary Deeg, Police Captain
R. Logan Faulkner, Public Service Director
Mohamed A. Ibrahim, Technology Director
James C. Jackson, III, Fire Chief
Elizabeth B. Rentz, Recreation Director
Justin S. Westbrook, Community Development Director
Carter France, Town Planner

Absent:

Council Member Latorie S. Lloyd
Antwan L. Richardson, Police Chief

INVOCATION

Invocation was delivered by Council Member Leroy S. Dingle, Jr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis introduced Andrew D. (A.D.) Jordan, Jr., Regional Director for the Office of U.S. Senator Tim Scott. Mr. Jordan thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and offered his assistance to the Town as needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Regular Meeting Minutes:** June 16, 2026

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 16, 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 Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

REPORTS

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

June 19, 2026

The Mayor participated in the Town's first-ever Juneteenth Parade, along with Councilwoman Lloyd and Councilwoman Dingle. Following the parade, a community gathering was held at the Grace Community Center. The Mayor extended his appreciation to the Moncks Corner Police Department (MCPD) and the Moncks Corner Fire Department (MCFD) for ensuring public safety during the event.

June 20, 2026

The Mayor traveled to Bluffton to support the Girls Recreation Softball Team at the State Tournament. Although the team did not secure the championship, their effort and performance were commendable.

June 26–28, 2026

The Mayor attended the Boys Recreation State Tournament in Cheraw. The team showed great determination but came up short in the final standings. The Mayor expressed gratitude to the Recreation Department for their support of both the girls' and boys' tournaments.

June 29, 2026

The Mayor attended the swearing-in ceremony for Jasmine Sullivan with the Moncks Corner Police Department.

July 2, 2026

Administrator Lord and the Mayor met with Senator Lindsey Graham to thank him for grants the Town recently received and to discuss additional grant opportunities. This was the Mayor's first meeting with Senator Graham. The Town was shocked and saddened by the Senator's sudden passing. The Mayor noted the Senator's deep love for the State of South Carolina.

July 3, 2026

The Mayor attended the Street Dance at Unity Park, which was a major success. Community feedback strongly supported continuing this event in future years. Councilman Dennis and Councilwoman Dingle were also present.

July 4, 2026

The Town held its annual Independence Day Fireworks Show at the Recreation Complex. Attendance was strong, local vendors experienced excellent business, and the fireworks display was

well received by the community. Councilman Dennis, Councilman Dingle, and Councilwoman Lloyd were in attendance. The Mayor thanked all staff and volunteers for their collective effort in making the event a success.

July 7, 2026

The Mayor hosted a retirement lunch at Barony House for Sergeant Robert Thomas.

July 8, 2026

The Mayor met with Supervisor Cribb to discuss upcoming County projects within the Town. Later that day, the Mayor hosted the last couple married on the Unity Park bridge prior to its renovation for lunch at Swig & Swine. Although the Mayor was unable to attend their wedding due to the tournament in Bluffton, they celebrated together over lunch.

July 9, 2026

The Mayor held a lunch at Swig & Swine with Mr. Brice, who broke the Mayor's previous record in the watermelon seed-spitting contest at the Farmers Market. The Mayor had pledged lunch to anyone who surpassed the record.

The Mayor also attended the informational meeting on the property purchase program along the California Branch. The meeting included presentations and a Q&A segment. Councilmen Dennis, Ware, and Sweatman were in attendance.

July 10, 2026

The Mayor attended the retirement ceremony for Sergeant Robert Thomas, who served 25 years in law enforcement, including 10 years with MCPD. The Mayor congratulated Sergeant Thomas and thanked him for his service. Councilwoman Lloyd, Councilman Dennis, and Councilman Dingle were also present.

July 14, 2026

The Mayor and Council attended the budget workshop at Wampee, an important annual meeting for finalizing the upcoming fiscal year's budget.

July 16 – 19, 2026

Council Members Dennis, Dingle, Law, Sweatman, and Ware attended the Annual MASC Summer Meeting in Greenville.

3. Administrator's Report: Jeffrey V. Lord

Introduction: Director Libya Rentz introduced Dewayne Jones as the Recreation Department's new Equipment Operator. Mr. Jones joins the Town from the North Charleston Recreation Department. He brings to the Department extensive experience in the maintenance and upkeep of recreational fields.

Winter Street Project: Administrator Lord reported that the Winter Street Project is coming to a close. The road should be open by this Thursday.

Lacey Park Project: He reported that demolition on the Lacey Park Project is underway.

NRCS Project: The Town held a public meeting a couple of weeks ago. The project was well received. Our contractors will be reaching out to property owners soon to discuss property acquisition.

Moco in the Know Magazine: The Moco in the Know magazine should be finished and ready for publication within the next month.

NEW BUSINESS

4. **First Reading:** An ordinance to raise revenue and adopt a budget for the Town of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027.

Administrator Lord provided Council with a brief overview and recommended changes as follows:

- Proposed total Revenue of \$23,971,074.00
- Proposed total Expenses of \$22,098,136.00
- No property tax, business license, sanitation or storm water increases.
- Staff recommend that the following be added to the final budget:
 - Fire Command Vehicle – After further review of the Fire Department operations, staff recommends the addition of a single dedicated command vehicle for the three Battalion Chief positions that are already included in the proposed budget. This will not be a take home vehicle. The vehicle requested is a Ford F-150 Vehicle fully upfitted with equipment in the amount of \$107,000. This vehicle is eligible to be funded through impact fees.
 - Police – Two Community Service Officer Positions (Grade 107) – These will be classified as LE-3 positions (limited duty) that would provide security and patrol at our recreation facilities. Additionally, these positions will also relieve other staffing pressures on the department by working events, doing traffic control and serving as bailiffs and security for our public meetings. They could also serve as a valuable recruitment pipeline for future LE-1 officer positions. Officers would not be assigned take-home vehicles they would share existing Town vehicles. Estimated cost is \$150,500.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to approve the FY 2027 Budget as presented with the addition of the Fire Command Vehicle in the amount of \$107,000 and the two Community Service Officers Positions of \$150,000. Motion was seconded by Council Member Law.

Discussion:

Council Member Sweatman asked what circumstances could result in an employee receiving a merit increase above or below the budgeted 0–5% range. Administrator Lord explained that salary adjustments could also occur when an employee earns an educational degree or experiences a significant change in job responsibilities.

Council Member Sweatman requested a salary comparison from the prior year showing current and proposed salaries, including the percentage increase, for his review. Administrator Lord confirmed that the information would be provided.

Council Member Sweatman also asked how the two new Community Service Officers (CSOs) would provide coverage at the recreation facilities. Administrator Lord explained that the officers would be scheduled during peak hours and would assist

LE-1 officers during games and special events, helping to reduce overtime costs for LE-1 officers.

Council Member Law asked about the difference between a LE-3 Officer and an LE-1 Officer. Police Captain Deeg explained that an LE-3 Officer serves in a limited-duty capacity and does not have arresting powers. LE-3 officers are required to complete training; however, the position and training requirements are less extensive than those of a LE-1 Officer.

Mayor Hamilton noted that security at the recreation facilities has been an ongoing concern since Harmony Park opened, citing incidents involving individuals experiencing homelessness and vandalism at Town facilities.

Council Member Sweatman asked whether the Town could evaluate the cost of installing emergency call boxes throughout the recreation complex for public use. Administrator Lord stated that he would look into the matter.

Motion to approve was unanimous as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS

5. Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance No. 2026-09

An Ordinance to amend the Town of Moncks Corner Code of Ordinances to establish regulations for the safe operation of Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes) and Electric Scooter (E-Scooters).

Administrator Lord provided Council with a brief overview of the regulations and requirements of the ordinance.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to approve. Motion was seconded by Council Member Law.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public.

Discussion: Council Member Ware expressed concerns about elderly people being forced to operate their e-bikes on the road under the regulations and requirements of this ordinance.

Motion to approve was unanimous as follows:

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

6. Second Reading and Public Hearing: (Failed)

Consider a Zoning Map Amendment (ZA-26-05) 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 requested to be zoned General Commercial (C-2).

Community Development Director Westbrook provided Council with a brief overview, highlighting a most likely required 50-foot buffer and confirming that no access would be permitted through the residential streets at the rear of the development. He also noted that a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) was not required at this time. In conclusion, he stated that staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Council expressed concerns about the requested zoning classification and traffic access onto the adjacent residential streets.

Public Hearing: Walter Brown, of 114 Fennick Drive, expressed opposition to the proposed commercial zoning and raised concerns about potential traffic access through George and Fennick Drive. He also stated that the property had not been properly posted with notice of the zoning hearing.

Director Westbrook responded that it was his understanding that the property had been properly posted by staff, however often times, the signs sometimes go missing. He reiterated that, if the project were approved, a 50-foot buffer would most likely be required based on the end user, and staff would ensure that no traffic access would be permitted through George or Fennick Drive.

Mayor Hamilton called for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem stated that a motion had already been made. The Mayor then called for the vote. The matter failed by a vote of 2 in favor and 4 opposed as follows:

Yea: Mayor Hamilton and Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis

Nay: Council Member Dingle, Council Member Law, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware

PUBLIC INPUT:

Walter Brown, 114 Fennick Drive, reiterated his concern that the required signage for the property being considered for rezoning that evening had not been properly posted.

Rick Johnson, 1104 Maplecrest Drive, Moncks Corner, commended Public Service Administrative Assistant Alma Alsbrook for her professionalism and assistance in arranging for the collection of limbs that had remained at his property for two weeks. Mr. Johnson stated that although he was initially frustrated with the Sanitation Department, Ms. Alsbrook investigated the matter and determined that the delay resulted from an unintentional oversight. She addressed his concerns and resolved the issue. He also provided a letter for the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

- Negotiations related to a proposed contractual agreement.

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 Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to come out of executive session and reconvene to the regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Law 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.

8. IGA Agreement for CDBG Participation with Berkeley County:

Motion was made by Council Member Sweatman to continue the IGA Agreement for CDBG participation with Berkeley County. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis 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 Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis and seconded Council Member Sweatman 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 7:26 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:

Marilyn M. Baker/Clerk to Council

August 18, 2026

DATE