



The Lowcountry's Hometown.

TOWN OF MONCKS CORNER REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Town Council Chambers, Moncks Corner Municipal
Complex, 118 Carolina Avenue
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 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 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
Corey Denny, Battalion Fire Chief
R. Logan Faulkner, Public Service Director
Mohamed A. Ibrahim, Technology Director
Lee W. Mixon, Jr., Police Captain
Antwan Richardson, Police Lieutenant
Elizabeth B. Rentz, Recreation Director
Justin S. Westbrook, Community Development Director

Absent:

Council Member DeWayne G. Kitts
Robert L. Gass, III, Fire Chief

INVOCATION

Invocation was delivered by Reverend Jim Toth, Assistant Pastor of First Baptist Church of Moncks Corner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Mayor Pro-Tem David Dennis, Jr.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Resolution:** Berkeley High School Beta Club Recognition

Mayor Hamilton read a Resolution recognizing the Berkeley High School Beta Club for their outstanding accomplishment and commitment that advanced them to compete at the National Convention which will be held June 21-27 in Orlando FL.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. **Regular Meeting Minutes:** February 18, 2025

Motion was made by Council Member Law to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 18, 2025. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows:

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

REPORTS

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

Mayor Hamilton reported the following:

February 20, 2025- He attended the Police Awards Banquet.

February 27, 2025- He attended the Francis Marion Memorial Service in Pineville.

March 1, 2025 – He attended a community picnic at The Nazareth Reformed Episcopal Church.

March 4, 2025- He participated in the Reading Across America Event at Mevers School of Excellence.

March 5, 2025 – He went to Florence to watch the Berkeley Stags Girls and Boys Basketball play for the Lower State.

March 6, 2025- He attended a Ribbon Cutting for Stephanie Smith's Habitat Home.

March 8, 2025- The Town had a great turnout for the Shenanigans in the Park Event.

March 8, 2025- He attended the "Shuckin In The Park" event at Santee Canal Park.

March 10, 2025- He attended Captain Lee Mixon's graduation from the FBI National Academy at Quantico, VA.

March 18, 2025- The Berkeley High School SPED Class visited Town Hall, learned a little bit of how the Town operates and met some of the employees. They finished the day with a cookout provided by the Police Department.

March 24, 2025 – Opening night for the 2025 Home Telecom Miracle League Spring Season for all ages. The game schedule is planned for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays through May 8th. The Mayor added that volunteers are welcome.

March 25, 2025 – The Moncks Corner Police Department invited everyone to come out to a social to remember our Fallen Heroes Corporal Marcus Stiles & PFC Lonnie Wells at the Moncks Corner Train Depot between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

April 3rd – November 20th, 2025 – The Town will hold our Farmer's Market every Thursday from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. The current location for the Farmer's Market will be at the Unity Park located at 101 White Street.

April 26, 2025 – The Town will hold our “Pickin in the Corner”, presented by the Town of Moncks Corner and Collector's Corner. The event will be held on Main Street.

Mayor Hamilton also recognized the Police and Fire Department's for the amazing job they did during a horrific train accident that occurred Wednesday, March 12th on Altman and Heatley Street. He recognized the following Firemen that responded:

- Fire Chief Robert Gass
- Battalion Chief Joseph Powell
- Captain James Story
- Captain Kyle Walden
- Engineer Justin Parker
- Firefighter Patrick Ollic
- Firefighter Gregory Koehler
- Firefighter Adam Quick
- Firefighter Jonnathan Barnhill

5. Administrator's Report: Jeffrey V. Lord

Administrator Lord reported that the Town received a Berkeley County ARPA Grant this week for the redesign of the Townhall and Fire Station. He thanked County Council and especially County Councilman Marshall West for helping the Town receive the grant.

The Foxbank Mast Arms project is still moving forward. We are waiting for the Mast Arms to be delivered so they can be installed in April. We received the first annual payment last week for the Bond from the contractor.

The Whitesville and Jolly Lane bridge is essentially complete except for a few items on the punch list; however, those should be completed this week. The next project will be the Winter Street bridge project which will be done by SCDOT. The RFP should go out this spring.

The California Branch study is complete and will help to identify subsequent projects. Staff received the preliminary report which consists of approximately 600 pages. He met with the Engineer last week and hopefully we can move on this project very soon.

There were several introductions of new staff members as follows:

- Captain Mixon introduced new Police Officer Jason Santulli. Officer Santulli comes to the Town with 5 years' experience from another agency in SC. He holds an associate's degree in criminal justice. He graduated from James Island High School. He has extensive knowledge of traffic enforcement and will be assigned under Sgt Robert Thomas. He also introduced Police Officer Paul Watson. Officer Watson comes to the Town with 20 years' experience. He served in the United States Air Force from 2002 to 2006. He has 12 years' experience as a School Resource Officer and will be assigned to Foxbank Elementary under Corporal Deeg.
- Finance Director Justine Lovell introduced the Town's new Administrative Assistant McKayla Lail. She will be working in customer service at the front desk. She comes from a Solar Company where she has knowledge of working with Business License and Permitting. She has already begun attending Business License training with the Municipal Association working toward her certification.
- Recreation Director Libya Rentz introduced the first Miracle League Director, Michael Fluharty. He comes with extensive experience working with special needs. He has a son who has been participating in our Miracle League program. The Town is going on our 5th season. We have over 80 people who are young and old participating in our program. We are elated to have him working for the Town.
- Community Development Director Justin Westbrook introduced our newest Building Inspector Tony Bunch. He has several years of law enforcement experience and several years in the construction field. Within 5 weeks of being with the Town, he has already obtained two certifications.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **Ordinance First Reading:** Consider an Ordinance adopting a Development Impact Fee Study and Capital Needs Plan, Establish Development Impact Fees, and other matters related thereto.

Community Development Director Justin Westbrook explained that an impact study was conducted by Tischler and Bice. The study was overwhelmingly approved by the Planning Commission. Impact fees will be imposed only on new development at specific rates. Funds will go toward five major categories for Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation and Sanitation. Carson Bice was in attendance to answer questions. Mr. Bice presented Council with a power point presentation highlighting the study and the way fees are imposed and implemented.

Councilman Sweatman asked why funds cannot be used for infrastructure such as roads. Mr. Bice responded that funds cannot be used for road maintenance, however it can be used for intersection improvements. Councilman Law asked what the impact would be on small businesses. He expressed his concerns about the impact of fees affecting small businesses. Mr. Bice responded that we cannot discriminate between small and large businesses, everyone must be treated the same. He added that Tischler and Bice currently have 90 impact fee jobs they are working on and over 60 of those are repeat clients who are on their 5th or 6th update. They would not be doing these updates if it were driving

businesses away. Mayor Hamilton thanked Mr. Bice for his work on the study and added that the study was a very comprehensive report.

Motion was made by Council Member Sweatman 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 Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

OLD BUSINESS

Old Business:

There was no old business to be brought before Council.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Dana Ball of 1110 Avery Drive expressed concerns about development on RC Dennis Boulevard and the costs of a FOIA request she recently made for information on the development.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

- Discussion: Contractual negotiations related to the provision of fire service
- Discussion: Receipt of legal advice related to nuisance enforcement
- Discussion: Personnel matter in the Police Department

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

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

Mayor Hamilton reported that there was nothing to report out of executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Law, seconded by Council Member Ware to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Motion was approved unanimously as follows.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 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:

Marilyn M. Baker/Clerk to Council

April 8, 2025

DATE