



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Town Council Chambers, Moncks Corner Municipal
Complex, 118 Carolina Avenue
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 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
James C. Jackson, III, Fire Chief
Corey Denny, Battalion Chief
R. Logan Faulkner, Public Service Director
Mohamed A. Ibrahim, Technology Director
Elizabeth B. Rentz, Recreation Director
Antwan L. Richardson, Interim Police Chief
Justin S. Westbrook, Community Development Director
Carter France, Town Planner
Shaheena Bennett, Chief Municipal Judge

INVOCATION

Invocation was delivered by Reverend Tim Cook of Wassamassaw Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Staff Appointments:

Town Attorney (2-year Term): James E. Brogdon, Jr., Esquire

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to appoint James E. Brogdon, Jr., Esq. to serve a two-year term as Town Attorney for the Town of Moncks Corner. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and unanimously approved 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.

Chief Municipal Judge (4-Year Term): Shaheena R. Bennett, Esquire

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to appoint Shaheena R. Bennett, Esq. to serve a four-year term as Chief Municipal Judge for the Town of Moncks Corner. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and unanimously approved 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.

Administrative Services Director and Clerk to Council (2-Year Term): Marilyn M. Baker

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to appoint Marilyn M. Baker to serve a two-year term as Administrative Services Director and Clerk to Council for the Town of Moncks Corner. Motion was seconded by Council Member Law and unanimously approved 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Regular Meeting Minutes: December 16, 2025

Motion was made by Council Member Law to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 16, 2025. Motion was seconded by Council Member Dingle 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.

3. **Special Meeting Minutes:** January 5, 2026

Motion was made by Council Member Law to approve the special meeting minutes of January 5, 2026. 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.

REPORTS

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

Mayor Hamilton provided a year-end review of 2025 and a 2026 outlook as follows:

General Overview

- Mayor emphasized transparency, community engagement, and the collective nature of the Town's accomplishments.
- Expressed appreciation for the First Lady's contributions to staff and community.

Administration & Governance

- Implemented development impact fees, generating \$85,000 to date.
- Launched Town Square Redevelopment Project and approved stormwater bond ordinances.
- Updated Tree Protection Ordinance to reduce resident burden while preserving natural character.
- Approved only 80 new housing units over two years to ensure thoughtful, balanced growth.
- Continued emphasis on high-quality design and community-focused development.
- Town received Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fifth consecutive year. He recognized Justine Lovell for her hard work and dedication.

Municipal Court

- Modernized operations with upgraded audio-visual systems and full implementation of virtual court, improving access and efficiency.
- He recognized Chief Judge Shaheena Bennett for completing her term as President of the South Carolina Bar Association, where she led statewide initiatives focused on diversity, access to justice, professional development, and expanding pro bono service.

Technology & Connectivity

- Expanded free public Wi-Fi through partnership with Home Telecom's Smart Town initiative.
- He recognized IT Director Mo Ibrahim for his extensive support and service.

Infrastructure & Stormwater

- Completed Whitesville and Jolly Lane bridge replacements using nearly \$1M in grant funding.
- Secured \$1.6M for Winter Street Bridge replacement and \$8.5M for California Branch rehabilitation.

Recreation

- Advanced Harmony Park playground and parking expansion with support from a \$1M state grant.
- Upgraded LED lighting and pitching mounds at the Youth Fields and installed new camera systems for remote game viewing at the Recreation Complex.
- Renovated all baseball/softball infields; athletic participation reached record levels.
- Launched first women's softball league; planning girls' flag football.
- He recognized Recreation Director Libya Rentz and staff for their support and dedication.

Public Service & Community Development

- Recognized the Public Service Department, led by Logan Faulkner for their dedication and commitment of daily operations across sanitation, landscaping, and facilities.
- Recognized Community Development and Administrative staff for their dedication and commitment to reduced unlicensed businesses from over 100 to 17 recovering lost revenue and enforced re-inspection fees.
- Additionally, collecting overdue hospitality taxes and strengthened compliance oversight.

Special Events

- The Special Events team, led by Susan Gilmore, delivered major programs including Pickin' in the Corner, Art in the Park, Music on Main, Halloween on Main, July 4th Festival, and Christmas events.

Public Safety

- Fire Department secured grants for equipment, training, and firefighter safety.
- Police Department created a training unit, secured major grants, and earned Safe Destination Certification.
- Launched Mending Hearts program for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- He recognized the leadership of Fire Chief Jackson and Interim Police Chief Richardson.

Partnerships & Collaboration

- Partnered with Berkeley County to purchase Epsom Oaks for future park development.
- Collaborated with Berkeley County and Berkeley County School District to expand downtown parking.
- Advanced a sidewalk project along R.C. Dennis Blvd with SCDOT and BCDCOG.

Looking Ahead to 2026

- Priorities include Lacey Park revitalization, Fire Station 1 expansion, downtown redevelopment, California Branch work, planning for a new Town Hall, and future Fire Station 3.
- Emphasis on fiscal responsibility and long-term community needs.

Recognitions

- Honored Clerk to Council Marilyn Baker for over 40 years of service.
- Recognized Town Administrator Jeff Lord for leadership, grant support, and operational excellence.

5. Administrator's Report: Jeffrey V. Lord

The following new employees were introduced:

Interim Chief Antwan Richardson introduced Jasmine Sullivan as the new Evidence Custodian Administrative Assistant for the Police Department. She holds a bachelor's degree in business from Perdue University. She enjoys volunteering and helping the community.

Fire Chief James Jackson introduced the following:

Tyler Smart currently holds the position of Fire Fighter II with the Moncks Corner Fire Department. He began his firefighter career with South Lynches Fire Department in Florence County and C&B Fire Department in Ladson, SC in 2025. He joined the MC Fire Department Team in December 2025.

Treshawn Singleton currently holds the position as a Fire Fighter II with the Moncks Corner Fire Department. He began his career with Pine Ridge Fire Department in 2016 and served in the United States Army Military Police from 2017 – 2024. He previously worked for Moncks Corner Fire Department in 2024 and worked for England Airpark Fire Department in 2025. He joined our team in December 2025. He brings a combination of Military and Firefighter experience to Moncks Corner.

Administrator Lord reported the following:

- Hill/Warren Bridge Replacement Project: This project is scheduled to be closed out this week.
- Winter Street Bridge Project: Bid request for the Winter Street project was released last week, with submissions due on February 4. The project is scheduled for completion prior to September of this year.

- Lacey Park: Bid packages should be completed this month. Once the packages are complete, they will be submitted to SCPRT for approval. Once the bid packages are approved then they will be sent out either this or next month.
- Town Hall Project: The project is moving forward. Staff has had several meetings with the Architects for renovation of the present Town Hall facility and construction of the new Town Hall facility. A workshop with Council will be scheduled prior to the February Council meeting to review the plans.
- SS4A (Safe Streets and Roads for All) Grant: This project involves a townwide traffic study. Online surveys are expected to be available the week of February 9, and a public input hearing is planned for the week of February 16. He is working to advance the study so the Town can apply for the grant funding.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **New Business:** There was no new business to be brought before Council.

OLD BUSINESS

7. **Old Business:** There was no old business to be brought before Council.

PUBLIC INPUT

Wanda Rush, 108 Jenkins Street, Moncks Corner inquired about the status of the Wall Street zoning request. Community Development Director Westbrook reported that the request has been heard by the Planning Commission. Staff, the Planning Commission and members of the public have been working with the developer to provide a comprehensive project that meets all the parameters of the Town, neighborhood and developer. He noted that the developer has requested multiple delays, often too late for inclusion in agenda preparation, and is now exploring the possibility of expanding the project by approaching additional property owners. Staff have not received any updated materials. At the applicant's request, the project has been continued to the next available meeting.

Mayor Hamilton encouraged her to continue monitoring the project and to share any input when the matter comes before the Planning Commission and Council. Westbrook added that the public hearing signage on the property will be updated once the project moves forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

8. Motion was made by Council Member Law to go into executive session to receive legal advice regarding statutory requirements applicable to Town Council and contractual matters related to municipal utilities. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lloyd 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.

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 Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 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

February 17, 2026
DATE