

City of New Ellenton
Regular Meeting of City Council
New Ellenton City Hall
Mon., July 21, 2025 7:00 PM
Minutes

WORK SESSION (If Necessary)

WELCOME - Kim Williams

INVOCATION - Elvira Johnson- Holley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- All stood

COUNCIL ROLL CALL – All present

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Christ Central Update – Deborah Creech/Tina Thomas- not present
- Tysheka Wright – Youth Talent Show for November – Four Mile Baptist Church will be hosting a Youth Talent Show in the Spring of 2026 and is asking approval from Council to use the Farmer's Market or Community Center. Flyer will be provided at later date with details of event.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

- Regular Meeting June 16, 2025
Motion to approve: Geneva S. Jackson
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
- Public Hearing and Special Called Meeting June 30, 2025
Motion to approve: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Ricky Foster
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

OLD BUSINESS:

- Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2025-03: An Ordinance Providing For the Issuance and Sale Of a Not Exceeding One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000) Waterworks System Improvement Revenue Bond, Series 2025, Of The City of New Ellenton, South Carolina, And other Matters Relating Thereto
Attorney Dubois reminded Council of CPW borrowing 1.3 million dollars; changes to numbering; changes to file; funding changes; bond closed on Wednesday; projects cover water tower, Dry Branch well and water lines.
Motion to approve with amendments: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Ricky Foster
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
Motion to approve on second and final reading Ordinance 2025-03: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Ricky Foster
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
- Discussion of and Vote on .Gov Emails

- Administrator McEwen stated that after going through all of the information and meetings with the .gov website people and Planet Technologies, the cost for the email migration over to Microsoft Office and to get the police in the correct and secure formatting for CJIS compliance, is going to be \$25,000 plus the yearly licensing with Microsoft will be \$4,800. We do not have it budgeted and we cannot use capital project funding for this type of project; looking for grant to cover cost; possibly Impact Fund grant; recommend postponing .gov emails.

Motion to postpone .gov emails: Carl Culpepper, III

2nd to the motion: Ashley Morgan

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2025-03: An Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium

Motion to approve resolution: Carl Culpper, III

2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

- Acceptance of the Audit for FY24

Financial Highlights

1. The total government-wide net position at the close of the most recent fiscal year was \$6,176,527 of which \$683,513 was unrestricted.
2. The government-wide net position increased by \$181,654 or 3%.
3. Total long term-term debt decreased by \$613,220 or 17%
4. The total assets of the governmental funds exceeded its liabilities at the close of the 2024 fiscal year by \$2,051,682.
5. Total fund balances of the governmental funds decreased by \$150,374 or 6.8%.
6. The total governmental funds revenues were \$2,665,709 which was less than total governmental funds expenditures of \$2,685,380 by \$19,671.
7. Other financing sources and uses for governmental funds totaled \$130,703 for the recent fiscal year.
8. The net change in the water and sewer enterprise fund was an increase of \$233,539.

Management believes the City's financial condition is strong.

Motion to accept Audit: Ricky Foster

2nd to the motion: Geneva S. Jackson

There was a unanimous vote in favor of acceptance

- Acceptance to Change to a New Auditor

Administrator recommends Council change auditors to McGregor & Company who she has worked with in the past and feels they provide more detailed services and will get audit issued before the new year.

Motion to accept: Carl Culpepper, III

2nd to the motion: Ricky Foster

There was a unanimous vote in favor of acceptance

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

***Administration**

We have a new administrative staff member in the front office that will be part-time beginning on Aug.1.

The attorneys have helped us move forward with the deed to the Williamson Ave section that was the city's, back over to the county. Those official documents have been signed by the mayor and turned over to the county for filing. Williamson Ave is on a list to be paved with county C-funds, not CPST funding. Green Street is set to be paved with CPST funding.

Update on Whiskey Run: I did have to send a letter of acceptance to the developers today for the sewer in Whiskey Run because SCDES requires that we go ahead and accept the ownership of the system. Everything else will be based on the percentage of the finished project. I am waiting on the engineers to help us with the amount of the bond for the maintenance of the sewer.

Hometown Hero Banners- today was the last day to submit the Hometown banner applications for the \$50 price. The banners will now be applied through the Aiken County Veterans Council – Hometown Heroes, at the regular \$85 rate. As of this morning, they did not have New Ellenton on the choices of places, but they are working on updating that now. The deadline to get them in for our fall round will be Sept 5.

Tomorrow evening is a public hearing on the Lower Savannah -Salkehatchie River Basin Council Water Plan, which is part of the full SC state water plan that has been worked on for the last 3-4 years. These river basin plans put together models of ground water and surface water scenarios for future use (including options for developments in industry and housing) throughout the state to help the state prepare for any water shortage issues that we may encounter. I have been on this council since I was employed at Barnwell and continue to be on it while here in New Ellenton. I believe it to be a vital planning document for the future of our state concerning water use. The public hearing will be held in Hampton SC at 5:30 pm, if anyone is interested is attending.

There will be a Public Hearing – on Tuesday, July 29 beginning at 5 pm. This will be a public meeting to discuss community needs and priorities for housing, public facilities and economic development. We invite all New Ellenton citizens to come out and participate. It will be held here at the City Hall.

I am working with SCDNR and the county and will be bringing to you all updated ordinances for Floodplain Management over the next few months.

I will be meeting with Edgefield County later this week to talk with them about the Planned Development Ordinances and hopefully receive some assistance on what we need to put together here in New Ellenton.

FYI - I will be out of the office on Thurs-Fri, August 7-8.

***Fire Chief**

140 calls for service; provided color rendition of mini pumper and tanker that should be ready March 2026; no update from Aiken County; CPST-5 funds to allocated May 2026 for the paving of Green Street.

***Police Chief**

Information from police report (available at newellentonsc.gov with approved minutes);6 applicants waiting for background checks from the Academy and then will conduct interviews; 2025 Tahoe set to be delivered in the next few weeks and then taken to outfitters

***Streets/Roads/Sewer**

DOT cleaned out Summit Drive; sidewalk and trees overgrown; sprinkler system repaired at Evan Park; work to replace pond line at the Sewer Plant to begin August 4th, coming has started setting up equipment; F-250 was delivered last week; no hurricane debris left; recent storms have caused some damage.

***Parks/Recreation**

Football season has low registration but going to Greendale and NEMS to recruit Thursday; football field ready; treating field for fire ants; park bathrooms need to be unlocked on weekends mornings; Splash event this past Saturday was a big hit for the kids especially the ice cream.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Elvira Johnson-Holley- Ribbon cutting for SRP virtual teller was a success; attended conference at Hilton Head, key points to attract retailers we should beautify Main St; recommend shot spotter application.

Geneva S. Jackson-participated in Christ Central Defensive Training class at the Community Center and really learned a couple of moves; attended ARTS meetings in Augusta, we have two new members; thank you to Council for allowing me to attend conference in Hilton Head; discussions on AI, ChatGPT, having an evacuation plan; Greendale raffle will raise more money during the Atomic Festival.

Kim Williams- Bridge 2 Home opened two weeks ago in Aiken to house children (12-17) who were victims of sex traffic.

Mayor Kim Williams thanked people for attending and opened Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *City Council will go into Executive session to discuss personnel matters related to the hiring of the Recreation Department Director and request of Police Chief*

(Note: Upon returning to regular meeting, Council may take action on matters discussed in executive session.)

Mayor declared we were out of Executive Session:

Motion to accept the Administrators recommendation to address the personnel's request:

Carl Culpepper, III

2nd to the motion: James Anderson

There was a unanimous vote in favor of acceptance

ADJOURNMENT:

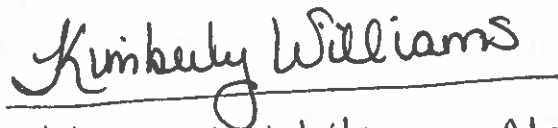
Motion to adjourn: Carl Culpepper, III

2nd to the motion: Ashley Morgan

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval



Maria Tamimi - Bush, City Clerk



Kimberly Williams, Mayor