City of New Ellenton
Regular Meeting of City Council
New Ellenton City Hall
Mon., September 21, 2026 6:00 PM
Minutes

WORK SESSION: *5:30 PM – Please come early for a discussion on the LOGO contest*

WELCOME – 6:00 PM - Carl Culpepper, III

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- All stood

CIVILITY PLEDGE – All stood

INVOCATION - Councilmember Geneva Jackson

COUNCIL ROLL CALL – Kim Williams was absent

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes August 17, 2026
  Motion to approve – Geneva Jackson
  2nd to the motion – Elvira Johnson-Holley
  Unanimous vote for approval

OLD BUSINESS:

- Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-05:
  Read by Title Only – Motion to Approve - Ashley Morgan
  2nd to the Motion- Carter Rhine
  Unanimous vote for approval
  AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REVISE CHAPTER 93, PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, CODE OF ORDINANCES.
  Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-05:
  Motion to Approve: Ashley Morgan
  2nd to the Motion – Elvira Johnson-Holley
  Unanimous vote for approval

- Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-06:
  Read by Title Only – Motion to Approve – Genva Jackson
  2nd to the Motion- Elvira Johnson-Holley
  Unanimous vote for approval
  AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON TO ACQUIRE A NEW PIERCE PUMPER FIRE TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY LEASING PARTNERS, A DIVISION OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK, OR ITS SUCCESSOR OR ASSIGNEE, FOR THE ACQUISITION AND FINANCING OF SUCH EQUIPMENT;

PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS FROM FIRE FEE REVENUES AND OTHER AVAILABLE LAWFUL FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-05:
Motion to Approve: Carter Rhine
2nd to the Motion – Ashley Morgan
Unanimous vote for approval

- Report on New Ellenton Commercial Landscape from Retail Strategies
  Lynn McEwen gave highlights of report; Elvira Johnson-Holley commented on location behind O'Rielly would be a good space for a Waffle House, sub shop or Little Cesars; our residents are asking for more eating establishments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2026-08: Local Match (from Hospitality Funds) for Problem Solver Grant
  Lynn McEwen read Resolution 2026-08; this grant will help us replace the outdated digital sign in front of City Hall.
  Motion to Approve: Elvira Johnson-Holley
  2nd to the Motion – Jeff White
  Unanimous vote for approval

- First Reading of Ordinance 2026-07: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($1,037,500) WATERWORKS SYSTEM REVENUE REFUNDING BOND, SERIES 2026, OF THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**
  Motion to remove from agenda and add at a later date: Ashley Morgan
  2nd to the Motion – Geneva Jackson
  Unanimous vote for approval

- Approval to contract with Spratlin Construction for architectural services for the Civic Center: $10,000 under CPST V
  Professional services don't have to get bids for $10,000 or less; Chief Solomon will solicit help from State Legislatures; services are for an assessment to be used in the preliminary planning of the renovation project of the Civic Center; all plumbing, electrical, HVAC needs to be redone; Asbestos was tested positive only of the floor tiles.
  Motion to Approve- Geneva Jackson
  2nd to the Motion – Carter Rhine
  Unanimous vote for approval

- Approval of the purchase of a side-by-side for the Police Dept. with CPST V funds utilizing no more than $30,000 including accessories
  Chief Solomon priced a Polaris Cab All Weather $27,499; Kawaski from Aiken Motor Cycle $27,793 with a 36-month warranty; safer tool to respond to in inclement weather, (ice storms, hurricanes), special events, adult and Autistic walkouts; will make PD more efficient.
  Motion to Table to have further discussion: Ashley Morgan
  2nd to the Motion – Elvira Johnson-Holley
  2 to 4 voted in favor of tabling – motion failed

Johnson-Holley asked Fire Chief how often Fire Dept. uses their side-by-side and he said they have not used it in 2026 but last year 3 to 4 times on Horse Trails and it was used for special events; Fire Dept. vehicle is set up differently for patient care than a normal side-by-side; The PD UTV requires no extra training; vehicle will be stored in Street & Roads building; side-by-side will adhere to the Vehicle Use Policy.
Motion to Approve Purchase of a side-side for PD- Geneva Jackson
2nd to the Motion – Jeff White
4 to 2 voted in favor of approval

- October meeting date? – Council Meeting in October will stay original scheduled date of October 19th. We may have a Special Called Meeting for the CPW Ordinance.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

*Administration- Demo Project update: Letters have been sent to all known property owners. We have heard from several of them and have been getting signed permission forms back from a few of them. We have a hearing set for Thursday, Nov 5 beginning at 9 am for anyone who wants to come to make statements about the project or their property. The asbestos testing bid will be opened on Thursday Oct. 29.

I have been sending information to Mr. Carson Bise of TischlerBise (the company we are working with on the Impact Fee Study). We should be setting up a preliminary meeting soon to discuss next steps.

Council Members Rhine and Jackson and myself attended the first of the MASC Advocacy meetings over in North Augusta last Tuesday. I have a copy of the Legislative Overview form 2026 that they provided, but it is also on the MASC website. There will be some issues that come up in this next session that will be on the radar including more about data centers, short-term rentals, flock cameras and property taxes. The MASC is in our corner fighting for local, municipal authority making sure that state laws do not preempt local laws or regulations.

*Fire Chief – 156 calls for service; four-person committee will go to Appleton, Wisconsin October 7-9 to a pre-construction meeting for the new truck; Engine 1 is going to be the excess apparatus and will donate to Aiken County not sure if we need to do an ordinance; the new training center on Gun Range Road is almost done; very close to going on to the 800-radio system by the end of the calendar year.

*Police Chief- 24 incident reports;209 calls for service; 34 citations issued; 28 warnings issued; 4 arrests; 2 collisions reports; new report system; Officer Andrew is on FTO working with Sgt. Watson and he will work with Quiles and myself to get well rounded training experience, he is in the 1st of 3 phases of training: Lt. Quiles is still covering the SRO position as we have not filled the vacancy; a new posting will be advertised for the SRO position; we are using a new court system (CMS) and Michelle Williams, Clerk of Court has been instrumental in helping with the transition; new laptops and mobile routers have arrived for the vehicles; Atomic City Festival October 3rd will have road closure for the car show from Oak Ave. to Smith Ave, will start at 0930-1000 till 3pm. Community Center to Green Street will also be closed and will put a map on PD Facebook page ask Council to share; look for assistance for parking ; we have a issue with animals at large, 3 dogs seized, pigs were seized with help of SCDNR and Aiken County Animal Control.

*Streets/Roads/Sewer- limb pick up delay due to dump truck being repaired; 3rd project at Sewer Plant almost complete; 2nd project bar screen and pump and wet well will start in December; mapping almost done for sewer line and manholes.

*Parks/Recreation- Football season is on the way; approved for the playground equipment end of October beginning of November to install to mid March to replace older equipment; Aiken Electric will help adding more lights for the park; Basketball court deconstruction after Atomic Festival. Good evening

*75th Anniversary Celebration Planning; working on sculpture now; April event; 75 logo is chosen; festival next week is in line; recollection project story telling; Trunk or Treat October 31st 5 to 7 pm.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

- Council Member Elvira Johnson-Holley: SRP Update & NE Community Health Assessment Mobile bank twice a month; Jason do you see any trees or limbs that need attention before storms? Aiken Electric and SCDOT have been inspecting.

- Council Member Geneva Jackson: Updates on Community Activities and School Meeting, ARTS Nonprofit organization will have a Turkey Drive November 21st and Coat Drive on Dec 5th ; attended the Veteran Program and luncheon and no Vets from New Ellenton attended we need to spread the word; ARTS and SCDOT meeting discussed revising bylaws and rules, talked with the Planning Commission regarding a turn signal on Johnson Rd and Hwy 278 but was told very few accidents occur and not needed; attended the school district meeting on September 5th with Carter Rhine, approved plan to move Greendale to NEMS and a new middle school will move to Silver Bluff, renovation to Silver Bluff in mid-2030, concerned about Greendale and what city will do once building is vacated, annexation for NEMS; Prayer Vigil October 23rd at 6:30pm at the Farmer's Market and all surrounded churches are invited to participate, Pastor Eddie from Foreman Baptist will take the lead.

ADJOURNMENT: Carl Culpepper, III thanked everyone for coming out.
Motion to Adjourn- Geneva Jackson
2nd to the Motion- Ashley Morgan
Unanimous vote to approve

Supporting materials attached:

Maria Tamimi-Bush
City Clerk/Treasurer

Kimberly Williams
Mayor

Carl Culpepper
Mayor Pro Tem