

City of New Ellenton
Regular Meeting of City Council
New Ellenton City Hall
Mon., July 20, 2026 6:00 PM
Minutes

WORK SESSION: *Several Council Members and the Administrator met at 5:15 PM to go over details of the Code of Ordinances*

WELCOME – Mayor Williams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was stated by all

INVOCATION - Council Member Elvira Johnson-Holley.

COUNCIL ROLL CALL – Carl Culpepper III and Geneva Jackson were absent.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – There were none.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM AIKEN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM – Lauren Virgo gave a presentation to the council on the AC Historical Museum and the information that it has on Aiken County, specifically about New Ellenton. She stated that they have a good bit of information on “old” Ellenton, but not much about New Ellenton. Since we are coming up on the city’s 75th Anniversary, they hope that we can work together to gather information, collections, artifacts, stories about New Ellenton.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2026
Motion to approve: Elvira Johnson-Holley
2nd to the Motion: Ashley Morgan
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.
- Special Called Meeting Minutes July 29, 2026
Motion to approve: Carter Rhine
2nd to the Motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.

OLD BUSINESS: - None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approval of Resolution 2026-07 for Civility Pledge
Administrator McEwen read the entire resolution. Carter Rhine made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Jeff White and unanimously approved,
 - Recite the Pledge – The council and staff recited the pledge. The pledge will be placed on the website as well as in the council chambers, in the city hall and all places for the public to see.
- Approval of TischlerBise Contract for Impact Fee study. Administrator McEwen explained what the Impact Fee Study would do and how it would help New Ellenton with understanding how the new developments would impact our city and if we needed to find ways to offset those service

impacts. Council Member Elvira Johnson-Holley made a motion to approve the contract with TischlerBise. The motion was seconded by Jeff White and unanimously approved.

- Approval to have the Retail Strategies data updated – cost \$7500. Administrator McEwen discussed how Retail Strategies helped the city five years ago with the Retail Academy. Mayor Williams discussed how she, Carl Culpepper and Elvira Johnson-Holley went through the program and gained a lot of insight with the information that they received, and lots has happened since then. They felt that updating this information would be vital for our growth. Carter Rhine made a motion to approve the contract with TischlerBise. The motion was seconded by Ashley Morgan and unanimously approved.
- First Reading of Ordinance 2026-04: Approval of Code of Ordinances – Administrator McEwen had gone over many of the details during the work session. There were many updates to the codes as some of the codes had not been touched in many years. This has been a project that took a lot of time but thankfully is complete. We still have updates that need to be made to several ordinances (sewer, building, parks and rec) so we will have to begin working on those as we move forward. Ashley Morgan made a motion to read the Ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Elvira Johnson-Holley and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only: AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, REVISING, AMENDING, RESTATING, CODIFYING AND COMPILING CERTAIN EXISTING GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON DEALING WITH SUBJECTS EMBRACED IN SUCH CODE OF ORDINANCES. Elvira Johnson-Holley made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. The motion was seconded by Jeff White and unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

***Administration – Lynn McEwen**

Final Title searches are still being worked on for the Demo project. We are just waiting on Commerce to clear the environmental review and then we will be ready to notify property owners and move forward.

You may have seen some updates here at City Hall recently. We are working on beautification along with fortification to the front area of the building. We are checking into several other possible requirements for the building to be updated. There will be some new signage going up as well to assist with the flow of traffic coming into the parking area.

I am waiting to hear back from LSCOG on a proposal to work with our Planning Commission on a draft of Land Development Regulations. It will take a process of working on those with the Planning Commission to prepare them for approval from the council. This is another step towards preparing for the developments coming to New Ellenton.

The new IT company has begun its work for the city. We are waiting for recommendations on any new or updated hardware that is needed and our email migration which should be done within the next few weeks. We are working with Asset Technologies Group.

***Fire Chief – Mike Kellems**

Received an update on the revenue for this coming year and it looks like we are off about \$40k to the good, so that will help when needing to order some extra gear this coming year, especially uniforms. We closed out the fiscal year and were able to transfer about \$180k over to the contingency fund to be able to place that in the LGIP account so that it can make some money in a higher interest earning account and help us get through until December. We had about 132 calls for service this last month, with most of them being for medical. Mike (County Council) also explained that if anyone comes in complaining about their tax bills this year, they do have time to appeal it.

*Police Chief - Josh Solomon

See report with approved minutes. He introduced LT Raphael Quiles, our new officer, who will sub in as the SRO until that position is filled.

*Streets/Roads/Sewer – Jason Morgan

Sprayfield is coming along well. They have the main trunk line in and are working on the outfield lines. The crew has removed the old bushes from around the community center and replace them with sod for easier maintenance and make it look better kept. They are beginning to keep up the football fields with games coming up in a few weeks. Practices have already begun.

*Parks/Recreation – Tonikka Patterson

Was unavailable for the meeting, but practices are ongoing to get ready for football.

*75th Anniversary Celebration Planning – Brandi White

Was unable to attend tonight but we have a good many vendors signing up for the festival. Brandi has also contacted the schools about the logo contest. Lynn has been in touch with an art teacher at USC Aiken to get the word out to those students as well.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Both the Mayor and Council Member Johnson-Holley thanked the city for allowing them to go to the MASC Annual meeting this year. They said it was one of the best they had ever attended. They also thanked Lynn and Maria and the staff for all the work they have been doing.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: Ashley Morgan

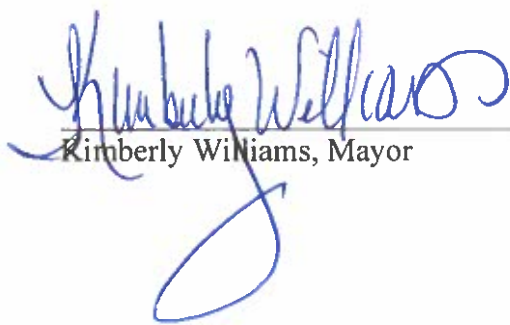
2nd to the Motion: Carter Rhine

There was a unanimous vote to approve. The meeting was adjourned.

Supporting materials attached:

Police Report

Resolution 2026-07



Kimberly Williams, Mayor

8/17/26
Date



Lynn S. McEwen, Administrator

8/17/26
Date