

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2024

Ben Watson, Chairperson
Alpha Dunbar, Commissioner

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of October 30, 2024, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chairperson Ben Watson at 10:00am in the Conference Room on the third floor of the Municipal Center.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meeting was posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Present were Chairperson Ben Watson and Commissioner Alpha Dunbar. Also in attendance was Kevin Whatley, GIS Analyst and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

ITEM 3. Discussion of Training Requirements and Opportunities

City Clerk Jamie Paul verified with the Commissioners that they still have their logins and if need to, refresh themselves on the training courses provided by the State Election Commission (SEC) prior to the election.

In addition, the Commissioners expressed interest to attending the Aiken County poll workers trainings they provide to the City for the election.

ITEM 4. Review General Election Timeline

Commissioners and City Clerk discussed the General Election timeline in detail. **(See Attachment #4)**

ITEM 5. Review of Assistance and Support of the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections for the 2025 General Election and Special Election

Commissioners reviewed the draft Election ordinances for the 2025 General and Special Election and to partner with the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections (ACBRE) to conduct a portion of the 2025 General and Special Election.

Commissioners were of the general consensus to partner with the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections (ACBRE) to conduct a portion of the 2025 General and Special Election.

Commissioners were also in agreement to count the election results after poll closings on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at the North Augusta Community Center. The candidates, public, and media will be encouraged to attend. Commissioner Vaughn will contact Facilities and Events Supervisor to reserve the building. Commissioner Watson will contact Kevin Whaley, GIS Analyst, to assist with technology and the display/projection of real-time election results.

Discussion ensued with Commissioners, Clerk Paul, and GIS Analyst Whaley relative to the tabulation of votes with the unexpired term of the councilmember. It was determined to confirm with ACBRE how the ballot layout will be.

ITEM 6. Commission Assignments and Next Steps

a. Polling Locations

Commissioners discussed the polling places that were used in 2023 and confirmed that North Augusta Middle School would need to be removed and a new polling location would need to be determined. Clerk Paul stated that she was in process of confirming a new polling location to replace the North Augusta Middle School with Second Providence Baptist Church, however, still had not heard back from the church. She added that she will update once they respond.

b. General Election Public Notice

Commissioners and Clerk discussed a possible new layout for the General Election Public Notice versus publishing the ordinance. Clerk Paul to bring back an updated version for the 2025 Election to the next meeting.

c. Location for Election Results after Poll Closings

Clerk Paul confirmed that the Community Center has been reserved for the election results after poll closings.

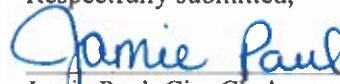
ITEM 7. Next meeting date

Next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for November 13, 2024 at 10:00am

ITEM 8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the commission adjourned the meeting at 10:43am.

Approved this 21st day of
November, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Paul, City Clerk

TIMELINE - GENERAL ELECTION - APRIL 29, 2025

60 Days Prior to Primary Election - December 13, 2024, Friday (ORD = Dec. 16, 2024) - Partisan candidates filing by primary or convention method of nomination - certified to MEC by Political Parties - Official Date determined by Municipal Ordinance

90 Days January 29, 2025, Wednesday

75 Days February 13, 2025, Thursday - Filing by Petition deadline to MEC (ORD - Feb. 12, 2025)

60 Days February 28, 2025, Friday

45 Days March 15, 2025, Saturday - Allows for oversea military absentee ballots (Friday, March 14, 2025)

30 Days March 30, 2025, Sunday - Absentee Ballots available (Monday, April 1, 2025)

20 Days April 9, 2025, Wednesday - Candidates to File Campaign Disclosure form deadline

DATE	ACTION
Wed., Oct. 30, 2024	MEC Meeting - Oath of Office for new Commissioners; Elect Chairperson, Review New Laws, Update Ordinance to Partner w/ Aiken Co. for a portion of Election, Update Local Election Ordinance, Review Election Calendar
Mon., Nov. 4, 2024	Ordinance to Partner w/Aiken Co. for a portion of Election & Ordinance establishing Election dates, 1st readings
Mon., Dec. 2, 2024	Ordinance to Partner w/Aiken Co. for a portion of Election & Ordinance establishing Election dates, 2nd readings
Tues., Dec. 3, 2024	Mail copy of Ordinances to Republican Party and Democratic Party- the next day after meeting
Tues., Dec. 3, 2024	Publish Ordinance???? - Not mandatory? - Notices for Elections fall on the authority charged by law with conducting and election and must publish 2 notices.... S.C. Code Section 7-13-35 (Political Parties must publish notices for Primary Election or Convention)
Tues., Dec. 4, 2024	MEC Meeting - Election Timeline and Finalize Election Public Notice
Mon., Dec. 16, 2024	Entry into Party Primaries/Conventions - Monday after the 60 days prior to Primary Election (60 days = Friday)
Mon., Dec. 23, 2024	Close of entry into Party Primaries/Conventions (1 week for filing) (at least 45 days prior to Primary to allow for overseas military absentee ballots)
Wed., Jan. 18, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice - Polling Locations, etc.
Wed., Jan. 31, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice; Review Election App with K. Whaley
Wed., Jan. 23, 2025	Send 1st Publication of the Notice of Election Dates to Augusta Chronicle to publish on Jan. 29 (4 days prior to Publication Date) - 90 days prior to Election - preferred
Wed., Jan. 29, 2025	1st Notice of Election Dates in Augusta Chronicle (4 days prior to Publication Date) - 90 days prior to Election - preferred
Tues., Feb. 11, 2025	Primary Election Date (Tuesday date)
Tues., Feb. 11, 2025	Party Convention deadline
Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025	Send 2nd Publication of the Notice of Election Dates to Augusta Chronicle to publish on Feb. 12, exactly 2 weeks after 1st Publication
Wed., Feb. 12, 2025	2nd Notice of Election Dates in Augusta Chronicle, exactly 2 weeks after 1st Publication
Wed., Feb. 12, 2025	Deadline for Nominating <u>P</u> etition to City Clerk - Noon (75 days or more before Election)
Tues., Feb. 25, 2025	Primary Election Run-Off ; if needed (2 weeks after Primary/ 3 days before MEC Certification)
Fri., Feb. 28, 2025	Deadline for Party Certification to MEC - Noon (no later than 60 days prior to Election)
Fri. Feb. 28, 2025	MEC Meeting- Review Candidates/Sign Letter to Council @1:00pm (meet earlier if certification is received sooner)
Mon., Mar. 3, 2025	Deadline for MEC Certification to Council (Letter signed by MEC) - will deliver to City Clerk by Friday, 2/28
Wed., Mar. 5, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice with Polling Locations, Registration deadlines and Early Voting dates; Review Election App with K. Whaley
Thurs. Mar. 6, 2025	Send Election Public Notice w/polling locations, registration, etc to Augusta Chronicle to publish on Mar. 11
Tues. Mar. 11, 2025	Election Public Notice of Polling Locations, registration, etc in Augusta Chronicle
Wed., Apr. 9, 2025	Absolute date for candidates to file Campaign Disclosure form pre-election (20 days prior to Election) or State will disqualify candidates. (This is the candidates' responsibility.)
M-Fri. Apr. 14-18, 2025	Early Voting ; 8:30 am-5:00 pm; Aiken & Edgefield County Municipal Buildings
Wed., Apr. 23, 2025	MEC Meeting-Distribute Precinct Signs
Tues., Apr. 22, 2025	Do I do this: Publish 3rd Election Notice - week prior to Election (NA Star); Post on website. ALSO - Contact Judge Murphy about swearing in candidates on May 5, 2025.
Mon., Apr. 28, 2025	Post Precinct Signs; Post Election App on Social Media; "Deliver "Public Safety Pick-up Cards" to PS
Tues., Apr. 29, 2025	General Election & Special Election (with a run-off, if necessary, on May 13, 2025)
Thurs., May 1, 2025	MEC Hearing on contested ballots (11:00 am)
Fri., May 2, 2025	Official Results delivered to City Clerk (Letter signed by MEC)
Mon., May 5, 2025	Certification of Official Results at City Council Meeting; Council Acceptance by Motion; Swearing in of Candidates; Elect Mayor Pro Tempore (when applicable)
Mon., May 5, 2025	Email "Successful Candidates" form to State Ethics Commission (no later than 5 days after election)