

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2024

*Ben Watson, Chairperson
Alpha Dunbar, Commissioner*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of November 13, 2024, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chairperson Ben Watson at 11:00am 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. Approval of Minutes of October 30, 2024 meeting

It was moved by Chairman Watson, seconded by Commissioner Dunbar, to the October 30, 2024 meeting minutes to the next meeting. Unanimously Approved.

ITEM 4. Update of Tabulating Votes on Election Night

GIS Analyst Kevin Whaley reviewed the changes to the tabulating process on election night with all applicable candidates and precincts.

Discussion ensued relative to showing the precincts and candidates and was determined to just show the candidates totals on the screen.

ITEM 5. Review General Election Timeline

Commissioners and City Clerk discussed the General Election timeline in detail. (See Attachment #5)

Clerk Paul clarified that the timeline is a reference tool and is updated as needed with the Commission.

ITEM 6. Review of Publication for 2025 General Election & Special Election - Deadlines

Clerk Paul clarified that the City publicizes now in the Augusta Chronicle.

Commissioners came to the consensus to continue to publish as required and have the additional publication where noted on the timeline.

Discussion ensued relative to publication in the paper versus social media and/or both.

Commissioners came to the consensus to send publications to the paper when required and to post on social media in March for a reminder of the upcoming election and to publish and post the notice of polling locations on social media one week prior to the election.

Commissioners and Clerk Paul reviewed the new layout of the draft 2025 General Election and Special Election. Clerk Paul to bring back an updated draft to mirror the ordinance wording.

ITEM 6. Commission Assignments and Next Steps

a. Polling Locations – Update

Clerk Paul stated that there is no update on the potential new polling location for Precinct 54.

b. Location for Election Results after Poll Closings

Clerk Paul confirmed that the Community Center has been reserved and Commissioners requested Clerk Paul to contact Chief Johnson to confirm an Officer is able to deliver the tape totals after closing of the polls.


ITEM 7. Next meeting date

Next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for November 21, 2024 at 10:00am

ITEM 8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the commission adjourned the meeting at 11:59am.

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
(Lost Tuesday in April)

- 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
Wed. Nov. 13, 2024	MEC Meeting - Election Timeline and Finalize Election Public Notice - Deadlines
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 Petition 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)