

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2025

Ben Watson, Chairperson
Alpha Dunbar, Commissioner

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of January 23, 2025, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chairperson Ben Watson at 10:02am 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

a. November 21, 2024 meeting

The minutes of the Municipal Election Commission of November 21, 2024, were approved as submitted by general consent.

ITEM 4. Update of Tabulating Votes on Election Night

GIS Analyst Whaley stated that the exact layout of the tabulation will be setup after the primary election, however, using candidates on the ballot by seat.

ITEM 5. Review of Process for Parties to File Certification of Party Nominees

Clerk Paul explained the process of the respective parties to file certification of party nominees to the MEC. She clarified the deadline to file the certification of party nominees is February 28, 2025 at Noon, to the MEC. In addition, the MEC would meet right after the deadline to provide a letter to Mayor and Council.

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

Clerk Paul explained to the Commissioners that additional polling locations will need to be added as registered voters at certain precincts have gone over the S.C. Code of Law and the pooling of the precincts/locations will need to be looked at. Clerk Paul added that she is waiting on registered voter numbers per precinct from Aiken County Elections and Registration.

ITEM 7. Review General Election Timeline

Commissioners, GIS Analyst, and Clerk reviewed the General Election Timeline in detail. (See Attachment #7)

ITEM 8. Next meeting date

Next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2025 at 2:00pm

ITEM 9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the commission adjourned the meeting at 10:46am.

Approved this 27th day of
January, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Paul, City Clerk

TIMELINE - GENERAL ELECTION - APRIL 29, 2025
(Last Tuesday in April)
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 overseas 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., Nov. 18, 2024	Ordinance to Partner w/Aiken Co. for a portion of Election & Ordinance establishing Election dates, 2nd readings
Tues., Nov. 18, 2024	Mail copy of Ordinances to Republican Party and Democratic Party - the next day after meeting
Thurs., Nov. 21, 2024	MEC Meeting - Election Timeline; Finalize Election Filing Deadline notice; Review Election Public Notice - Polling Locations
Mon., Nov. 25, 2024	Send Notice of Filing Deadlines to Augusta Chronicle
Tues., Dec. 3, 2024	Publish Notice - Filing Deadlines - 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)
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)
Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice - Polling Location, etc.; Review Election App with K. Whaley
Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025 OR Fri. Jan. 24, 2025	Send 1st Publication of the Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations 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 - Polling Locations 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 - Polling Locations to Augusta Chronicle to publish on Feb. 12, exactly 2 weeks after 1st Publication
Wed., Feb. 12, 2025	2nd Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations 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
Tues. Mar. 11, 2025 - Social Media Posting ONLY	Election Public Notice - Polling Locations - Post on Social Media ONLY
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. 14-25, 2025	Early Voting ; 8:30 am-5:00 pm; Aiken & Edgefield County Municipal Buildings
Thurs., April 17, 2025	Send Extra Publication of the Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations to Augusta Chronicle
Tues., Apr. 22, 2025 - POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA TOO	Publish Extra Election Notice - week prior to Election (Chronicle); Post on website & Social Media. ALSO - Contact Judge Murphy about swearing in candidates on May 5, 2025
Mon., Apr. 28, 2025	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)