

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

WORK SESSION: *Please meet at 5:30 at City Hall to welcome the new Fire Tanker*

WELCOME – 6:00 PM - Kimberly Williams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood

INVOCATION - Geneva S. Jackson

COUNCIL ROLL CALL – All present

PUBLIC HEARING: PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2026-02: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON

No comments from public.

Motion to Close Public Hearing: Carl Culpepper, III

2nd to the motion: Carter Rhine

There was a unanimous vote in favor of closing public hearing

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Al Jenkins & Ryan Syrbe of Senator Scott's office
Al Jenkins will now represent Barnwell County, "thank you for allowing me to serve you"; Ryan Syrbe has taken over Aiken County as Regional Director for Senator Scott; Department of Labor hosting meeting in North Augusta on 22nd regarding Energy Workers Compensation in reference to benefits and new claims for SRS workers.
- Tina Thomas – Christ Central Update
Food Pantry open every 3rd Wednesday and partnering with Golden Harvest Food Bank; Senior Food Program for 60 and above; Bingo on 4th Thursday; Girl Scout Troop 84 every other Tuesday; Growing Hands Garden is sharing with the community; Cool Clothes Closet has been revamped with new clothes; Emergency Food boxes available Tuesday and Thursday from 11am-2pm; Hope Academy of New Ellenton for High School students.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026
Motion to approve: Geneva S. Jackson
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

OLD BUSINESS:

- Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-02: To Authorize the Mayor to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of New Ellenton and Aiken County, South Carolina for Certain Code Enforcement Activities
Motion to read by title only: Carter Rhine
2nd to the motion: Carl Culpepper, III
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

Motion to approve on second and final reading: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approval of Resolution 2026-06 Authorizing and Approving the Acceptance of Certain Loan Assistance Monies from the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority; Authorizing the Mayor to Execute that Certain Loan Assistance Agreement Between the City of New Ellenton and the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority; and Other Matters Relating Thereto
Administrator McEwen read resolution; amount of loan \$1,373,767
Motion to approve: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Jeff White
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
- Approval of Kimberly Goode to be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals
Motion to approve: Carter Rhine
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
- Approval to purchase tractor for the Sewer plant/Streets and Roads use from the CPST—NE4-6 funding at no more than \$92,000 (state contract)
Motion to approve: Elvira Johnson-Holley
2nd to the motion: Carl Culpepper, III
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
- Request to council to apply for a SCAC grant for a public art project for a permanent public art piece on City Hall grounds up to \$15,000 with a 1:1 match – 75th Anniversary Celebration
Aiken County Career Center students will be creating a metal sculpture for the Atomic City anniversary and the grant will help cover cost of materials.
Motion to approve: Ashley Morgan
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

*Administration- Code of Ordinances – We are trying to go over the final versions of what we want to send to the Publisher. We hope to have it out to them this next month.

Title searches are still being worked on for the Demo project. LSCOG will send out letters once the searches have been completed for some of them. We have also sent out letters to federal groups like Indian tribes to verify there are no objections for any possible land disturbances.

Waiting on a number of items of information to come in for the budget to be closer for a review. Our health insurance renewal will be coming in May 1. We are gathering info on our buildings and equipment for that renewal. We still have a few other income variables that we need as well before the full budget can be completed.

I have contacted the MASC about helping us with the process of seeing if we need to work on Impact fees and I am also working with LSCOG on several other ordinances that will include subdivision regulations. The development that is knocking on our door is welcome, but we want to make sure that the city is prepared for it.

*Fire Chief – Mike Kellems absent

*Police Chief – report to be posted with approved minutes (newellentonsc.gov)

SBHS Community Cleanup this past Saturday behind KJ's and Dollar General was very successful, filled 10 contractors bags full of garbage; planning a community clean up day; vandalism on Easter Sunday to gazebo; 3 cameras online; NEPD Night Out event scheduled for June 26th from 6-9pm, will have a Fireworks Show; PAL summer program starts in June.

*Streets/Roads/Sewer – 2 new hires started and will be picking up yard debris; chipper is fixed; 4 manholes repaired; sewer plant has a gate all around and added camera too; internet installation Wednesday 4/22 at sewer plant; pond lines has been replaced and on May 1st Phase II will begin with the pump and spray field and bar screen project ; halfway done with the batting cage at ball field.

*Parks/Recreation- James Anderson absent; Atomic City Pop-up Market Saturday May 2nd

*75th Anniversary Celebration Planning- Brandi White- we have 6 vendors who have registered for the festival so far, looking for sponsors; will have a logo contest open to residents and students; storytelling booth Ellenton to New Ellenton.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

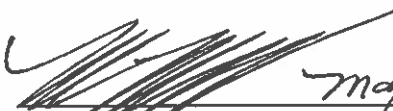
Elvira Johnson-Holley- Stretch Zone would like to participate in Pop-up market; will attend SRP meeting next week and will provide feedback.

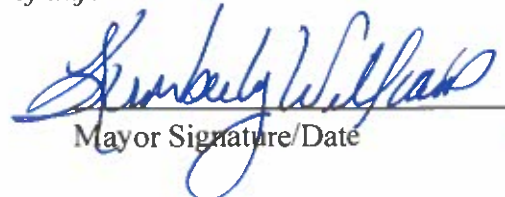
Geneva S. Jackson- will attend Dept. of Transportation meeting on April 23rd; accepting applications for needs like unpaved roads, speed bumps etc.; I was honored for the Axel Adams award so proud to represent New Ellenton.

Ashley Morgan- ACE Hardware Grand Opening is May 15th.

Kim Williams- Thank you all for coming out.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion to adjourn: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion – Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of adjournment*

 May 18, 2026
City Clerk Signature/Date

 5/18/26
Mayor Signature/Date

SUPPORTING MATERIALS ATTACHED:

Information from Police Report



New Ellenton Police Department

Joshua Solomon
Chief of Police

ATTN: City of New Ellenton Council
City Council Meeting
April 20, 2026

The New Ellenton Police Department had the following totals for the span from March 16, 2026 to April 20, 2026:

- (27) Incident reports completed
- (111) Calls for service with (18) assisting other agencies documented, more undocumented not listed.
- (52) Citations issued
- (29) Warnings issued
- (8) arrest(s) made
- (3) Collision reports completed

*Plans for Civic Center for remodel to be new Police Department. Testing done on tile, results came back positive for asbestos. Looking into grants to assist in the proper removal/disposal to proceed with remodel. Will keep updated in process once we move forward further.

*Motorola FLEX (Report/Evidence system) quote finalized, in conjunction with SC CMS (Court Module) quote to proceed to begin working towards implementation. CPST funding will cover the portion where laptops must be replaced. Flex quote is \$22,397 1st year setup/implementation, then \$6,318/year after. CMS quote is \$3,500/year.

*(1) final interview expected to be scheduled in next week or so, candidate has psychological evaluation Wednesday. Have given out several applications to potential candidates, so far none turned back in yet.

*DARE program in progress of being restarted, Cpl. Griner waiting to establish dates to attend the training.

*MOU requested for NEPD beginning to work with SC ICAC to help hunt down child predators in and around New Ellenton with the South Carolina Attorney General's office.