

Regular Meeting of City Council
New Ellenton City Hall
Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:00PM
Minutes

WORK SESSION: 5pm – Presentation by Cypress River Design on GIS mapping of the Sewer System

WELCOME: Mayor Kimberly Williams

INVOCATION: Geneva S. Jackson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All stood

COUNCIL INDUCTIONS

- Mayor Kimberly Williams
- Councilmembers Elvira Johnson-Holley, Geneva Jackson, Carter Rhine (Jeff White will be inducted at a later date).
- CPW Commissioner Trey Stephens (Gerald McMurray will be inducted at a later date).

COUNCIL ROLL CALL: Geneva Jackson, Ashley Morgan, Kimberly Williams, Carl Culpepper, III, Elvira Johnson-Holley, and Carter Rhine

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Vernal Sanders – lives in Jackson but walks New Ellenton track regularly and is concerned about safety hazards. Also, the fenceline between the park and George Ave is an eyesore; we want the park to be attractive and safe for our community.
- Christ Central Update –Tina Thomas Assistant Director (803) 221-2149; Emergency Senior Food Boxes; Food Pantry on hold, ACTS and Mercy Church have food give aways; Healing Service February 1st, 11am-noon, 412 Main Street South for more information contact (720) 394-8408.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM (2-year term)

- Elvira Johnson-Holley and Carl Culpepper, III both nominated
- Motion to postpone nomination: Geneva S. Jackson
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of postponement

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Fire: Carl Culpepper, III and Jeff White
- Police: Carter Rhine and Ashley Morgan
- Sewer/Sanitation/City Maintenance: Jeff White and Geneva S. Jackson
- Planning/Development: Carter Rhine and Elvira Johnson-Holley
- Parks/Recreation/Tourism: Ashley Morgan and Elvira Johnson-Holley
- Finance/Personnel: Carl Culpepper, III and Geneva S. Jackson
- Mayor Kimberly Williams is automatically a member on all committees. The committees are there for if a need arises or a subject needs discussion before or after a Council meeting. They will not meet on a regular basis.
- Motion to approve committees: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

- Regular Meeting December 15, 2025
Motion to approve: Ashley Morgan
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

OLD BUSINESS:

- Motion to put back upon the table: Approval of Updated Employee Handbook
Motion to approve: Ashley Morgan
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
- Approval of the Updated Employee Handbook
Updated Nepotism and Vehicle Use Policies
Motion to approve updates to the Employee Handbook: Geneva S. Jackson
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a 5 out 6 in favor of approval

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2026-01: to Establish the Creation of the Office of Administrator
Motion to read by title only: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Carter Rhine
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval
Office of Administrator is not presently in the codes of ordinance and therefore needs to be updated to reflect we have an administrator established.
Motion to approve: Carl Culpepper, III
2nd to the motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval on First Reading
Discussion: Geneva S. Jackson asked for verification that ordinance is to validate Lynn McEwen position. McEwen answered affirmatively stating this is one of updates that she discovered during reviewing codes for the recodification of ordinances.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

- **Administration- (Lynn McEwen):**
Special Events Coordinator- We have hired Brandi White as our part time coordinator for a minimum two-year position to assist us with the continued efforts of special events and to plan and coordinate the 75th Anniversary events in 2027, which we will begin planning now. Brandi has been a continued volunteer doing this work, but needing to ask her to really step up and assist with the 75th anniversary, it was best to bring her in at a part time position to make sure everything gets completed. She will be paid a monthly salary of \$500 based on the 8-10 hours average that she will work throughout the year. She will be working with Parks and Recreation Director James Anderson, assisting with some of the tourism aspects of the department when needed, but will ultimately be answering to the Administrator. As well as with our other council member/employee relations, Councilmember White will need to recuse himself from any vote pertaining to the employment or compensation of Mrs. White while she will be employed with the city.

Code of Ordinances – I have completed my review of the draft of ordinances and am preparing a report to send to our attorney for his review before we send it back to the publisher by the middle of next month. There will be much more that needs to be updated but we will get there.

Bid opening for the spray field project is still set for next Thursday, Jan. 22 at 10 am.

Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission Members – We need replacements for these members on these boards. We need 2 for the BZA and 2 for the Planning Commission. Please let me know if you have anyone interested or if you have someone in mind. We must fill these positions soon.

Feb 3 – will be our training date with our MASC representative beginning at 4:30pm. We will have dinner for the council and then have a goal setting session that evening. I will be sending out emails in the coming weeks about this so please be on the lookout for those emails.

I am in discussion with the developer of “The Pines” regarding taking over the final sections of the roads. We will be discussing a maintenance bond on the roads before the Deed of Dedication is presented.

We are waiting on Department of Commerce to contact us for an initial meeting along with LSCOG on the demolition projects. I expect that to be by the end of this month or the beginning of February.

I will be at the Managers and Administrators meeting January 22-24, and out of the office February 9-13.

- **Fire Chief – (Mike Kellems):** December we had 129 calls for service; 2025 had total of 1,549 calls for service; January 2026 we are \$8,000 over revenue; the county has closed lease of 6 tower sites to put us on the same frequency as all other Emergency Services; broke ground on the new Training Facility on Gun Range Rd; installation of new radios and mobile services paid by users fees through Aiken County.
- **Police Chief – (Chief Solomon):** Information from Police Report (Report available at [City Council Minutes and Agendas | City of New Ellenton](#) with approved minutes)
- **Streets/Roads/Sewer – (Jason Morgan):** chipper still out of service; date set for January 20th, to start Phase 1 Pond Liners at Sewer Plant; field maintenance at NEMS for baseball.
- **Parks/Recreation & Tourism – (James Anderson):** We had an awesome Christmas Parade thanks to everyone that helped make it happen, special thanks to Ashley Morgan for insisting we still have parade after it was cancelled for bad weather; Baseball, Softball, T-Ball and Wee-Ball registration; 17th January is Field Day; working on getting batting cage and pitching stage; repairing lights at the baseball field; ordering more baseball equipment; painting of Community Center by Painters Union; Veterans Resource Center at Community Center every month; Foreman Memorial Church hosting Christian Sports Camp in April during Spring Break.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL: **Elvira Johnson-Holley:** SRP will deliver Drive Up ATM this Friday 1/16; **Geneva Jackson:** Porter Fleming Grant application opens in February; New Beginnings Ministries has food distribution the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 11am-2pm, 317 Williston Road ; We Care Elder Care presentation 2370 Williston Road; attending training in Columbia Jan 20th -21st; **Ashley Morgan:** Welcome Carter to Council; **Kimberly Williams:** Thank you all for coming out; I’m the new Director for Christ Central Ministries; Ace Hardware coming to KJ’s shopping center; need a suggestion section on website.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: Ashley Morgan

2nd to the motion – Geneva S. Jackson

There was a unanimous vote in favor of adjournment


City Clerk Signature/Date 2/17/2020


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
February 17, 2026

The New Ellenton Police Department had the following totals for the span from January 12, 2026 to February 17, 2026:

- (20) Incident reports completed
- (124) Calls for service with (30) assisting other agencies documented, more undocumented not listed.
- (66) Citations issued
- (21) Warnings issued
- (8) arrest(s) made
- (0) Collision reports completed

* Raulerson returning to Academy March 1st to be recycled for next 8 weeks.

*Police Department parking lot and sidewalk has been pressure washed, looks MUCH better!

*Decision to be made on new RMS (Report software) soon, between Motorola Flex (Aiken County S/O system) and PatrolLogix. Close in prices, but latter does not communicate with ACSO.