

City of New Ellenton
Regular Meeting of City Council
New Ellenton City Hall
Mon., August 17, 2026 6:00 PM
Minutes

WORK SESSION: *No work session was held*

WELCOME – Mayor Williams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all

CIVILITY PLEDGE was recited by all

INVOCATION - Council Member Elvira Johnson-Holley.

COUNCIL ROLL CALL – Carl Culpepper III was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING - There were no comments from the public on the Code of Ordinances

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

- Rebecca Summer from the Aiken Center (Alcohol & Drug Treatment & Addiction Recovery Services) came to speak to the city council on a county-wide monitoring system on drug trends. Ms. Summer introduced the council and public on what the Aiken Center does in Aiken County – promote hopeful, healthy living and freedom from substance misuse through prevention, treatment and recovery support. They are the county drug and alcohol prevention center. She provided statistics on Aiken County and New Ellenton in the past few years. There has been a spike in deaths in the lower region of the county (which includes NE) and she wants the council to be aware of these stats. There was good discussion and several questions from the public and council. We have asked Ms. Summer to bring more information to leave here at city hall.
- Jon Cook spoke to council about the issues his family is having in their neighborhood with dogs running rampant, threatening his wife and his daughter in their own yard, picking up large poop in their yard from dogs who are being walked and people not picking up after them, etc. He then asked about the ordinances on unkept yards and stray cats. Chief Solomon addressed the issues brought up and assured Mr. Cook that letters are starting to go out now that we have our ordinances updated, so there will be a process and repercussions for those who do not clean up. We are also working on our animal code ordinance to make it more in line with the county's so that the county animal control has more authority in the city limits of New Ellenton. The chief also asked that the community assist the police department, as we are still short-staffed and cannot be everywhere at once. If you see something that needs to be reported, PLEASE call the PD phone number 803-652-7770. It will ring the PD and also go to the cell phone of the officer who is on duty. If no one answers, PLEASE leave a detailed message so that the officer can call you back or investigate the issue. If we don't know, we can't help.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes July 20, 2026
Motion to approve: Carter Rhine
2nd to the Motion: Geneva Jackson
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Second and Final Reading of Ordinance 2026-04
Read by Title Only – Motion to Approve: Ashley Morgan
2nd to the Motion: Jeff White
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.

ORDINANCE 2026-04: AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, REVISING, AMENDING, RESTATING, CODIFYING AND COMPILING CERTAIN EXISTING GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON DEALING WITH SUBJECTS EMBRACED IN SUCH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

- Approval on Second and Final Reading
Motion to Approve: Ashley Morgan
2nd to the Motion: Carter Rhine
There was a question about the tap fees by Council Member Jackson which was approved from an ordinance from 2024. These fees are included when a new house is built or when a building is added onto the system, and Administrator McEwen recommended leaving these at the current rates. With no other discussion, there was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approval for two new members (Priscilla Young and Wanda Ealy) to be on the Planning Commission. Administrator McEwen thanked Council Woman Jackson for assisting in finding our new members in such a short time.
Motion to Approve: Elvira Johnson-Holley
2nd to the Motion: Ashley Morgan
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.
- Approval of the MOU with the school district for the use of the ballfields.
Motion to Approve: Geneva Jackson
2nd to the Motion: Jeff White
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.
- Approval of the LSCOG work with the Planning Commission on developing Land Development Regulations for the city at a cost of \$6000. Administrator McEwen explained the reasoning behind getting this done. We have a Comprehensive Plan and we have Code of Ordinances, but now we need Land Development Regulations to assist the Planning Commission with the larger developments to help guide us in regulate what the developments can and cannot do. There were some questions from Council Member Johnson-Holley about receiving assistance from the county on this type of information, but this is a document that needs to be developed, and we need LSCOG to assist us in developing it. We have spent time and funds with the attorneys dealing with the developers. The LDR will help us in the long run. It will be a base for us to get started and may be added onto and changed over time, just as any codes and plans area changed.
Motion to Approve: Ashley Morgan

2nd to the Motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.

- First Reading of Ordinance 2026-05 – Update to Recreation Ordinance.
To be Read by Title Only – Motion to Approve: Ashley Morgan
2nd to the Motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REVISE CHAPTER 93, PARKS AND RECREATION
OF THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

- Approval on First Reading – Motion to Approve: Carter Rhine
2nd to the Motion: Geneva Jackson
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.
- First Reading of Ordinance 2026-06 – Lease/Purchase Fire Engine
Motion to be read by Title Only – Motion to Approve: Ashley Morgan
2nd to the Motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley
There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval.

ORDINANCE 2026-06: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEW ELLENTON TO ACQUIRE A NEW PIERCE PUMPER FIRE TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY LEASING PARTNERS, A DIVISION OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK, OR ITS SUCCESSOR OR ASSIGNEE, FOR THE ACQUISITION AND FINANCING OF SUCH EQUIPMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS FROM FIRE FEE REVENUES AND OTHER AVAILABLE LAWFUL FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Fire Chief Mike Kellems explained what he wanted to do with the funds already that were saved from the fire fees and in the LGIP account to pay on this ten-year note. There is \$180k in the contingency fund in the budget that is already approved. With the third option (the ten-year lease plan), the city can pay roughly \$134k a year to pay off the note for the fire engine. It will be paid off by 8/1/2036, but could be paid off early. LGIP makes interest of about \$1800 a month and will help us make more to pay up the note off early (extra each year, closer to option 2).

They also discussed the future of the SCBA's and how they need to probably purchase them in the near future rather than in five years to save money. The money that is being saved can also be used to pay for the SCBAs over the next few years and update those within the next few years instead of waiting for those to live out their last five-year shelf life. We need 32 over the next 5 years from a cost today of \$250k or in 4 years it will cost \$400k. We can use CPST and LGIP funds to pay these with cash, not financed.

This will take a committee and need to look at the best purchase overall.

The truck is also ahead of schedule 6-8 mos. Delivery is expected to be made by April/May 2027.

Motion to approve first reading – Carter Rhine
2nd – Geneva Jackson
Unanimously Approved

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

***Administration – Lynn McEwen**

Demo Project update: We are working on some title searches on several of the mobile homes on the properties through DMV records. I will be calling on several of the council members for assistance this week on a few issues with some research. We have received the ok from Commerce to move forward. According to LSCOG though, we need to clear up all of the questions and will need to do the project all at once, not in pieces.

I am working again on the grant application for the Impact Grant – Problem Solver Grant for \$25,000 to assist us in the replacement of our communications sign out front. We lost communication with it a few weeks ago and even though now we have it back, it is spotty at best. The technology is outdated and we need to have it replaced. After review of last year's application, MASC has assisted me with this year's application to improve upon it. Right now, though, I am waiting on a quote for the sign, which I can almost guarantee will be much higher than last year, which means our match will be much higher. The council will have to decide if you want spend the money on it. (It could be as much as \$10-\$15k more in the match on top of \$25,000.)

I will be receiving a report from Retail Strategies towards the end of this month and will share those results with you all when they come in.

We will be preparing to meet with the Planning Commission for the start of the Land Development Regulations and will also be working on info for the Impact Fee study and our initial meetings with TischlerBise.

We are going to partner with Aiken County to request about 12-14 dogwood trees and 3-4 maple trees to be placed out in Evans Park. They will be strategically paced to separate the playground area from the rest of the grassy area of the park. The maple trees will be placed in areas to eventually provide shade. The grant application will be put in by Keep Aiken County Beautiful to Palmetto Pride for the annual tree grant program.

Please notice that New Ellenton has a new feature on our website: a calendar. It can be found on the first page at the top headings – to the far right. Click on the calendar and you will see the dates filled up with our events, meetings, etc. We are still working on a way to present the community center and farmer's market when it is booked for public or private events. Once we have that set up, we will begin updating the calendar with that information as well. Public events will be posted with information; private events will only be put in as booked for whichever facility.

The sewer mapping project has already started, with the migration of useable data from past mapping already being done. We have also provided them with information on the addresses we have on the sewer system, so that we can find and mark those that are on the system, but who are not being charged and correct that through the CPW. I am working on a letter to be signed by the mayor and myself to all those residents who will be notified of the changes and charged for the sewer moving forward.

Veteran's Banners – Want to remind everyone that we are still taking Veteran's Banner applications until Sept. 11. We hope that we can continue filling up Main Street with these banners of New Ellenton folks. (Aiken City is running out of room and Mrs. Linda has asked if we would be willing to allow other areas to fill in here in New Ellenton. The Council is against this idea; at least until most of New Ellenton folks have been honored.)

In your box today, I have placed some new pages for the code book that you have gotten. You will need to replace the pages (the blue sheet tells you which ones in the binder) and throw out the old ones.

***Fire Chief – Mike Kellems – Nothing else to report**

***Police Chief - Josh Solomon**

See report with approved minutes. He was also asked about all the law enforcement in town a few nights

ago. This was part of the Aiken County Law Enforcement Network's Joint Task Force Operation Slow Down. New Ellenton played a huge role in this operation as well as several other locations throughout Aiken County. Along with the CPST discussion from chief's report, Lynn added that she has met with some contractors that she knows recently about the old civic center. She is going to get a quote from them on getting a package for renovation costs, renderings and plans so that we may be able to take it to funders, grant applications, legislators, etc. to assist us with it.

*Streets/Roads/Sewer – Jason Morgan
No report

*Parks/Recreation – Tonikka Patterson

97 are enrolled in our fall sports programs (football, flag and cheer), practices have been delayed due to the excessive heat and some practices may begin on Saturday morning. All equipment is in complete compliance and safe. All coaches are certified and registered with USA football. We are the only league with this designation. They will have their first league meeting this Wed. Aug 27 will be a non-league game with McCormick here in NE. Sept 5 will be Media Day, with tv, newspaper, pictures, vendors with free stuff for the kids.

This year, we are doing concessions a different way - we are bringing in food trucks (3 per game night). They will pay the city a fee and then they keep all their proceeds.

Baseball – checking into other leagues because the league we were in has only one team right now. She has been working on getting new playground equipment for Evans Park through a program with Lowes. We have already been approved to be on the list, now we just wait to see when we will get something. It should be within 12 months.

She also talked with a contractor who has provided a quote for concrete for the basketball courts/pickleball courts (instead of asphalt) at a cheaper price than the asphalt was going to be. We have a PARD grant that will pay for half of that. They will also help fix some of the areas in the Farmer's Market and the other pavilion as well as fill in the cracks in the walking track.

*75th Anniversary Celebration Planning – Brandi White

Logo contest - we just received our first entry, so now we are hoping for a few more to start coming in. Sept. 11 is the deadline. There is a \$1000 cash prize for the winner. Lynn and Brandi will have a meeting with the museum people tomorrow about the oral histories for the anniversary. She also updated the council on the festival. We have 13 food trucks and she has cut the food trucks off. We have a good variety. We are still taking other vendors up to closer to the festival.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Council Member Elvira Johson-Holley: Spoke with Desiree Fragosa about software for the smaller towns. Grants are due to the MASC on Sept. 25. She asked about the cyberthreats. Administrator McEwen stated that we are working with our new tech company, Asset Technology, and they will be working with us more closely on that as they get more involved with us. She also asked about disaster alerts or texts. We can ask about it with sc.gov. Chief Solomon spoke about an app that he has heard about too. New Ellenton is on the agenda for SRP.

Council Member Geneva Jackson: Was pleased that we have our budget done for funding from the state. The ARTS committee is updating on bylaws and working on committees (Citizens Advisory and Policy Committees). Will report on these.

Mayor Kimberly Williams: Micro-school is meeting so there are some adjustments that have been made to the community feeding – moved to the third Sunday from 2-4 and they also can provide emergency food boxes if you contact Christ Central at other times. Senior boxes are also distributed during that third Sunday. Micro-school is meeting with a learning coach and a virtual meeting with a certified teacher. She attends a meeting with emergency response group monthly. New Ellenton will have a shelter at Foreman Church which has been approved by the Red Cross. Christ Central is working with them for

point of distribution for water and other essentials. Looking into generators and other assistance. Doing better for New Ellenton than what happened during Helene.
Lynn will be contacting the council for the Advocacy meeting in North Augusta.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: Geneva Jackson

2nd to the Motion: Elvira Johnson-Holley

There was a unanimous vote to approve. The meeting was adjourned.

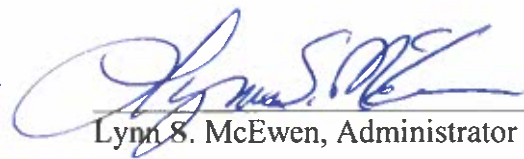
Supporting materials attached:

Police Report

Ordinance 2026-04



Kimberly Williams, Mayor Date 9-21-26
Carl Culpepper III, Mayor Pro Tem
"Per SEC Code Section 5-1-190"



Lynn S. McEwen, Administrator Date 9-21-26