

## Minutes

McClellanville Town Council

October 6, 2025 – 7:00 PM

McClellanville Town Council met on the above-noted date. Notice of the meeting was published in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. Mayor Rutledge Leland presided. Council members Aaron Baldwin, Chris Bates, Bob Gannon and Jim Scott were present. Others present included Town Administrator Michelle McClellan, Zoning Administrator Kathryn Basha (representing the BCD-COG as their Planning Director), Ginny Prevost, Cheves Leland, Eddie Stroman, Oliver Thames, TJ Johnston, Susan Martindale, Ian McCully, and Daniel and Noah Bates.

Mayor Leland requested Council review the minutes from the September 2 Council Meeting. Councilman Bates made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baldwin and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

Officer Kathy Kjellman with Charleston County Sheriff's Office gave a monthly report. There was not a representative from Awendaw-McClellanville Fire Department in attendance.

Kathryn Basha, representing the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments in their role as consultants to the Town, presented a memo outlining the proposed zoning amendments previously reviewed by the Planning Commission. Councilman Gannon moved to defer adoption of the final ordinance for one month to allow time for consultation with the town attorney regarding procedural requirements. Councilman Bates seconded the motion. During discussion, Councilman Scott inquired whether the attorney had already been consulted. Ms. McClellan confirmed that the attorney had been consulted and had advised that no further public hearing was required. However, she emphasized that Council retained the option to hold another hearing if they deemed it appropriate. The motion to postpone the vote for one month and proceed with an additional public hearing was unanimously approved.

Council reviewed applications for special events including the CREECS – JMT Fishing Tournament on Saturday, October 11th; Village Museum – Annual Oyster Roast on Saturday, November 8th; Swamp Fox Adventure Race on Saturday, March 21, 2026; and Wisteria Parade on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Council granted approval for all proposed events.

There was not a gym fundraiser update at this time.

Council discussed their ongoing support of a stop light at the intersection of Highway 17 and Highway 45. The Town's adopted Resolution was submitted to SCDOT, which responded that the location does not currently meet the eligibility criteria for signalization. Subsequent discussions with Representative Lee Hewitt indicated that approval would depend upon the results of a warranted traffic study. Council members concluded that all appropriate actions have been taken at this time.

Council adopted a resolution to document the adjusted millage rate for fiscal year 2025 following countywide assessment. Councilman Gannon made a motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baldwin and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

Next, Ms. McClellan provided Council with copies of the summary report of the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan revisions for this year and informed them that a complete copy of the 2025 Annual update was available online at the County website and printed at Charleston County Building Services office.

There were no questions regarding financial statements.

During the public comment period, Daniel Bates inquired about the two-foot freeboard requirement and whether the Council had considered reducing it as previously discussed. Councilman Baldwin responded that various strategies exist to lower FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) score; however, the County's floodplain management could not provide a definitive point value reduction for the town's overall CRS rating if the two-foot freeboard requirement were eliminated. Councilman Bates asked if town staff could reach out to the County to see if they could make that determination.

Councilman Gannon made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

Council returned from executive session. Mayor Leland noted that no action was taken during executive session. Councilman Bates made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gannon and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle A. McClellan  
Clerk of Council