

Minutes
McClellanville Town Council
January 5, 2026 – 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 Malcolm Baldwin, Chris Bates, Bob Gannon and Jim Scott were present. Others present included Town Administrator Michelle McClellan, The Honorable Judge Patrick Smith, Stacey Moree with Poston, Moree and Moree, CPAs, Sergeant Hall with Charleston County Sheriff's Office, John Cornell with Awendaw-McClellanville Consolidated Fire Department and Ms. Kathy Leland.

The Honorable Judge Patrick Smith administered the oath of office to Mayor Leland and Councilmembers Gannon, Scott, Bates, and Baldwin for the 2026–2027 term. After the swearing-in, Council elected Councilman Jim Scott to serve as Mayor Pro Tem and appointed members to the standing committees, assigning the entire Council to Finance, Malcolm Baldwin and Chris Bates to Public Works, and Bob Gannon and Chris Bates to Personnel.

Councilman Bates then moved to confirm the appointment of Town officers, including Michelle McClellan as Town Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, Andy Gowder as Town Attorney, Larry McClellan as Town Marshal, and Erin Browne as Town Code Enforcement Officer. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jim Scott and approved unanimously.

Mayor Leland requested Council review the minutes from the December 1 and December 16 Council Meetings. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bates and passed unanimously.

Sergeant Hall of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office delivered a monthly report. Fireman John Cornell with the Awendaw-McClellanville Consolidated Fire Department gave a year-end report.

Mayor Leland then recognized Stacey Moree of Harper, Poston & Moree, CPAs. Ms. Moree presented Council with the Town's 2024–2025 Audit Report and reviewed the executive summary. She noted that the Town maintains a very strong fund balance, including \$270,000 in unrestricted funds and \$800,000 in restricted funds. She stated that the Town was in a good financial position having six months of operating revenue in unrestricted fund balance. She also noted that Council could remove funds from the Capital Improvement fund to an unrestricted fund, if needed. Council expressed appreciation for her thorough review. Ms. Moree also responded to questions regarding a potential municipal bond, advising that Council should consult with a bond attorney.

Councilman Scott made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Campsen to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baldwin and approved unanimously.

Next Councilman Jim Scott made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gannon and passed unanimously.

Upon returning from executive session, Mayor Leland stated that no action had been taken during executive session.

Councilman Gannon made a motion to authorize Caplea Coe Architects to develop a bid package for the roof replacement at the old school and to advertise the project for bids. The motion was seconded by Mayor Leland and passed unanimously.

During the public comment period, Councilman Gannon reported that Karen Shuler had asked about a Tree Survey indicating a 40-foot easement on Baker Street. She recently obtained a survey of her property, which showed that no such right-of-way existed. Ms. McClellan explained that the Tree Survey map originated from the Charleston County GIS system. Councilman Baldwin noted that neither the Tree Survey nor the GIS map constitutes a legal document, emphasizing that the recorded plat prepared by a licensed surveyor is the official document that should be relied on.

Councilman Bates made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gannon and passed unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle A. McClellan
Clerk of Council