

Minutes  
McClellanville Town Council  
May 4, 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, Dr. Mark Erich, Debbie Erich, Bud Hill, Othelia Britton, Sandra Gilliard, Michelle Cumbee, Huger McClellan, Allston Leland, Martha Zierden, Bryan Jones, Oliver Thames, Billy Baldwin, Lil Baldwin, Scott youngblood, Susan Martindale, Dan Fifis, Carol McClellan, Laci Duke and Billy McClellan.

Mayor Rutledge B. Leland, III, called the meeting to order. Mayor Leland opened the meeting by reading a Resolution of Appreciation honoring Dr. Mark Erich for his many years of dedicated medical service to the McClellanville community. The resolution recognized Dr. Erich's long-standing commitment to providing compassionate, professional care to residents and acknowledged the meaningful impact of his service on the health and well-being of the Town. Mayor Leland made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Gannon. All council members voted in favor, passing the motion unanimously.

Following this presentation, Mayor Leland read a Resolution of Appreciation honoring Selden "Bud" Baker Hill for his decades of work preserving McClellanville's history, protecting important greenspaces, and contributing to the cultural and environmental stewardship of the community. The resolution also designated the marshfront property at 995 Pinckney Street as Selden Baker Hill Park. Mayor Leland made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Scott. All council members voted in favor, passing the motion unanimously.

Next, Mayor Leland requested Council review the minutes from April 6, and April 20, 2026, Council Meetings. Councilman Gannon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baldwin and passed unanimously by all members.

Ms. Othelia Britton, Community Outreach Specialist with St. James Health and Wellness Center, presented an update on the healthcare services currently available to the community. She outlined the ongoing programs and discussed new initiatives including a mobile medical unit aimed at improving wellness for residents. CEO Sandra Gilliard followed with remarks, emphasizing the Center's commitment to meeting the evolving healthcare needs of McClellanville.

No representatives from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office or the Awendaw-McClellanville Consolidated Fire District attended the meeting.

Council discussed awarding the contract for residential trash collection. Councilman Gannon proposed granting the contract to Aleacia Duke, the lowest qualified bidder who had previously

provided the service. Mayor Leland seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by all members present.

Council discussed Athena Technologies' request to clear an area near the pond on Graham Farm Road and add a topsoil berm. Ms. McClellan noted a conservation easement on the property was held by Lowcountry Land Trust. Councilman Scott recommended attorney Andy Gowder review the proposal. Mayor Leland supported the improvement, and Councilman Gannon inquired about the public tree removal process. Councilman Bates confirmed no protected trees would be affected and moved to approve the request pending legal review. Councilman Scott seconded, all others voted yes, and Councilman Baldwin abstained due to prior involvement in the project.

Council discussed establishing a filming policy for the old school property. Mayor Leland expressed his view that any group using the facility for profit should be required to pay a fee, which could be based on whether they are using the building itself, the grounds, or determined by the square footage utilized. Council agreed and recommended seeking legal advice regarding a contract and appropriate fee structure.

Councilman Gannon made a motion to contribute \$500 to Begin with Books, which was seconded by Mayor Leland. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no questions regarding the financial statements.

During the Public Comments period, Ms. McClellan expressed her appreciation to Susan Martindale for her efforts in landscaping, specifically for spreading pine straw at the middle school before the Jimmy Dupree Event.

Councilman Gannon made a motion to enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott and passed unanimously by all members present.

Upon returning to regular session, Mayor Leland stated that no votes or action had been taken during executive session. Council resumed open session.

Councilman Gannon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Leland and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle McClellan  
Clerk of Council