

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2020

*Machela Knox, Commissioner
Carleton Vaughn, Commissioner
Ben Watson, Commissioner*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of December 9, 2020, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Ben Watson at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on the third floor of the Municipal Center and adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meeting was posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Present were Machela Knox, Carleton Vaughn, and Ben Watson. Mayor Pettit attended to administer the Oath of Office for new appointees. Also in attendance was Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

ITEM 3: Introduction of Commissioners –

Each commissioner introduced themselves sharing their employment background, community involvement, and history of residence in the City. Reference was made to the provided contact information for other communication, as necessary.

ITEM 4: Oath of Office for New Appointees and Election of Chairperson –

Mayor Pettit administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Knox and Mr. Vaughn. On the motion of Commissioner Knox, second of Commissioner Vaughn, Ben Watson was nominated to serve as the Municipal Election Commission Chairperson. Commissioner Watson was approved unanimously.

ITEM 5: Discussion of Training Requirements and Opportunities –

Sharon Lamar, City Clerk, advised there is training for election commissioners provided by the State Election Commission (SEC). As required under SC Code of Laws §5-15-90, each commissioner must complete three courses. All commissioners were provided a unique user name and password to access the training. The City Clerk noted that only one class, “Poll Manager Training,” is currently available online. The other online class, “The Duties of the Municipal Election Commission,” has been taken down for revision and should be available in January 2021. The in-person class, “Protest Hearings,” is not available due to COVID-19 concerns.

ITEM 6: Review Election Ordinance – Ordinance No. 2020-34 –

Commissioners reviewed the recently adopted election ordinance, Ordinance No. 2020-34. (Please see ATTACHMENT #6) It was also discussed the City of North Augusta conducts partisan elections with Councilmembers elected “at-large.” Three political parties have participated in elections of the recent past; Democrat, Republican, and Constitution.

ITEM 7: Review General Election Timeline –

Dates for candidate filing, primaries, and the general election were noted. (Please see ATTACHMENT #7) The City Clerk explained the time between the adoption of our election ordinance, December 7, 2020, and for the candidates to file for the upcoming election, December 14, 2020, is unusually constricted this year. Before the Election Ordinance was presented to City Council for consideration, Chris Whitmire of the South Carolina Election Commission was asked to review the document. Mr. Whitmire recommended changing the filing dates to December 14 - 21, 2020 to be in-line with a recent Federal law to allow time for overseas military absentee ballots.

ITEM 8: Commission Assignments and Next Steps –

Commissioners were of the general consensus to seek the assistance and support of the Aiken County Board of Election for the 2021 General Election. Commissioners asked the City Clerk to contact Cynthia Holland, Registrations and Elections Director, to request the same services be provided as were in the 2019 general election. Commissioners were also in agreement to count the election results after poll closings on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at the North Augusta Community Center. The candidates, public, and media will be encouraged to attend. Carleton Vaughn will contact Nancy Payne, Facilities and Events Supervisors, to reserve the building. Ben Watson will contact Kevin Whaley, GIS Analyst, to assist with technology and the display/projection of real-time election results.

Commissioners agreed to meet next on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 2:00 pm in the conference room on the third floor of the Municipal Center.

There being no further business, the commission adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF
January, 2021.

Ben G. Watson, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Lamar
Sharon Lamar,
City Clerk

ATTACHMENT #6

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-35
COMPLYING WITH SECTIONS 10-1 AND 10-2 OF THE
CODE OF LAWS OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA.
BY SETTING THE DATES FOR MUNICIPAL PARTY PRIMARIES, CONVENTIONS,
AND PARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION, TIMES FOR FILING OF NOMINATING
PETITIONS, CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES BY PARTIES, AND
CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES BY MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF, THAT:

- I. The 2021 Municipal General Election for Purposes of electing the mayor and three members of City Council for the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, with a run-off, if necessary, on May 11, 2021.

- II. The filing and certification dates are hereby set for the 2021 Municipal Party Primaries and General Election as follows:
 - A. The time for entry of candidates into party primaries or conventions shall commence at 9:00 A. M., December 14, 2020, and shall end at 12:00 Noon, December 21, 2020. Entries shall be made to the chairperson of the respective parties.
 - B. Primary elections, if selected by a party, shall be held on February 9, 2021, with a run-off, if necessary, on February 23, 2021.
 - C. Conventions, if selected by a party, shall be held no later than February 9, 2021.
 - D. The deadline for filing nominating petitions to the Municipal Election Commission shall be 12:00 Noon, February 10, 2021. Candidates may file by petition with no less than 5% of qualified electors.
 - E. The deadline for parties to certify candidates selected by primary or convention to the Municipal Election Commission shall be 12:00 Noon, February 26, 2021.
 - F. The certification of the candidates by petition, primary, or convention by the Municipal Election Commission shall be no later than 12:00 Noon, March 1, 2021.

- III. All ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.
- IV. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption on second reading.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS 7th DAY OF December, 2020.

First Reading 11-16-2020

Second Reading 12-7-2020


Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon Lamar, City Clerk

TIMELINE - GENERAL ELECTION - APRIL 27, 2021

ATTACHMENT #7

(Last Tuesday in April)

90 Days January 27, 2021, Wednesday

Revised December 8, 2020

75 Days February 11, 2021, Thursday

60 Days February 26, 2021, Friday

DATE	ACTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mon., Nov. 16, 2020	Ordinance establishing Election dates, 1st reading
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mon., Dec. 7, 2020	Ordinance establishing Election dates, 2nd reading
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tues., Dec. 8, 2020	Mail copy of Ordinance to Republican Party, Democratic Party, & Constitution Party
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tues., Dec., 8, 2020	Publish Ordinance (NA Star and NA Today); Put on website
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon., Dec. 14, 2020	Entry into Party Primaries/Conventions
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon., Dec. 21, 2020	Close of entry into Party Primaries/Conventions (1 week for filing) (at least 45 days prior to Primary to allow for overseas military absentee ballots)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed., Jan. 27, 2021	Publish 1st Election Notice (NA Star & NA Today); Post on website (60-90 days before Election Date)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tues., Feb. 9, 2021	Primary Election Date (Tuesday date)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tues., Feb. 9, 2021	Party Convention deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed., Feb. 10, 2019	Publish 2nd Election Notice -2 weeks after 1st (NA STAR & NA Today); Post on website
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed., Feb. 10, 2021	Deadline for Nominating Petition to MEC - Noon (75 days or more before Election)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tues., Feb. 23, 2021	Primary Election Run-Off ; if needed (2 weeks after Primacy/ 3 days before MEC Certification)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri., Feb. 26, 2021	Deadline for Party Certification to MEC - Noon (no later than 60 days prior to Election)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon., Mar. 1, 2021	Deadline for MEC Certification to Council - <i>will deliver to City Clerk prior Friday</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed., Apr. 7, 2021	Absolute date for candidates to file Campaign Disclosure form pre-election (20 days prior to Election) or State will disqualify candidates
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed., Apr. 21, 2020	Publish 3rd Election Notice - week prior to Election (NA Star & NA Today); Post on website. ALSO - <i>Contact Judae Murhvh about swearing in candidates on May 3, 2021</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tues., Apr. 27, 2021	General Election (with a run-off, if necessary, on May 11, 2021)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs., Apr. 29, 2021	MEC Hearing on contested ballots (11:00 am)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri., Apr. 30, 2021	Official Results delivered to City Clerk
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon., May 3, 2021	Certification of Official Results - MEC; Council Acceptance by Motion; Swearing in of Candidates; Elect Mayor Pro Tempore