

# North Augusta



*South Carolina's Riverfront*

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2021

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

### ***ORDER OF BUSINESS***

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of January 20, 2021, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chariperson Ben Watson at 2:08 p.m. in Council's Conference Room on the third floor of the Municipal Center and adjourned at 2:40 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.

**ITEM 2. Roll Call:** Present at the meeting were Machela Knox, Carleton Vaughn, and Ben Watson. Also in attendance were Sharon Lamar, City Clerk, along with members of the public and media.

**ITEM 3. Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2020:** On the motion of Carleton Vaughn, second of Ben Watson, the minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting were approved.

**ITEM 4. Review Election Timeline:** Sharon Lamar, City Clerk, suggested two revisions to the original General Election Timeline. Due to the timing of the Republican Party Primary and to avoid any confusion, Ms. Lamar recommended changing the first newspaper publication of the General Election public notice to February 10th which would be after the February 9<sup>th</sup> primary. Changing the first newspaper publication's date would still be in line with the State statute requirement of no less than sixty days before the election. The second newspaper publication would then be two weeks later on February 24, 2021. On the motion of Carleton Vaughn, second of Machela Knox, the Commission agreed to the changes. General discussion of other upcoming dates were discussed for clarification. Machela Knox led the discussion of other possible ways to publicize the election; i.e. the City website and Social Media.

Please see ATTACHMENT #4 for a copy of the revised General Election Timeline.

**ITEM 5. Review Election Cost Estimate from Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections:** The Commission reviewed the general election cost estimate provided by the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections. The total estimate is \$5376.82. Ben Watson stated this estimate did not provide for a “run-off,” if it became necessary. Sharon Lamar, City Clerk, added the 2021 Annual Municipal Budget has \$6500 appropriated for the 2021 General Election. She also noted that this estimate was for the “election day” portion of the election. The Municipal Election Commission (MEC) still bore many responsibilities. For example, the MEC will accept the list of certified candidates from each party and petitions from any candidates who wish to run as Independent candidates. The MEC will secure the polling locations. In an email to the City Clerk, Cynthia Holland, Director of the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections, directed the MEC to use the same locations as the Republican Party Primary to avoid confusion. The MEC will publish the public notice of the election three times in a newspaper of general circulation. On the evening of the election after the polls close, the MEC will tally the vote totals and announce the winners for Mayor and three Council seats. With general consensus Commissioners agreed to sign a letter to the City Administrator seeking Council’s approval by way of an adopted ordinance to partner with the Aiken County Board of Elections for a portion of the 2021 General Election.

Please see ATTACHMENT #5 for a copy of the election cost estimate, the letter to the City Administrator, and the proposed Ordinance No. 2021-02.

**ITEM 6. Finalize General Election Public Notice:** The public notice was reviewed. Sharon Lamar, City Clerk, pointed out the polling locations listed on the draft notice are the location to be used for the Republican Party Primary. These sites need to be confirmed again for use on April 27, 2021 for the General Election. Commissioners agreed to divide the locations and each make contact to confirm. Ms. Lamar will provide the contact information. When the locations are confirmed, the notice will be published in the *North Augusta Star* newspaper on February 10, February 24, and April 21. It will also be posted on the City’s website and Social Media.

Please see ATTACHMENT #6 for a draft copy of the public notice.


**ITEM 7. Next Steps:** Upon receipt of information, Commissioners will contact polling locations to confirm sites for the April 27, 2021 General Election. The State Election Commission training opportunities are still not available. The City Clerk will inquire again about the status of those classes. There was discussion and reminders that MEC Commissioners cannot participate in any political activity which includes participating in a campaign, attending a fundraiser, or contributing money to a campaign.

Commissioners agreed to meet next on Friday, February 26, 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 2:40 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF  
February, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Lamar,  
City Clerk

# TIMELINE - GENERAL ELECTION - APRIL 27, 2021

ATTACHMENT #4

(Last Tuesday in April)

90 Days January 27, 2021, Wednesday

75 Days February 11, 2021, Thursday

60 Days February 26, 2021, Friday

Revised January 20, 2021

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mon., Dec. 14, 2020	Entry into Party Primaries/Conventions
<input checked="" 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	<del>Publish 1st Election Notice (NA Star &amp; NA Today); Post on website (60-90 days before Election Date)</del>
<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 1st Election Notice - (NA STAR); Post on website
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed., Feb. 10, 2021	Deadline for Nominating <u>Petition</u> 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"/> Wed., Feb. 24, 2019	Publish 2nd Election Notice -2 weeks after 1st (NA STAR); Post on website
<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 (Letter signed by MEC) - <i>will deliver to City Clerk prior Friday, 2/26</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 (Info. was emailed to parties 12/17/20)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed., Apr. 21, 2021	Publish 3rd Election Notice - week prior to Election (NA Star); Post on website. ALSO - <i>Contact Judge Murphy about swearing in candidates on May 3, 2021</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tues., Apr. 27, 2021	<b>General Election</b> (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 (Letter signed by MEC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon., May 3, 2021	Certification of Official Results at City Council Meeting; Council Acceptance by Motion; Swearing in of Candidates; Elect Mayor Pro Tempore

# ATTACHMENT #5

City Of North Augusta General Election April  
27, 2021

	Cost	Quantity	Total
<b>Estimated Cost</b>			
Nine Polling Location			
Absentee Ballot Mail Out	1.45	20	\$29.00
Printing Emergency /Provisional	0.35	500	\$175
Seals -Forms- Supplies			\$15
Subtotal			\$219
2 Polling Location Technician	\$150.00	2	\$300
Mileage for Polling Location Technicians	50	2	\$100
Mileage for 2 Commissioners	50	2	\$100
Clerks Election Day	75	9	\$675
Election Day Poll Workers	75	30	\$2,250
Subtotal			\$3,425
Election Day Base	6:30 AM	until 8:00pm	
Excutive Director	\$26.00	13hr	\$338
Assistant Director	\$21.00	13hr	\$273
Election Tech	\$13.00	13hr	\$169
Clerk III	\$14.00	13hr	\$182
Delivery Uhaul	\$39.95	3 Days	\$119.85
Est Mileage	\$0.99	150 miles	\$148.50
Enviromental Fee			\$5
Rental Protection			\$70
Tax			\$27.47
Driver	\$100	2	\$200.00
Loader	\$100.00	2	\$200.00
Subtotal			\$1,733
Total			\$5,376.82

For the General  
Election



***Municipal Election Commission***

P. O. Box 6400

North Augusta, South Carolina 29861

January 20, 2021

James S. Clifford  
City Administrator  
City of North Augusta  
P.O. Box 6400  
North Augusta, South Carolina 29861

Dear Mr. Clifford,

The Municipal Election Commission desires to partner with the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections to conduct a portion of the 2021 General Election on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, and run-off, if necessary. As required by Title 5-15-145 an ordinance is required for the agreement of the City of North Augusta and Aiken County.

With Council's approval, the Commission respectfully requests the City Administrator enter into an agreement with the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections to provide staffing of polling locations; delivery, set-up, maintenance, and removal of voting machines; absentee and provisional ballots; seals, forms and supplies; poll workers and support staff. The cost of the General Election has been estimated to be \$5376.82. These election expenses are budgeted in the 2021 Annual Municipal Budget in the City Council Professional Services account.

Sincerely,

Ben Watson

Machela Knox

Carleton Vaughn

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02  
AN ORDINANCE TO PARTNER WITH THE AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF  
REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT A PORTION OF THE  
2021 CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Laws of South Carolina, and Ordinance No. 2020-35 adopted December 7, 2020, the City of North Augusta will hold an election on April 27, 2021 to elect the Mayor and three City Council Members; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to partner with the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections to conduct a portion of the election; and

NOW, THEREFORE 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 City Administrator is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections. Under the terms of the agreement, the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections will provide:
  - a. Staffing of polling locations on Election Day, Tuesday, April 27, 2021
  - b. Delivery, set-up, maintenance, and removal of voting machines
  - c. Absentee and provisional ballots; seals, forms, and supplies
  - d. Poll workers and support staff
- II. The Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections has estimated the election costs and expenses to be \$5,376.82 and to be paid from the City Council Professional Services account.
- III. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Lamar, City Clerk

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Municipal Election Commission of the City of North Augusta announces the Municipal General Election for the City of North Augusta will be **Tuesday, April 27, 2021**, for the election of Mayor and three City Council members. The polls will open at **7:00 A. M.** on election day and close at **7:00 P. M.** Precincts involved in this Municipal Election and polling locations are as follows:

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Polling Location</u>
Fox Creek 58 Fox Creek 73 North Augusta 68 Merriwether 1	Grace Fellowship Church, 507 W. Five Notch Rd, North Augusta 29860
North Augusta 26 North Augusta 80	Fairview Presbyterian Church, 1101 Carolina Ave, North Augusta 29841 <b>USE CAROLINA AVENUE ENTRANCE</b>
Carolina Heights 10 North Augusta 25	North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Dr, North Augusta 29841
Belvedere 9 Belvedere 44 Belvedere 62 Belvedere 74	Belvedere First Baptist Church, 421 Edgefield Rd, North Augusta 29841
Ascauga Lake 63 Ascauga Lake 84 Mity Lake 45	Crown Kingdom Cultural Center, 720 Edgefield Rd, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 27	North Augusta High School, 2000 Knobcone Ave, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 28 North Augusta 29 North Augusta 55 North Augusta 67	Riverview Park Activity Center, 100 Riverview Park Dr, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 54	Our Lady of Peace Annex, 405 LeCompte Ave, North Augusta 29841
Absentee - Aiken County	Aiken County Registration & Elections Commission, 1930 University Parkway, Suite 1200, Aiken, SC 29801 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (803-642-2028)
Absentee – Edgefield County	Edgefield County Voter Registration 129 Courthouse Square, Edgefield, SC 29824 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (803-637-4072)

**As allowed by State law, please note some precinct polling locations have been combined with other polling locations.**

Persons desiring to vote in the upcoming general election must register in person by 5:00 P.M. March 26, 2021; by online registration, fax, or email by March 27, 2021. All mail in forms must be post marked by March 29, 2021. To register, contact the Aiken County Registration & Elections Commission in Aiken if you live in Aiken County (803-642-2028). If you live within the City limits of North Augusta in Edgefield County, contact the Edgefield County Voter Registration in Edgefield (803-637-4072).

On Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 11:00 A.M., at the North Augusta Municipal Center, the Municipal Election Commission will hold a hearing to determine the validity of ballots challenged in this election.



Ben Watson, Chairperson  
Machela Knox  
Carleton Vaughn  
**Municipal Election Commission**



## ***Municipal Election Commission***

P. O. Box 6400  
North Augusta, South Carolina 29861

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Robert A. Pettit, Mayor  
City of North Augusta  
P.O. Box 6400  
North Augusta, South Carolina 29861

Dear Mayor Pettit,

The following candidates have been certified by the Municipal Election Commission for the office of Mayor and three seats on City Council in the forthcoming General Election on April 27, 2021.

Democratic Party:     Richard Adams, Mayor  
                                   Trina Mackie, Councilmember

Republican Party:     Briton Williams, Mayor  
                                   Pat Carpenter, Councilmember  
                                   Jenafer McCauley, Councilmember  
                                   David McGhee, Councilmember

No other candidates have qualified by nomination or petition.

Sincerely,

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Ben Watson

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Machela Knox

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Carleton Vaughn



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