

# North Augusta



*South Carolina's Riverfront*

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2021

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

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

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of April 14, 2021, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chairperson Ben Watson at 2:00 p.m. in Council's Conference Room on the third floor of the Municipal Center and adjourned at 2:52 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 Carleton Vaughn and Ben Watson. Machela Knox was absent. Also in attendance was Sharon Lamar, City Clerk, along with a member of the media.

**ITEM 3. Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2021:** The minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting were approved by motion of Commissioner Vaughn and concurrence of Chairman Watson.

**ITEM 4. Presentation of App Developed for Tabulating Votes on Election Night – By Kevin Whaley, GIS Analyst**

Kevin Whaley, GIS Analyst, presented the application for tabulating votes on Election Night publicly. The app will be used to project the unofficial results on a large screen at the North Augusta Community Center as the precinct totals are delivered and added to a spreadsheet. The link to the app will be provided to the public via social media and the City's website. Citizens are also welcome to gather at the North Augusta Community Center to watch the results in person. Mr. Whaley explained and demonstrated how the votes will be entered and then shared. The City Clerk, Sharon Lamar, stated these results are only unofficial totals until the votes are verified with the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections, canvassed, and a Certification Hearing is

conducted. Commissioners Vaughn and Watson discussed the addition of columns to enter the results of absentee votes from Edgefield and Aiken counties. Mr. Whaley will add that feature to the app. Write in votes will be reviewed separately. Viewers with personal computers or smart phones will need to refresh their browsers in order to update the results in a timely manner.

**ITEM 5. Review General Election Timeline:** Sharon Lamar, City Clerk, confirmed the final Public Notice for the election will be published in the *North Augusta Star* newspaper Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the week before the election. Judge Thomas Murphy has agreed to administer the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmembers at the May 3, 2021 regular City Council meeting. She also reminded the Commissioners that In-Person Absentee voting will be conducted by the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections at the North Augusta Community Center on April 19-22 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Ben Watson, MEC Chairperson, reviewed the activities to expect on Election night. Public Safety will pick up tapes from each polling location for all precincts after the pools close at 7:00 pm and deliver the tapes to the MEC at the North Augusta Community Center. The results will be projected onto a large screen allowing candidates and citizens to view the results in as they are received. The link to this information will also be available on the City's Facebook page and website.

Please see ATTACHMENT #5 for a copy of the revised General Election Timeline.

**ITEM 6. Distribution of Precinct Signs:** Commissioners will post directional signs at all precincts on Monday, April 26, 2021 to ensure voters have correct polling location information on Election Day. Commissioner Vaughn, Commissioner Watson, and the City Clerk divided the signs among themselves and will be responsible for posting.

**ITEM 7. Next Steps:** Sharon Lamar will contact the Aiken County Board of Registration and Elections to see when the MEC will receive the results of Absentee Voting. The MEC will meet at the North Augusta Community Center at 6:30 pm on Election Night, April 27, 2021, to prepare to receive the election results. The MEC Canvassing and Certification Hearing will be Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 11:00 am in the third floor conference room.

There being no further business, the commission adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

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

## TIMELINE - GENERAL ELECTION - APRIL 27, 2021

(Last Tuesday in April)

90 Days January 27, 2021, Wednesday

75 Days February 11, 2021, Thursday

60 Days February 26, 2021, Friday

Revised April 15, 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"/> Wed., Dec. 9, 2020	MEC Meeting - Oath of Office for new Commissioners; Partner w/ Aiken Co. for a portion of Election
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wed., Jan. 20, 2021	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tues., Feb. 9, 2021	Primary Election Date (Tuesday date)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tues., Feb. 9, 2021	Party Convention deadline
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wed., Feb. 10, 2019	Publish 1st Election Notice - (NA STAR); Post on website
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wed., Feb. 10, 2021	Deadline for Nominating <u>Petition</u> to MEC - Noon (75 days or more before Election)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tues., Feb. 23, 2021	Primary Election Run-Off ; if needed (2 weeks after Primacy/ 3 days before MEC Certification)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wed., Feb. 24, 2019	Publish 2nd Election Notice -2 weeks after 1st (NA STAR); Post on website
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wed., Feb. 24, 2021	MEC Meeting - Review Candidates/Sign Letter to Council
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fri., Feb. 26, 2021	Deadline for Party Certification to MEC - Noon (no later than 60 days prior to Election)
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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. (This is the candidates' responsibility.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wed., Apr. 14, 2021	MEC Meeting-Review Election App with K. Whaley; Distribute Precinct Signs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M-Th, Apr. 19-22, 2021	In-Person Absentee Voting; 9:00 am-4:00 pm; NA Community Center (Aiken Co Board of Reg. & Elections)
<input checked="" 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"/> Mon., Apr. 26, 2021	Post Precinct Signs; Post Election App on Social Media; "Deliver "Public Safety Pick-up Cards" to PS
<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 Mavor Pro Tempore