

# North Augusta



*South Carolina's Riverfront*

## **MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF JANUARY 31, 2023**

*Alphia Dunbar, Commissioner  
Carleton Vaughn, Commissioner  
Ben Watson, Commissioner*

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

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of January 31, 2023, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chairperson Ben Watson at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on the third floor of the Municipal Center.

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 Commissioners Alphia Dunbar, Carleton Vaughn, and Ben Watson. Also in attendance was Kevin Whaley, GIS Analyst, and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

### **ITEM 3: Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2023**

The minutes of the Municipal Election Commission of January 18, 2023, were approved as submitted by general consent.

### **ITEM 4: Oath of Office for New Appointee**

Clerk Paul swore in new Commissioner Alphia Dunbar.

### **ITEM 5: Discussion of Training Requirements**

Clerk Paul stated that training for the MEC is completed online and will reach out to Cynthia Holland, Aiken County Registration & Elections Director to provide her with her login

information. She added that each commissioner should refresh themselves as well prior to election day.

**ITEM 6: Finalize General Election Public Notice – Tabled from January 18, 2023 meeting**

Clerk Paul clarified that the item will need to be removed from the table to discuss and possibly approve. She added that Commissioner Dunbar would abstain from the vote as she was not a Commissioner at the January 18, 2023 meeting.

It was moved by Chairman Watson, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to remove item #6 from the table from the January 18, 2023 meeting to discuss and possibly approve the finalization of the General Election Public Notice. Approved 2-0. Commissioner Dunbar abstained.

Clerk Paul confirmed that for North Augusta 54 Precinct the polling location will be at the North Augusta Middle School. The Commissioners reviewed the General Election Public Notice.

It was moved by Commissioner Vaughn, seconded by Commissioner Dunbar to approve the General Election Public Notice as presented. Unanimously Approved. **(See Attachment #6)**

**ITEM 7: Overview of Tabulating Votes on Election Night – by Kevin Whaley, GIS Analyst**

GIS Analyst Kevin Whaley presented the tabulating process on election night and showed how the unofficial number of votes will be shown live.

**ITEM 8: Review Certified Candidates from Democratic and Republican Parties**

Chairman Watson confirmed that the commission has received the certification letter from the Democratic and Republican parties. The following candidates were certified:

Democratic Party: Richard Adams, Councilmember

Republican Party: David B. Buck, Councilmember; Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember; and Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember

**ITEM 9: Approve and Sign Certification Letter to Council**

Commissioners reviewed the certification letter to be provided to Mayor and Council and approved the letter by general consensus. **(See Attachment #9)**

**ITEM 10: Review General Election Timeline**

Commissioners, GIS Analyst, and City Clerk discussed the General Election timeline in detail. **(See Attachment #10)**

**ITEM 11: Next Steps**

Commissioners, GIS Analyst, and City Clerk discussed election night process, receiving the unofficial tape totals from Aiken and Edgefield Counties for the early voting totals, and precinct signs to potentially be posted outside of polling place. Clerk Paul stated she will contact both counties to setup a process to receive vote total tapes on election night.

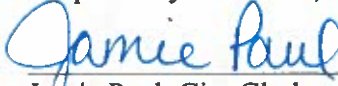
**ITEM 12: Next Meeting Date**

Commissioners discussed meeting before the April 12, 2023 MEC meeting and agreed upon meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

**ITEM 13: Adjournment**

There being no further business, the commission adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of  
March, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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Jamie Paul, 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 25, 2023**, for the election of three City Council members. The polls will open at **7:00 AM** on Election Day and close at **7:00 PM**. Precincts involved in this Municipal Election and polling locations are as follows:

<b>Precinct</b>	<b>Polling Location</b>
Fox Creek 58 Fox Creek 73 North Augusta 68 North Augusta Creek 85 Merriwether 1	Grace Fellowship Church 507 W. Five Notch Road, North Augusta 29860
North Augusta 26 North Augusta 80	Fairview Presbyterian Church - <b>USE CAROLINA AVENUE ENTRANCE</b> 1101 Carolina Avenue, North Augusta 29841
Carolina Heights 10 North Augusta 25	North Augusta Community Center 495 Brookside Drive, North Augusta 29841
Belvedere 9 Belvedere 44 Belvedere 62 Belvedere 74	Belvedere First Baptist Church 421 Edgefield Road, North Augusta 29841
Ascauga Lake 84 Misty Lakes 45	Crown Kingdom Cultural Center 720 Edgefield Road, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 27	North Augusta High School 2000 Knobcone Avenue, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 28 North Augusta 29 North Augusta 55 North Augusta 67	Riverview Park Activity Center 100 Riverview Park Drive, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 54	North Augusta Middle School 725 Old Edgefield Road, North Augusta 29841
Early Voting - Aiken County	Aiken County Registration & Elections Commission, 1930 University Parkway, Suite 1200, Aiken, SC 29801 April 10 – April 21, 2023 803-642-2028 Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Early Voting - Edgefield County	Edgefield County Voter Registration & Elections 210 Penn Street, Suite 1, Edgefield, SC 29824 April 10 – April 21, 2023 803-637-4072 Monday – Friday - 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

**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 may register in person by 5:00 PM Friday, March 24, 2023; by online registration, fax, or email by Sunday, March 26, 2023 by Midnight. All mail in forms must be post marked by Monday, March 27, 2023. To register, contact the Aiken County Registration & Elections Commission in Aiken if you live in Aiken County; call 803-642-2028. If you live within the City limits of North Augusta in Edgefield County, contact the Edgefield County Voter Registration in Edgefield; call 803-637-4072.

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 11:00 AM, at the City of 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  
Alphia Dunbar  
Carleton Vaughn  
**Municipal Election Commission**



***Municipal Election Commission***

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

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Briton S. Williams, Mayor  
City of North Augusta  
P.O. Box 6400  
North Augusta, South Carolina 29861

Dear Mayor Williams,

The following candidates have been certified by the Municipal Election Commission for the three seats on City Council in the forthcoming General Election on April 25, 2023.

Democratic Party: Richard Adams, Councilmember

Republican Party: David B. Buck, Councilmember  
Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember  
Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember

No other candidates have qualified by nomination or petition.

Sincerely,

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Ben Watson - Chairman

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Alpha Dunbar

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Carleton Vaughn

**TIMELINE - GENERAL ELECTION - APRIL 25, 2023**

*(Last Tuesday in April)*

- 90 Days January 25, 2023, Wednesday
- 75 Days February 9, 2023, Thursday
- 60 Days February 24, 2023, Friday

DATE	ACTION
Mon., Oct. 3, 2022	Ordinance establishing Election dates, 1st reading
Mon., Oct. 17, 2022	Ordinance establishing Election dates, 2nd reading
Tues., Oct. 24, 2022	Mail copy of Ordinance to Republican Party and Democratic Party- <b>the next day after meeting</b>
Tues., Nov. 29, 2022	<b>MEC Meeting</b> - Oath of Office for new Commissioners; Partner w/ Aiken Co. for a portion of Election
Wed., Nov. 30, 2022	Send Notice of Election Dates to NA STAR to publish the next WED - <b>see next line for 2025 DATES</b>
Wed., Dec. 11, 2022	Publish the Notice of Election Dates the following week after Council Meeting (NA STAR); put on website
Mon., Dec. 12, 2022	Entry into Party Primaries/Conventions
Mon., Dec. 19, 2022	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)
<b>Wed., Jan. 18, 2023</b>	<b>MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice</b>
<b>Wed., Jan. 31, 2023</b>	<b>MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice; Review Election App with K. Whaley</b>
Tues., Feb. 7, 2023	<b>Primary Election Date (Tuesday date)</b>
Tues., Feb. 7, 2023	Party Convention deadline
<b>Wed., Feb. 1, 2023</b>	<b>Send Notice to NA STAR to publish the next WED</b>
<b>Wed., Feb. 8, 2023</b>	<b>Publish 1st Election Notice - (NA STAR); Post on website</b>
Wed., Feb. 8, 2023	Deadline for Nominating Petition to MEC - Noon (75 days or more before Election)
Tues., Feb. 21, 2023	Primary Election Run-Off ; if needed (2 weeks after Primacy/ 3 days before MEC Certification)
<b>Wed., Feb. 15, 2023</b>	<b>Send Notice to NA STAR to publish the next WED</b>
<b>Wed., Feb. 22, 2023</b>	<b>Publish 2nd Election Notice -2 weeks after 1st (NA STAR); Post on website</b>
Fri., Feb. 24, 2023	Deadline for Party Certification to MEC - Noon (no later than 60 days prior to Election)
Mon., Feb. 27, 2023	Deadline for MEC Certification to Council (Letter signed by MEC) - <i>will deliver to City Clerk prior to Friday, 2/24</i>
Wed., Apr. 5, 2023	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.)
<b>Wed., Apr. 5, 2023</b>	<b>Send Notice to NA STAR to publish the next WED</b>
<b>Wed., Apr. 12, 2023</b>	<b>MEC Meeting-Distribute Precinct Signs</b>
<b>Wed., Apr. 12, 2023</b>	<b>Publish 3rd Election Notice - week prior to Election (NA Star); Post on website. ALSO - Contact Judge Murphy about swearing in candidates on May 1, 2023</b>
M-Th, Apr. 17-20, 2023	In-Person Absentee Voting; 9:00 am-4:00 pm; NA Community Center (Aiken Co Board of Reg. & Elections)
Mon., Apr. 24, 2023	Post Precinct Signs; Post Election App on Social Media; "Deliver "Public Safety Pick-up Cards" to PS
Tues., Apr. 25, 2023	<b>General Election (with a run-off, if necessary, on May 9, 2023)</b>
<b>Thurs., Apr. 27, 2023</b>	<b>MEC Hearing on contested ballots (11:00 am)</b>
Fri., Apr. 28, 2023	Official Results delivered to City Clerk (Letter signed by MEC)
Mon., May 1, 2023	Certification of Official Results at City Council Meeting; Council Acceptance by Motion; Swearing in of Candidates; Elect Mayor Pro Tempore (when applicable)
Mon., May 1, 2023	Email "Successful Candidates" form to State Ethics Commission (no later than 5 days after election)