



MINUTES

Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 6:00 PM

South Congaree-Pine Ridge Branch Library
200 Sunset Drive, West Columbia, SC 29172

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Cindy Campbell, Mayor
Kitty Spires, Mayor Pro Tem
Brian Jackson
Debbie McIver
Dwayne Prosser

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Crystal Bouknight, Town Administrator
Kelli Ricard, Town Clerk

MEDIA NOTIFICATION:

The agenda was posted at Town Hall and The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, The Columbia Star, COLADaily.com, radio, and television stations were all notified by email on July 21, 2025.

I. Call to Order.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present.
Mayor Campbell led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

II. New Business

- a. Mayor Campbell entertained a motion for First Reading Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Title 3, Chapter 34, Section 2 of the Town of South Congaree Code of Ordinances Regarding Municipal Elections. Council Member McIver motioned to amend the ordinance for municipal elections from April 26, 2026, to November 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Spires seconded the motion.

Council Member McIver stated that moving the election day from April 7, 2026, to November 2025 will save the town money and make the election more accessible to voters. All of Council will be sacrificing six months of their terms to save the town money.

Council Member Prosser pointed out that all other municipalities in Lexington County, except South Congaree and one other, hold their elections in November on odd years. South Congaree had the option to move the election to November 2025 or November 2027. Council Member McIver commented that waiting until 2027 will extend the Council's terms by a year and a half. Council Member Prosser stated he was in favor of moving the election date so that constituents could go to their usual voting place instead of the town hall, which would help eliminate confusion.

Council Member Prosser stated that if the Council moved the election to November 2025, the Council and Staff would need to publicize the move very well. Town Administrator Crystal Bouknight stated that, along with staff efforts, the Lexington County Election Commission would promote the new date of the election. She also said the 2025 candidate filing period would be held at a different time than usual to give additional time for candidates to prepare for the election. The regular filing period would be August 5 – 15, 2025. The postponed filing period would be August 21 – September 4, 2025, still meeting the state statute of sixty days before the election. She stated the Lexington County Election Commission would run the candidate filing period in the paper for two weeks to publicize. Council Member McIver reiterated that the Town should not extend the four-year term to a five-and-a-half-year term.

Mayor Campbell stated that hosting the election in April causes the election to be deemed a Special Election. The cost is split between the two municipalities in Lexington County that still host their elections in April. A Special Election costs the Town approximately \$4200.00.

Mayor Pro Tem Spires stated she believed the Council was jumping into something without thinking it through. She did not believe everyone would be notified because most people would throw away a mailing. She felt moving the election to November was the best for the Town; however, she stated that moving it to November 2025 would cause more stress on the Town Staff. Mayor Pro Tem Spires listed cost savings for the Town, better voter turnout, and reduced confusion for citizens as benefits of moving the election to November 2027.

Council Member Jackson stated that if Council and Staff worked together, the Town could make it happen.

Council Member McIver stated she understood it was a rush to move the election to November of 2025, but waiting until November of 2027 takes away the citizens' right to vote for a four-year term.

After more discussion, Mayor Campbell called for the vote to move the election to November 2025. She stated the second reading would be held on July 29, 2025, during a Special Council Meeting at Town Hall.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comments

Mayor Campbell recognized Mr. James Galluzzo of Jeremy Bay Road. Mr. Galluzzo stated he had witnessed elections all over the world and felt moving the election to this November was the right thing to do. He believed that limiting terms to four years was best for the town. The last election in South Congaree showed a sixty-six percent voter turnout in November because the citizens could go to their usual polling places. He believes changing to November would boost voter turnout.

IV. Adjournment

Mayor Campbell entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Prosser seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

The motion passed unanimously.



Kelli Ricard, Town Clerk



Cindy Campbell, Mayor

Date Approved: 8.19.25