



Awendaw Town Council Special Called **VIRTUAL Meeting
January 15, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

- 1. Open meeting with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Civility Pledge:** *Mayor Crolley opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with the Our Father Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Town Administrator Katharine Watkins was asked to read the Civility Pledge.*
- 2. Roll Call: Virtual Attendees present were:** *Atty Mac McQuillin, Mayor Chris Crolley, Council Persons: Wendy Helms, Grace Gaspar, John Timmons, Rodney Porcher, and Kent Prause. Councilman Brown was absent.*
- 3. Approval of the Special-Called Meeting Agenda:** *Councilman Prause moved to approve the Special-Called Meeting Agenda, and Councilwoman Gaspar seconded it; all voted in favor by roll call.*
- 4. Executive session pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(1) and (a)(2) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and councilmember interactions with staff and to receive legal advice covered by the attorney client privilege concerning ordinances being considered for first reading, retention of counsel for potential claim, and update on pending arbitration claim brought by Town. Council may take any action as required following the executive session.**

Mayor Chris Crolley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:18 PM – pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(1) and (a)(2) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and councilmember interactions with staff and to receive legal advice covered by the attorney client privilege concerning ordinances being considered for first reading, retention of counsel for potential claim, and update on pending arbitration claim brought by Town. It was seconded by Councilman Timmons.

Councilwoman Helms made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 8:45 PM, which was seconded by Councilwoman Gaspar. All in favor by roll call: Mayor Chris Crolley, Council Persons: Wendy Helms, Grace Gaspar, John Timmons, Rodney Porcher, and Kent Prause. " Due to technical difficulties, Councilwoman Gaspar took over running of the meeting as Mayor Pro-Tem"

Wendy Helms made the following motion: "Council makes a motion to retain legal counsel on the legal matter presented in executive session and authorizes the Town Administrator to execute the engagement letter"; John Timmons seconded. Roll Call vote, all in favor.

- 5. Public Comment:** *Willette Hockaday emailed her comments to Katharine Watkins, which she read for Council and the public. See Attached.*
- 6. Ordinances for First Readings (Read by Atty Mac McQuillin)**
 - a. Ordinance 2026-05: An ordinance of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, to amend**

Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 153: Zoning Code, Subdivision Regulations Division, Section 153.305 Water and Sewage Disposal of the Code of the Town of Awendaw.

Councilwoman Helms made a motion to accept the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-05: An ordinance of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, to amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 153: Zoning Code, Subdivision Regulations Division, Section 153.305 Water and Sewage Disposal of the Code of the Town of Awendaw, and it was seconded by Councilman Timmons. All in favor by roll call: Mayor Chris Crolley, Council Persons: Wendy Helms, Grace Gaspar, John Timmons, Rodney Porcher, and Kent Prause.

- b. Ordinance 2026-06: An Ordinance of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, to Amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 153: Zoning Code, General Provisions of the Code of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, by Amending Section 153.009 Definitions, adopting a new Section 153.065 Lighting Regulations, along with new Sections 153.066 through 153.070 thereto, providing for New Lighting Regulations.**

Councilwoman Helms made a motion to accept the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-06: An Ordinance of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, to Amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 153: Zoning Code, General Provisions of the Code of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, by Amending Section 153.009 Definitions, adopting a new Section 153.065 Lighting Regulations, along with new Sections 153.066 through 153.070 thereto, providing for New Lighting Regulations, and it was seconded by Councilman Prause. All in favor by roll call: Mayor Chris Crolley, Council Persons: Wendy Helms, Grace Gaspar, John Timmons, Rodney Porcher, and Kent Prause.

- c. Ordinance 2026-07: An Ordinance of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, to Amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 153: Zoning Code, Wetlands and Waterways Setbacks Division of the Code of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, by renaming the Division thereof to Wetlands Protection and repealing the Existing Section 153.225 thereto and adding a New Section 153.225, along with New Sections 153.226 through 153.238 thereto, Providing for the Protection of Tidal and Freshwater Wetlands, and all Effected Sections for Clarity; Section 153.009 Definitions to Include Proposed Definitions, Section 153.025 through 153.032 “Description of Zoning Districts” to reference the Wetlands Standards.**

Councilwoman Helms made a motion to accept the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-07: An Ordinance of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, to Amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 153: Zoning Code, Wetlands and Waterways Setbacks Division of the Code of the Town of Awendaw, South Carolina, by renaming the Division thereof to Wetlands Protection and repealing the Existing Section 153.225 thereto and adding a New Section 153.225, along with New Sections 153.226 through 153.238 thereto, Providing for the Protection of Tidal and Freshwater Wetlands, and all Effected Sections for Clarity; Section 153.009 Definitions to Include Proposed Definitions, Section 153.025 through 153.032 “Description of Zoning Districts” to reference the Wetlands Standards, and it was seconded by Councilman Prause. All in favor by roll call: Mayor Chris Crolley, Council Persons: Wendy Helms, Grace Gaspar, John Timmons, Rodney Porcher, and Kent Prause.

- 7. Adjournment:** *Councilwoman Helms made a motion for adjournment, and Councilman Timmons seconded it. All voted in favor. Mayor Chris Crolley, Council Persons: Wendy Helms, Grace Gaspar, John Timmons, Rodney Porcher, and Kent Prause. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.*

Public Comments