

Minutes
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

The meeting of the Mullins City Council was held April 14, 2026, at 5:30 PM. The following were notified of the time, date, and place of the meeting: Mayor Miko Pickett and Members of the City Council, the City Staff, and the press. Present at the meeting were the following: Mayor Miko Pickett, Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson, Council Members: Luke Gasque, Kindra Brewton-Pompey, Albert Woodberry, Terry Davis, Eddie Kitchen, Attorney Jim Bain, City Administrator Holly Jackson and many others.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order & Welcome:** Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Council Member Luke Gasque led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Eddie Kitchen gave the Invocation.

- 2. Disclosure that local media has been informed of meeting pursuant to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act:** Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson stated the local media had been contacted regarding the time, date, and place of the City Council Meeting for Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

- 3. Consent Agenda:**

- (f) Approval of Minutes –City Council Meeting – March 10, 2026
- (g) Approval of Minutes – Special City Council Meeting – March 18, 2026
- (h) Approval of Minutes – Special City Council Meeting – March 27, 2026
- (i) Approval of Minutes – Recreation Committee Meeting – March 31, 2026
- (j) Approval of Minutes – Special City Council Meeting – April 6, 2026

Council Member Eddie Kitchen made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Council Member Kindra Brewton-Pompey seconded the motion. Mayor Miko Pickett and Council Member Terry Davis nayed this motion.

- 4. Old Business:**

1ST Reading of Ordinance #2026-004, "AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION #2026-003 AS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MULLINS, SOUTH CAROLINA".

Council Member Kindra Brewton Pompey made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #2026-004 "AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION #2026-003 AS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MULLINS, SOUTH CAROLINA." Council Member Eddie Kitchen seconded the motion. Mayor Miko Pickett and Council Member Terry Davis nayed this motion. Mayor Pickett requested a hearing for Ordinance #2026-004 / Resolution #2026-003.

Final Reading of Ordinance #2026-005, "AN ORDINANCE TO CLARIFY AND CORRECT PROVISIONS OF SECTION 02-08-100 (b) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MULLINS, SOUTH CAROLINA".

Mayor Miko Pickett moved to Table this final reading, Council Member Terry Davis seconded it. Council Members: Luke Gasque, Albert Woodberry, Kindra Brewton Pompey, Eddie Kitchen and Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson nayed this motion.

Council Member Kindra Brewton Pompey made a motion to accept the Final Reading of Ordinance #2026-005, "AN ORDINANCE TO CLARIFY AND CORRECT PROVISIONS OF SECTION 02-08-100 (b) OF

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THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MULLINS, SOUTH CAROLINA". Council Member Luke Gasque seconded the motion. During Council vote a motion was made to table this reading and was unanimously agreed upon.

Mayor Miko Pickett took this opportunity to read a prepared statement that will be included with these minutes, as did Council Member Terry Davis.

5. New Business:

City Administrator Holly Jackson gave a report on the PDCOG House Demolition, bids are due April 30, 2026. Discussed solutions to the over abundance of building and house trash. The sale of timber and the sale of the garage on Gapway Street are complete. Opening Day for the Recreation Departments Summer Leagues was announced. There will be a community-wide yard sale scheduled for May 2, 2026.

6. Comments:

PDRTA gave a report on the usage of the buses in the Mullins area and made a request for a budget item of \$30,000 to help support PDRTA.

Presentation given by a new business locating inside City limits working with Clemson about community supported agriculture.

7. Adjournment:

Council Member Eddie Kitchen made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Miko Pickett seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson

Attest:

Holly C Jackson

Opening Statement – Councilwoman Terry Delora Davis

Let's be honest about what's happening here—because the people of Mullins deserve the truth.

There has been talk about “cleaning up” an ordinance due to conflicting language about runoff versus plurality voting. If there is an error, then fix it. Make it reflect what we already do today—which is a runoff system.

But let's not use that as a cover.

Because that is **not** the real issue.

The real issue is this attempt to move our election from November—when the people show up—to April—when they don't.

That is not a minor adjustment. That is a fundamental change to how and when the people of this city have their voice heard.

And let me be clear: when you move an election to a time when fewer people vote, you are not increasing access—you are limiting it.

Call it what it is.

This is not about efficiency.

This is not about cleanup.

This is about control.

The people of Mullins have a right to vote when turnout is highest, when awareness is highest, and when their voices are strongest—and that is in November.

We should not be in the business of making it easier for fewer people to decide for everyone else.

Our job is to protect the voice of the people—not quietly move it to a time where it's easier to silence.

I will support correcting what is broken.

But I will not support changing something that is working—at the expense of the people we were elected to serve.

And if a decision makes it harder for the people to vote, then it is the wrong decision—plain and simple.

Thank you.

Statement by Mayor Miko Pickett
City Council Meeting – Prior to Final Vote on Election Date Change

Let me begin by saying clearly and without hesitation:
I support correcting any inconsistencies or technical flaws within our ordinances. That is our duty—to ensure our laws are accurate, enforceable, and reflect what is actually being practiced.

However, what is before us tonight goes far beyond a simple correction.

This ordinance does not merely fix language.
It fundamentally changes the date on which the citizens of Mullins exercise their constitutional right to vote.

And that is where I must strongly object.

From a legal standpoint, this action raises serious concerns:

First, the right to vote is a protected constitutional right, and any action that alters access, timing, or participation must meet a higher level of scrutiny. Courts have consistently recognized that even administrative changes—such as election timing—can have a disproportionate impact on voter participation.

Second, shifting elections from November to April of odd-numbered years removes our citizens from the highest-turnout election cycle.

When fewer people vote, representation becomes narrower.

And when representation becomes narrower, public trust and legitimacy are weakened.

Third—and critically—we must address process, authority, and transparency.

Under City Ordinance Section 2.24.010, the city attorney acts only at the direction of City Council or the Mayor. To date, there has been no clear, documented vote in open session authorizing the initiation of this election change.

That raises a serious question:

Who directed this process—and when?

Equally concerning is the lack of transparency throughout this entire process.

Where is the documentation of:

Any meetings held regarding this change?

Any formal or informal discussions?

Any communications, including emails or text messages, that initiated or advanced this effort?

If decisions of this magnitude are being shaped outside of publicly documented meetings, then we are not just facing a policy issue—
we are facing a transparency issue.

The citizens of Mullins have a right to know:

When this began

Who was involved

And how we arrived at this point

Anything less undermines confidence in this body and raises legitimate concerns regarding compliance with open government principles.

Additionally, the historical record matters.

A similar ordinance in 2004 was identified as flawed and was never implemented due to federal preclearance requirements under the Voting Rights Act framework at that time.

That is not just history—that is a warning.

And precedent should guide caution, not repetition.

We must also acknowledge ethical implications.

The South Carolina Ethics Commission has made clear that elected officials must avoid actions that could be perceived as self-serving or that alter election conditions in a way that limits voter participation.

Changing the election date in a way that results in lower turnout—while extending current terms, even temporarily—creates, at minimum, the appearance of impropriety.

And perception matters when it comes to public trust.

Further, opinions from the South Carolina Attorney General reinforce that municipalities must operate within clearly defined statutory authority when altering election structures, and must ensure such changes do not conflict with state law or diminish voter access.

So we must ask:

Have we fully complied with state law?

Have we ensured proper coordination with the Marion County Election Commission?

And most importantly—have we been fully transparent with the people we serve?

Because at its core—this is not about us.

This is about the people.

The people of Mullins have voted in November for decades—when turnout is highest, when engagement is strongest, and when the full voice of the community is heard.

To change that now—without overwhelming public demand, without clear legal necessity, and without full transparency—is not reform.

It is a risk.

So let me be clear:

- ✓ Fix the ordinance.
- ✓ Correct the language.
- ✓ Ensure legal compliance.

But do not use this process to change when our citizens vote—especially under a cloud of unanswered questions and incomplete transparency.

If this process cannot stand up to full transparency—then it should not stand at all.

And if this vote makes it harder for the people to be heard—

then it is the wrong vote.

Mullins deserves better.

And our citizens deserve to vote in November.

Thank you.

Miko Pickett
Mayor – City of Mullins



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