

**TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH  
TOWN COUNCIL EMERGENCY  
CALLED MEETING**

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**Friday, November 10, 2023**

**12:30 p.m.**

The Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council Emergency Called meeting was held and recorded at Atlantic Beach Community Center, 1010 32nd Avenue South, Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, on the 10th day of November, 2023, and transcribed by Amanda Godfrey, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.



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**APPEARANCES**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS :**

Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman  
Councilman Edward Lamar Campbell  
Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Ison  
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore

**ADMINISTRATION :**

Benjamin Quattlebaum Jr., Town Manager  
Cheryl Pereira, Town Clerk

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1 **Call to Order:**

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** This special called Town Council  
3 meeting is called to order this Friday,  
4 November 10th at -- 2023 -- Town Council  
5 emergency called meeting is called to order  
6 this Friday, November the 10th at 12:30 p.m.  
7 Roll call.

8 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

9 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Here.

10 **CLERK:** Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

11 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Here.

12 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

13 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Here.

14 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

15 **MAYOR EVANS:** Here. Council, I seek a motion to go  
16 into our Executive Session for the Municipal  
17 Election Commission.

18 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** So moved ---

19 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved -- second.

20 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and second to go into  
21 Executive Session for the Municipal Election  
22 Commission. If there are no other questions or  
23 comments, roll call.

24 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

25 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yea.



1 **CLERK:** Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

2 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

3 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

4 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

5 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted.

7 **Executive Session:**

8 **(Executive Session.)**

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Council, I seek a motion to come out  
10 of Executive Session into the regular session  
11 of the special session meeting.

12 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

13 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Second.

14 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and there's a second  
15 to come out of Executive Session into the  
16 regular session of this special called meeting.  
17 Any other questions or comments? Roll call.

18 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

19 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yea.

20 **CLERK:** Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

21 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

22 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

23 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

24 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion is granted.



1 General Session:

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** We're now in the regular session of  
3 the meeting and what was discussed in Executive  
4 Session, as you see on the agenda, is the  
5 Municipal Election Commission. What we have  
6 here is a couple of state law violations that  
7 we believe that our Municipal Election  
8 Commission is in violation of. This one state  
9 law, Section 7-13-75 reads members of local  
10 boards of voter registration and elections  
11 political activity prohibited, and it goes on  
12 to read no member of a county or municipal  
13 board of voter registration and elections may  
14 participate in political management or in a  
15 political campaign over whose election the  
16 member has jurisdiction during the member's  
17 term of office. No member may make a  
18 contribution to a candidate or knowingly attend  
19 a fundraiser held for the benefit of a  
20 candidate over whose election the member has  
21 jurisdiction. Violation of this section  
22 subjects the member to removal by the Governor  
23 or appropriate appointive authority. I do  
24 believe that there's reason to believe that our  
25 Election Commission is in violation of that



1 state law. Okay, there is another violation as  
2 well that we believe we may be in violation of  
3 here, and this comes to me in the form of a  
4 letter from Mr. Paul Curry and it reads re  
5 removal for cause of Municipal Election  
6 Chairperson Joseph Elliot Montgomery. Dear  
7 Mayor Evans, I write to recommend the removal  
8 for cause of Joseph Elliot Montgomery from the  
9 Town of Atlantic Beach Election Commission.  
10 South Carolina Code of Law Section 7-25-108(A)  
11 (sic) reads -- Section 7-25-180, unlawful  
12 distribution of campaign literature. (A), it  
13 is unlawful for a person to distribute any type  
14 of campaign literature or place any political  
15 posters within 500 feet of any entrance used by  
16 the voters to enter the polling place during  
17 polling hours on election day and during the  
18 early voting period. The poll manager shall  
19 use every reasonable means to keep the area  
20 within 500 feet of any such entrance clear of  
21 political literature and displays, and the  
22 county and municipal law enforcement officers  
23 upon request of a poll manager shall remove or  
24 cause to be removed by, any material within 500  
25 feet of any such entrance and distributed or



1 displayed in violation of this section. During  
2 polling hours on election day for the Mayor and  
3 two Council seats for the Town, I drove towards  
4 the Atlantic Beach precinct poll location at  
5 the Town of Atlantic Beach Community Center,  
6 1010 32nd Avenue South. Upon turning onto 32nd  
7 from US 17 South, I noticed that there were  
8 campaign signs along either side of 32nd Avenue  
9 South state-owned public right-of-way from  
10 Highway 17 to 4th Street and along 4th to 31st  
11 Avenue South. From the Horry County GIS,  
12 Geographical Information Service (sic) website,  
13 500 feet from the front entrance of the  
14 Community Center extends to just short of the  
15 travel portion of Highway 17 and to 31. Upon  
16 arrival at the Community Center, I informed Joe  
17 Montgomery of state laws, election requirement  
18 and of the GIS measurement obtained from the  
19 county website. Joe Montgomery's response was  
20 arrogant, dismissive of the state law  
21 violation. Upon information and belief, Joe  
22 Montgomery made no immediate effort in his  
23 capacity as the Municipal Election Chairperson  
24 to have the offending campaign signs removed  
25 from within 500 feet of the entrance to the



1 Community Center. So that's the second state  
2 law that I think we may be in violation of and,  
3 of course, this morning there was a hearing  
4 here and I'm estimating it may have went on  
5 maybe at least 30 minutes before I brought to  
6 their attention that no one was recording this  
7 meeting this morning. And there were people's  
8 ballots that they voted spread out over this  
9 table here where Cheryl is and Kenneth's  
10 sitting there going through them -- and there's  
11 a lot of action going on of course. No  
12 stenographer, anything being recorded. When I  
13 bring this to the attention of the Election  
14 Commission Chairperson, the response is he has  
15 the other chair -- the other member taking  
16 notes, Kenneth McIver is supposed to be taking  
17 notes of what's going on. So evidently, they  
18 finally realized that there was some violations  
19 or something they thought they shouldn't be  
20 doing so they called a roll and they ended the  
21 meeting so that's why we are here today. So,  
22 Council, I'm going to put a motion on the floor  
23 that this Election Commission be totally  
24 removed. Council, I seek a motion to remove  
25 Atlantic Beach's Municipal Election Commission.





1 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

2 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second.

3 MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second on the  
4 floor to remove Atlantic Beach's Municipal  
5 Election Commission. Any other questions or  
6 comments? If not, roll call.

7 CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

8 COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Nay.

9 CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

10 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

11 CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

12 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

13 CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

14 MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion's granted. Council,  
15 I seek a motion to adjourn.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

17 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second.

18 MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second to adjourn. Roll  
19 call.

20 CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

21 COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.

22 CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

23 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

24 CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

25 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.



1 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted. This  
3 meeting is ending at -- what time is it?

4 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** It's 12:10.

5 **MAYOR EVANS:** 12: -- what time?

6 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** 12:53.

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** 12:53. Thank you.

8 (There being nothing further, the meeting was  
9 adjourned.)

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**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify the transcript of the Emergency Atlantic Beach Town Meeting consists of ten (10) pages. This transcript was prepared by me without the benefit of my being present during the meeting. Additionally, this transcript was prepared from a audio recording provided to me.

I further certify that I am neither employed by nor related to any of the parties in this matter or their counsel; nor do I have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the outcome of same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this November 13, 2023.



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Carla S. Dominick  
Court Reporter

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: February 28, 2032

