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.
APPEARANCES

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mayor Jake Evans, Chairman
Councilman Edward Lamar Campbell
Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom
Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore

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

INDEX

Call to Order .............................................. 3
Executive Session ................................. 4
General Session ................................. 5
Certificate ................................. 11
EMERGENCY MEETING

Call to Order:

MAYOR EVANS: This special called Town Council meeting is called to order this Friday, November 10th at -- 2023 -- Town Council emergency called meeting is called to order this Friday, November the 10th at 12:30 p.m.

Roll call.

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Here.

CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Here.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Here.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

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

MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: So moved ---

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved -- second.

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

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.
EMERGENCY MEETING

Clerk: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

Mayor Pro Tem Isom: Yea.

Clerk: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

Councilwoman Gore: Yea.

Clerk: Mayor Jake Evans?

Mayor Evans: Yea. The motion's granted.

Executive Session:

(Executive Session.)

Mayor Evans: Council, I seek a motion to come out of Executive Session into the regular session of the special session meeting.

Councilwoman Gore: So moved.

Mayor Pro Tem Isom: Second.

Mayor Evans: There's a motion and there's a second to come out of Executive Session into the regular session of this special called meeting.

Any other questions or comments? Roll call.

Clerk: Councilman Edward Campbell?

Councilman Campbell: Yea.

Clerk: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

Mayor Pro Tem Isom: Yea.

Clerk: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

Councilwoman Gore: Yea.

Clerk: Mayor Jake Evans?

Mayor Evans: Yea. The motion is granted.
General Session:

MAYOR EVANS: We're now in the regular session of the meeting and what was discussed in Executive Session, as you see on the agenda, is the Municipal Election Commission. What we have here is a couple of state law violations that we believe that our Municipal Election Commission is in violation of. This one state law, Section 7-13-75 reads members of local boards of voter registration and elections political activity prohibited, and it goes on to read no member of a county or municipal board of voter registration and elections may participate in political management or in a political campaign over whose election the member has jurisdiction during the member's term of office. No member may make a contribution to a candidate or knowingly attend a fundraiser held for the benefit of a candidate over whose election the member has jurisdiction. Violation of this section subjects the member to removal by the Governor or appropriate appointive authority. I do believe that there's reason to believe that our Election Commission is in violation of that
state law. Okay, there is another violation as well that we believe we may be in violation of here, and this comes to me in the form of a letter from Mr. Paul Curry and it reads re removal for cause of Municipal Election Chairperson Joseph Elliot Montgomery. Dear Mayor Evans, I write to recommend the removal for cause of Joseph Elliot Montgomery from the Town of Atlantic Beach Election Commission. South Carolina Code of Law Section 7-25-108(A) (sic) reads -- Section 7-25-180, unlawful distribution of campaign literature. (A), it is unlawful for a person to distribute any type of campaign literature or place any political posters within 500 feet of any entrance used by the voters to enter the polling place during polling hours on election day and during the early voting period. The poll manager shall use every reasonable means to keep the area within 500 feet of any such entrance clear of political literature and displays, and the county and municipal law enforcement officers upon request of a poll manager shall remove or cause to be removed by, any material within 500 feet of any such entrance and distributed or
displayed in violation of this section. During polling hours on election day for the Mayor and two Council seats for the Town, I drove towards the Atlantic Beach precinct poll location at the Town of Atlantic Beach Community Center, 1010 32nd Avenue South. Upon turning onto 32nd from US 17 South, I noticed that there were campaign signs along either side of 32nd Avenue South state-owned public right-of-way from Highway 17 to 4th Street and along 4th to 31st Avenue South. From the Horry County GIS, Geographical Information Service (sic) website, 500 feet from the front entrance of the Community Center extends to just short of the travel portion of Highway 17 and to 31. Upon arrival at the Community Center, I informed Joe Montgomery of state laws, election requirement and of the GIS measurement obtained from the county website. Joe Montgomery's response was arrogant, dismissive of the state law violation. Upon information and belief, Joe Montgomery made no immediate effort in his capacity as the Municipal Election Chairperson to have the offending campaign signs removed from within 500 feet of the entrance to the
Community Center. So that's the second state law that I think we may be in violation of and, of course, this morning there was a hearing here and I'm estimating it may have went on maybe at least 30 minutes before I brought to their attention that no one was recording this meeting this morning. And there were people's ballots that they voted spread out over this table here where Cheryl is and Kenneth's sitting there going through them -- and there's a lot of action going on of course. No stenographer, anything being recorded. When I bring this to the attention of the Election Commission Chairperson, the response is he has the other chair -- the other member taking notes, Kenneth McIver is supposed to be taking notes of what's going on. So evidently, they finally realized that there was some violations or something they thought they shouldn't be doing so they called a roll and they ended the meeting so that's why we are here today. So, Council, I'm going to put a motion on the floor that this Election Commission be totally removed. Council, I seek a motion to remove Atlantic Beach's Municipal Election Commission.
EMERGENCY MEETING

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second.

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

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Nay.

CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

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

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second.

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

CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell?

COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL: Yea.

CLERK: Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom?

MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.
EMERGENCY MEETING

CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

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

FEMALE SPEAKER: It's 12:10.

MAYOR EVANS: 12: -- what time?

FEMALE SPEAKER: 12:53.

MAYOR EVANS: 12:53. Thank you.

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

[Signature]

Carla S. Dominick
Court Reporter

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