

**TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH  
SPECIAL SESSION  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday, May 9, 2024**

**2:00 p.m.**

The Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council meeting was held and recorded at Atlantic Beach Community Center, 1010 32nd Avenue South, Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, on the 9th day of May, 2024, and transcribed by Amanda Godfrey, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.



**CREEL COURT REPORTING, INC.**  
1230 Richland Street / Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 252-3445 / [contact@creelreporting.com](mailto:contact@creelreporting.com)

**APPEARANCES**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS :**

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

**ADMINISTRATION :**

Cheryl Pereira, Clerk

**INDEX**

	<b><u>PAGE :</u></b>
Call to Order . . . . .	3
Executive Session . . . . .	6
Special Session . . . . .	7
New Business . . . . .	9
Public Time . . . . .	13
Certificate . . . . .	23



1 Call to Order:

2 **MAYOR EVANS:** Well, good -- good evening, everyone.

3 **IN UNISON:** Good evening.

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** Before we begin tonight's Council  
5 meeting, as Mayor I need to address the  
6 situation regarding the contested election  
7 results for the open Council seat. As you  
8 know, Carla Taylor was provisionally sworn in  
9 after the election but her opponent has filed  
10 a legal challenge questioning the eligibility  
11 of several voters. Under South Carolina law,  
12 specifically Section 5-10-120 of the State  
13 Code, a candidate is only entitled to take  
14 office after the election is fully resolved,  
15 certified by the election commission and no  
16 further appeals or contests remain. The South  
17 Carolina Supreme Court has held in Prior versus  
18 White that an elected official cannot exercise  
19 any official duties until the election is fully  
20 validated and certified, which includes the  
21 resolution of any pending legal challenges or  
22 appeals. Therefore, while Ms. Taylor is  
23 welcome to be present for today's proceedings,  
24 she cannot officially participate, vote or be  
25 counted towards establishing a quorum until the



1 legal contest over her election is fully  
2 resolved by the courts. We are obligated to  
3 allow the judicial process to take its course  
4 before rendering any decisions that could be  
5 viewed as premature validation of the disputed  
6 election results. I know this is an  
7 uncomfortable situation but we must respect the  
8 rule of the law and electoral processes that  
9 underpin our democracy. Once this matter is  
10 conclusively decided by the courts, we will of  
11 course abide by their final ruling. Until  
12 then, we will proceed tonight with the  
13 remaining duly-elected and certified Council  
14 members. Thank you for your understanding, and  
15 unfortunately, any attempts to disrupt this  
16 meeting prior to a judicial decision being  
17 rendered are subject to being removed by law  
18 enforcement. This Town Council Executive and  
19 Special Session meeting is called to order this  
20 Thursday, May 9th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Roll  
21 call.

22 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell? Mayor Pro Tem  
23 Josephine Isom?

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

25 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?



1 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Here.

2 CLERK: Councilman John David?

3 COUNCILMAN DAVID: Here.

4 CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

5 MAYOR EVANS: Here. Council, I seek a motion to go  
6 into Executive Session for legal,  
7 administrative contract for Interim Town  
8 Manager and legal -- contract with legal  
9 counsel and authorization to defend the Town on  
10 pending legal matters. Council, seek a motion  
11 to go into Executive Session for those items.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: So moved.

13 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Second ---

14 COUNCILMAN DAVID: I move to amend ---

15 MAYOR EVANS: Motion and a second to go into  
16 Executive Session -- order.

17 COUNCILMAN DAVID: I ---

18 MAYOR EVANS: Order ---

19 COUNCILMAN DAVID: I move to amend ---

20 MAYOR EVANS: There's a motion and a second on the  
21 floor ---

22 COUNCILMAN DAVID: I move to amend ---

23 MAYOR EVANS: --- to go into Executive Session for  
24 the legal matters. Any other questions or  
25 comments ---



1 COUNCILMAN DAVID: I -- yes, I move to amend the  
2 previous motion.

3 MS. TAYLOR: I second ---

4 MAYOR EVANS: Roll call ---

5 COUNCILMAN DAVID: So with the previous ---

6 CLERK: Councilman Edward Campbell? Mayor Pro Tem  
7 Josephine Isom?

8 MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM: Yea.

9 CLERK: Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

10 COUNCILWOMAN GORE: Yea.

11 CLERK: Councilman John David?

12 COUNCILMAN DAVID: (No verbal response.)

13 CLERK: Mayor Jake Evans?

14 MAYOR EVANS: Yea. The motion's granted. We're now  
15 going into our Executive Session. And Council,  
16 the Executive Session will take place here at  
17 this table so we're gonna have to ask you guys  
18 to excuse yourself while we go into our  
19 Executive Session. Thank you for your  
20 understanding.

21 Executive Session:

22 (Executive Session.)

23 MAYOR EVANS: Council, I'm seeking a motion to come  
24 out of the Executive Session into the Special  
25 Session.



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 come out of the Executive Session into  
5                    the Special Session.   Any other questions or  
6                    comments?   If not, roll call.

7       **CLERK:**    Councilman Edward Campbell?

8       **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:**   Here.

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

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

11      **CLERK:**    Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

12      **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:**   Yea.

13      **CLERK:**    Councilman John David?

14      **COUNCILMAN DAVID:**   No.

15      **CLERK:**    Mayor Jake Evans?

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

17      **Special Session:**

18      **MAYOR EVANS:**    We're now out of the Executive Session  
19                    and into the Special Session of the meeting.  
20                    First and foremost, I want to welcome the  
21                    general public and ask at this time if you have  
22                    any cell phones or devices that may disturb the  
23                    proceedings, silence those for us at this time  
24                    please.   And if you would, stand for a moment  
25                    of silence.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

(Moment of Silence.)

**MAYOR EVANS:** And if you would, a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.)

**MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to ceremonial matters, Council.

(Inaudible background noise.)

**MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, the approval of the agenda. Council, seek a motion for the approval of the agenda.

**COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

**COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Second.

**MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second on the floor for the approval of the agenda. Any other questions or comments? If not, roll call.

**CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

**COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** No.

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

**MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Yea.

**CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

**COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

**CLERK:** Councilman John David?

**COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

**CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

**MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion's granted for the





1 approval of the agenda. We're down to Old  
2 Business, there's none.

3 **New Business:**

4 **MAYOR EVANS:** And under our New Business ---

5 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I move to nominate ---

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** --- (inaudible) ---

7 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I move to nominate Ms. Linda  
8 Cheatham as the Interim Town Manager.

9 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Go ahead, Jake.

10 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** I second.

11 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** (Inaudible). Go ahead.

12 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Call for the vote.

13 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

14 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Roll call.

15 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** Roll call.

16 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

17 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** Yea.

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

19 **MAYOR PRO TEM ISOM:** Nay.

20 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

21 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Nay.

22 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

23 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Yes.

24 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

25 **MAYOR EVANS:** Nay. The motion failed. Council,



1 consideration of contract for Interim Town  
2 Manager for Orton Bellamy. Council, seek a  
3 motion to enter into a contract for Interim  
4 Town Manager with Orton Bellamy.

5 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

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

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** There's a motion and a second on the  
8 floor to enter into a contract with Orton  
9 Bellamy for the Interim Town Manager position.

10 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I call for discussion ---

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Any other questions or comments?

12 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I call for a discussion.

13 **MAYOR EVANS:** You've got the floor, go ahead ---

14 **(Inaudible background noise.)**

15 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I call for a discussion. First  
16 of all, Mr. Bellamy has first shown up today  
17 with a packet of information that none of the  
18 Council members have had an opportunity to  
19 review except for the Council members that  
20 worked out the contract with him so I think  
21 it's -- you know, this meeting was shoved down  
22 our faces at the last -- within 24 hours after  
23 canceling a meeting that was supposed to be  
24 held on Monday, and I think that it -- with Ms.  
25 Carla Taylor, who is the duly-elected person



1 for Atlantic Beach Councilwoman, and not Ms.  
2 Josephine Isom, that I think that it is wrong  
3 to appoint someone with the failure of having  
4 the adequate Council members on the  
5 (inaudible).

6 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you. Roll call.

7 **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

8 **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** No.

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

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

11 **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

12 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yea.

13 **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

14 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

15 **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. The motion is granted. We're  
17 down to Item B. under New Business and this  
18 consideration of a contract for Town legal  
19 counsel. Council, seek a motion to enter into  
20 a contract for legal counsel with Dwayne Green.  
21 Council, seek that motion.

22 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved ---

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

24 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second on the floor ---

25 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** I call for discussion.



1     **MAYOR EVANS:**    Motion and a second is on the floor  
2                    for consideration of a contract ---

3     **COUNCILMAN DAVID:**   I call for discussion.

4     **MAYOR EVANS:**    --- for Dwayne Green ---

5     **COUNCILMAN DAVID:**   I call for a discussion.

6     **MAYOR EVANS:**    Any other questions or comments?

7     **COUNCILMAN DAVID:**    I call for discussion.    Yes,  
8                    since Mr. -- again, this same contract was not  
9                    privy to all Council people and, again, nothing  
10                   against Mr. Green, I mean, fine attorney based  
11                   on what I read but in light of this not being  
12                   a truly constituted Council, and Ms. Josephine  
13                   Isom was not duly elected, she did not run for  
14                   Council, and for the Mayor to read off a  
15                   statement at the beginning of this meeting to  
16                   say that there's an appeals process, there's a  
17                   court process, there was a convicted felon who  
18                   ran for office here and he had the -- the  
19                   smallest amount of votes, he did not win, he  
20                   did -- came absolute last place, he filed an  
21                   appeal on the day after -- after the -- her  
22                   race was certified and she was sworn in.    So  
23                   again, how does an appeal that was not filed in  
24                   a timely manner, 48 hours after an election,  
25                   and also that did not go to the Court of Common



1           Pleas, how does that (inaudible) as any type of  
2           appeal as the Mayor has read out. I think it's  
3           wrong, I think it's illegal and I think  
4           everyone who is acting accordingly should be  
5           prosecuted or looked at the right way 'cause  
6           again, they're basically -- are stealing an  
7           election that should not have been stolen.

8           **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir. Roll call.

9           **CLERK:** Councilman Edward Campbell?

10          **COUNCILMAN CAMPBELL:** No.

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

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

13          **CLERK:** Councilwoman Jacqueline Gore?

14          **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** Yes.

15          **CLERK:** Councilman John David?

16          **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** No.

17          **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

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

19          **Public Time:**

20          **MAYOR EVANS:** We're down to Public Time and I have  
21               three public comment cards here. We'll start  
22               with Mr. John Sketers.

23          **MR. SKETERS:** Let me ask you a favor, can I do it  
24               from this position here, instead of going to  
25               the ---



1     **MAYOR EVANS:** Well, if you want the mike to put --  
2                   pick it up ---

3     **MR. SKETERS:** Bad foot. Bad foot, that's why I  
4                   asked you ---

5     **MAYOR EVANS:** Well, you may not -- you can go ahead,  
6                   but you may not get recorded. You may not hear  
7                   it on the recording but go ahead.

8     **MALE SPEAKER:** --- know if it'll reach.

9     **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** We can hear him.

10    **MAYOR EVANS:** You can go ahead.

11                   **(Inaudible background noise.)**

12    **MR. SKETERS:** Okay, I'll -- let's go. I am very  
13                   concerned about what's been happening with my  
14                   town and your town and our ancestors' town here  
15                   lately in the Town of Atlantic Beach, which we  
16                   all should be interested in saving Atlantic  
17                   Beach and let it -- let it be here for what our  
18                   (inaudible) founded Atlantic Beach here for us  
19                   people that were denied going other places  
20                   here. This is a gem for us, Atlantic Beach.  
21                   My parents bought land here and took -- 1918  
22                   and I have a love for Atlantic Beach and I'm  
23                   quite sure a lot of you all have love too, but  
24                   remember too and do me a favor, I came up  
25                   through Atlantic. I was in government for



1 Atlantic Beach for 18 years, and I'm one of the  
2 ones that (inaudible) we got this building here  
3 and I cannot sit comfortably and see the  
4 generation come behind us and not cherish what  
5 we found and we sacrificed for. We sacrificed.  
6 Some of your grandparents sacrificed for it and  
7 we should cherish that and we should consider  
8 everything how -- how to keep it in our  
9 control. We want to invite everybody to  
10 Atlantic Beach, we're not trying to stay  
11 separate from the world, but for God's sake,  
12 we'd like to stay in command, we'd like to call  
13 the shots and tell what's happening to our  
14 town. And Atlantic Beach, listen, too, you can  
15 never make a Myrtle Beach out of Atlantic  
16 Beach, and that's fair. Let's stick with our  
17 culture, that's what I'm concerned about, our  
18 culture here. I want to thank you for  
19 listening, and some of the things been going on  
20 in our government previously, even the hiring  
21 practices, I understand that instead of putting  
22 our search for a Town Manager, they were  
23 handpicked; instead of putting out a search for  
24 applications for a public (inaudible), they are  
25 handpicked. This is an unethical way to run a



1 government. A government. All of these things  
2 supposed to be posted and giving everybody a  
3 chance to do it -- do that (inaudible) too, and  
4 I'm blaming not one person -- I'm not blaming  
5 the Town Manager because the Town Manager takes  
6 his direction from the Council. And may I  
7 mention this too, the government that Atlantic  
8 Beach is supposed to operate under is a  
9 council-manager form of government, the Mayor  
10 don't have all the power there. First, some  
11 time ago, we had a government operated with a  
12 strong mayor, and that did not work out well in  
13 Atlantic Beach so we could change the form of  
14 the government operate a lot of (inaudible) to  
15 a manager-council form of government. Have any  
16 of you Council members ever heard of that form  
17 of government?

18 **MAYOR EVANS:** Yeah, we know the -- Mr. Sketers, your  
19 time's up, we know that's the government we  
20 operate under, council-manager form of  
21 government.

22 **MR. SKETERS:** And while we're at this, Mayor, I  
23 think it's so unethical for the Mayor or  
24 Council member to cut a citizen off when they  
25 have so many important things to deliver when





1 I'm talking -- deliver (inaudible), and I want  
2 you all to take that into consider -- look, you  
3 are in charge to run our government and as long  
4 as I have breath in my body and live in the  
5 Town of Atlantic Beach, I'm gonna try to make  
6 an effort that you do it properly.

7 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir.

8 **(Applause.)**

9 **MAYOR EVANS:** Okay, we do the proper thing by  
10 setting a time limit on when people speak, that  
11 -- that's an ordinance, but we allow you to go  
12 over that and we don't mind, but thank you,  
13 sir. We have up next, William Booker.

14 **MR. BOOKER:** Good afternoon.

15 **IN UNISON:** Good afternoon.

16 **MR. BOOKER:** I'm William Booker, I live on 29th  
17 Avenue, and in the March meeting I was here and  
18 asked questions about the legal cost that the  
19 Town has incurred with all these election  
20 challenges. We had a election in January of  
21 '23 and it was challenged and we had  
22 significant legal costs with that, and that  
23 challenge was not upheld, the Town spent a lot  
24 of money doing that. And now we had the  
25 election in November and we're incurring more



1 legal costs, people have voted, we know what  
2 the results were, we had a follow-up challenge  
3 vote, we threw out some votes and then we still  
4 had results certified by the Election  
5 Commission that the Council put in place and  
6 we're still incurring legal costs. And in  
7 talking to the former Town Manager, those costs  
8 prior to that had -- were up around \$90,000 and  
9 they continue to accrue. And so I'm just -- I  
10 have a difficult time understanding when the  
11 MEC (ph) has certified the election, sent all  
12 the certification papers forward to the County  
13 and to the State, someone comes along and files  
14 a protest. From my understanding of the law,  
15 the MEC is done with it at that point and the  
16 only place for someone to file a protest then  
17 is to go to the Circuit Court. And I know  
18 there's a case at the Circuit Court for the  
19 mayoral position, but I've not heard of any  
20 case at the Circuit Court for a City Council  
21 position, and so why is there a holdover status  
22 for a particular protest which was untimely and  
23 there were a certain number of days in which to  
24 file a protest beyond the MEC after they  
25 certified and there's nothing at the Circuit



1 Court protesting that so what's the holdup?  
2 It's unclear to me. And so we're just -- I  
3 mean that these taxpayers spend a lot of money  
4 on taxes, you all work hard to try to collect  
5 a lot of taxes, and I'm concerned that we're  
6 spending the money in a way that's not  
7 benefiting the City so I encourage you to  
8 please let's get this all resolved and get the  
9 people in place that the citizens choose and  
10 let's move on. Thank you.

11 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you, sir. I think we have Ms.  
12 Carla Taylor.

13 **MS. TAYLOR:** Good afternoon ---

14 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** Good afternoon ---

15 **MS. TAYLOR:** --- this statement is for the people of  
16 Atlantic Beach who chose me and continue to  
17 support my election to the Town Council. I  
18 will continue to do all that I can to be a  
19 voice in how our Town is governed. I will work  
20 to bring prosperity to our community and  
21 continue to show the world what makes the Town  
22 so special. I, Carla Y. Taylor, am a duly-  
23 elected, certified and sworn Council member of  
24 the Town of Atlantic Beach Town Council. As  
25 the only person here who can say they were born



1 and raised here in the Town of Atlantic Beach,  
2 I believe the insight and dedication I will  
3 bring to the leadership of this Town of  
4 Atlantic Beach will be unmatched. It is  
5 preposterous that the City majority would  
6 purposefully and woefully try to deny my place  
7 in my town's government, but that is exactly  
8 what they are doing. I just can't speak for  
9 certain the motivations behind the -- denial of  
10 my status as a legal member of the Council but  
11 trust and belief, what motivates me to take my  
12 rightful seat stronger. With the help of my  
13 attorney, Rob Tyson, there will be a hearing on  
14 Tuesday, May the 14th at 2:00 p.m. before Judge  
15 Williams Seals. The hearing will address my  
16 injunction. This lawsuit is unfortunate but  
17 had to be brought due to the -- due to  
18 Josephine Isom's position that she's a holdover  
19 Council member. This issue will be resolved as  
20 early as Tuesday thus any action taken by the  
21 Council in the interim will be done without  
22 appropriate authority. As my attorney has  
23 communicated with the Town Council, I will  
24 reiterate for you the public that any potential  
25 candidate for the Interim Town Manager be on



1 notice of this pending legal issue so that he  
2 or she will be fully versed on the legal  
3 implications surrounding his or her selection.  
4 Since the hearing is only five days from  
5 tomorrow, it will be impudent for the Mayor and  
6 Council to act prior to a ruling on my pending  
7 motion. It is my desire to see the will of the  
8 people be done here in Atlantic Beach, and I  
9 thank you for your continued support as we work  
10 through this senseless and unnecessary  
11 (inaudible). Thank you.

12 **MAYOR EVANS:** Thank you. Council, seek a motion to  
13 adjourn.

14 **COUNCILWOMAN GORE:** So moved.

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

16 **MAYOR EVANS:** Motion and a second for adjourn. Roll  
17 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:** Councilman John David?

25 **COUNCILMAN DAVID:** Nay.



1     **CLERK:** Mayor Jake Evans?

2     **MAYOR EVANS:** Yea. Meeting adjourned at -- what  
3             time is it? Meeting adjourned at 3:02.

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

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify the transcript of the Atlantic Beach Town Meeting consists of twenty-two (22) 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 May 30, 2024.



---

Amanda J. Creel Godfrey  
Court Reporter

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: May 27, 2031

