



**Awendaw Town Council Monthly Meeting
December 4, 2025, 7:30 P.M.
Minutes**

1. Open meeting with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Civility Pledge: ***Councilman Frazier started the meeting at 7:30 PM. He led the meeting in the Our Father prayer, and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.***
2. Roll Call: ***Present- Attorney McQuillan, Councilman Frazier, Councilman Prause, Councilman Brown, and Councilwoman Helms joined in via Zoom. Absent: Mayor Green (Husband in the hospital), Councilman McNeal, and Councilman Ketchens.***
3. Approval of the December Agenda: ***Councilman Brown moved to approve the December Agenda; Councilman Prause seconded it; all voted in favor.***
4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
 - November 6, 2025 – Public Hearing and Regular Meeting: ***Councilman Prause moved to approve the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting; Councilman Brown seconded it; all voted in favor.***
5. Approval of Previous Financial Statements
 - October 2025-***Councilman Brown moved to approve the Financial Statements; Councilwoman Helms seconded it; all voted in favor.***
6. Council Comments – Frank Frazier: ***Councilman Frazier gave his final term on council by highlighting some of the accomplishments over the past couple of years. See attached speech.***
7. Mayor's Comments – Mayor Green: ***Mayor Green's speech was read by Willette Alston-Hockaday in her absence. See attached speech.***
8. Swearing-In of New Elected Officials: ***Katharine Watkins, Town Administrator, read the Oath for the swearing-in. Mr. Chris Crolley was sworn in as the new Mayor; Mrs. Grace Gaspar, Mr. Rodney Porcher, and Mr. John Timmons were sworn in as new council members.***
9. Charleston County and Special Events
 - Awendaw Fire Department: ***Chief Gadsden had no report, as it's a festive month, but he did have a safety reminder. He wanted to encourage everyone to stay safe; it's getting cooler. It's the holiday season, so he encourages all to be careful. If you have real trees, please continue watering them weekly. Make sure not to overload any of your electrical sockets. If they need to be checked, you can call the fire department. They can check them out for you and let you know whether they're safe or need to be replaced. If you***

heat your home with gas, call them if you do not have a carbon monoxide detector or if you need a new smoke detector. Please contact them, and they will come out to check both or even provide them for you, so everyone is safe.

- Charleston County Sheriff's Office: **Lt. Turner gave an overview of recent activities in the area. Mayor Crolley thanked him.**
- Municipal Park Foundation Board
 - Request for approval of entrance one plan and funding: **Ashley Blythe, the Chairperson for the Municipal Park Foundation Board, gave a recap of what was discussed in the November meeting.**
 - **Ashley was unable to attend due to a death in the family, but the board handled the meeting well.**
 - **The Board made a motion to approve the signage.**
 - **The Operations Committee is moving forward with obtaining quotes, which they presented: approximately \$25,520 for the site work, \$2,500 for the brow grading, and \$11,520 for fencing and gates.**
 - **They also had a vision and mission statement approved.**
 - **Ashley Blythe and William Pepper-Alston read the new Mission Statement and the Vision Statement.**
 - **Finally, she requested the approval of entrance one plan and the funding for it.**
 - **Councilman Prause moved to approve the entrance one plan, and Councilman Timmons seconded it; all voted in favor.**

10. Public Comments

- John Daso – Life in the Lowcountry Event, Request to use Town Park (Action Item): **The way it works is that Mr. Daso would come up with his plan and stuff through the park board, and then they would make a recommendation to council as to whether they think it's a good idea and a good future at the park, and then council will vote to approve and adopt that recommendation. They would be setting him up through the same procedures they used for Ride the Low Country when they came, made the request to the council to use the park, and then moved forward with it through staff. The event on September 5th and 6th is a two-day event. He would like at least 2 days to set up and 2 days to take down. They discussed that he doesn't have any of the necessary police, fire, or EMD checkoffs because the space isn't approved yet. The council didn't previously approve its use.**

Councilman Prause made a motion to do exactly what the lawyer advised: refer the matter to the foundation board for review and a recommendation, and Councilwoman Gaspar seconded it; all voted in favor.

- Willette Alston-Hockaday: **See attached.**

11. Council Report

Councilman Prause: **He thanked Councilman Frasier for his service. At the last council meeting, he thanked Mayor Green, Councilman Ketchens, and Councilman McNeal for their service, but for some reason, he forgot about Councilman Frazier.**

Councilman Porcher: **Thanks to his unity team, who helped with the election, especially the young people who got involved with this political process, and all**

the hard work that they did throughout the whole campaign. He appreciates the keyboarding skills, but it was a beautiful thing to learn alongside them.

12. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Crolley Stated that all his children were present, and he was so proud of them. He said it's with a great deal of humility and a deep sense of responsibility that he sits in a place he never thought he would sit.

He did not know the rest of his life was going to be in Awendaw. He started working in Awendaw in 1994. In 1996, they needed a place to live because a baby was on the way, and they moved to Awendaw because they could afford a home there. His first home, where his son was born, was on Seewee Road, between Seewee Bluff and Granny's Lane. It was about 600 square feet, 2.18 acres, and \$52,000. All the money in the world, and they worked hard. They didn't have enough pots in the kitchen to catch the leaks in the roof when it rained. It was some of the best days. He was raised blue-collar. They found affordable housing and a community to support them as they struggled.

In September 1989, when he moved to Charleston as an 18-year-old, he had no idea, nor did he know in May, what would happen in September. But that event that everyone remembers as Hurricane Hugo changed the trajectory of my life. They worked downtown as neighbors, picking up people's houses out of other people's yards and eating at the soup kitchens at the churches. They formed a community that kept him here; this town was not a town then. This town, if you look back on the history of the reports, you'll see that the citizens of Awendaw were called the forgotten victims, and help went to Mt. Pleasant, North Mt. Pleasant, and McClellanville, and they did not think of Awendaw.

Events like that and the strong history and heritage of this town, like the Alston's, and the Porchers, Rings, and Lewis White and his and if he didn't call your family name, it's not because he was leaving it out intentionally, the Simmons and the Jenkins and all the people of Awendaw weren't going to ever let that happen again. So, they formed the town so they would not be forgotten.

As he looks at the needs of the town today and rises above the quagmire and the drama of social media and things like that, he sees ditches that are not maintained by the county. He sees dangerous, deadly intersections that the South Carolina Department of Transportation is not addressing, as it should. He sees poverty in this town that should not be allowed to stay. He sees issues with people moving in here in very densely packed septic-dependent communities that will damage what makes Awendaw, that is, its relationship with Francis Marion National Forest and National Wildlife Refuge. There's some real work to be done.

His youngest daughter, Emily, who's six, asked him, "Are you going to have to say something when you become the mayor?" he told her he was getting sworn in, but Olivia told her he was becoming ordained.

He said, "Yeah." She said, "Well, what are you going to say?" And he said, "Surely, I don't know what I'm going to say." She said, "Well, just tell them, Dad, you're good at fixing things and that you promise to do your best.

It is with a great deal of humility and a deep sense of responsibility that he found his Bible, and he asked his brother to come hold it. This Bible was given to him by a woman named Annie Lee Crolley when he was six years old. Nanny Lee and John Duncan raised seven kids

and about 700 square feet on highway number one in Camden, South Carolina. That's where he was born, and they worked hard. He worked third shift at the cotton mill, and they built a beauty parlor on the back porch for her to come, and that's where his daddy was born. And he could not have been prouder to open this book and remember what she told him to do with it. He flipped through it and found this verse she wrote from the book of Proverbs: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." In all things, always acknowledge him, and he shall direct your path. Amen.

Again, he said it is a great sense of humility and deep responsibility that leads him to accept this mayoral position. He said if he's the mayor, we are all the mayors, and he thanked everybody who facilitated, everybody who voted for whatever candidate you voted for.

13. Administrator Report

- ***Training dates with MASC Representative: Desiree Fragoso (MASC), who is our municipal representative, is going to be coming in and doing in-person training for all council members, a refresher for those who have already been elected, and brand new for the newly elected. She has some dates when she is available to come to the town hall, and Katharine would like to pull together a forum. She has availability on January 6th, January 8th, January 13th, and January 14th. The training will take no more than 2 hours, and if there's a preferred time of day, you can let her know. The time chosen was January 6th, 10 am to 12 noon.***

14. Town Activities

- ***Christmas Parade: Mayor Crolley said he would like to address the Christmas Parade because he wasn't aware of it, even though he's seen it several times in the 28 years he's been here, and how he understands it, unless he needs to be corrected, the Christmas parade is in the budget, but the parade leadership, who have been in charge for years, was unable to do so due to extenuating circumstances. However, this is not a plan to abandon the Christmas parade. This is a plan to ensure this never happens again, and the Christmas parade continues, as it is the heritage of the town. It is fully funded this year. The fallback plan would be to have a drop-in here with stockings for the kids, the fire truck, and a special visitor on board, and to do our best to recover from this year's parade's lack of leadership. It's an unfortunate situation. The holiday drop-in would be on December 13th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the council chambers.***

15. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-46: Annexation Ordinance using 100 Percent Petition Method of Tax Map Number 629-00-00-043 (1053 Broomstraw Hill Rd). *Councilman Timmons made a motion to accept the Approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-46: Annexation Ordinance using the 100 Percent Petition Method of Tax Map Number 629-00-00-043 (1053 Broomstraw Hill Rd), and Councilwoman Gaspar seconded it. All voted in favor.*

16. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance 2025-47: Annexation Ordinance using 100 Percent Petition Method of Tax Map Number 629-00-00-286 (Deborah's Ln). *Councilman Brown made a motion to accept the Approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-47: Annexation Ordinance using the 100 Percent Petition Method of Tax Map Number 629-00-00-286 (Deborah's Lane), and Councilman Prause seconded it. All voted in favor.*

- 17. Tree Lighting Ceremony: Mayor Crolley, along with the audience, sang Joy to the World, and then he lit the tree.**
- 18. Executive session for the stated purpose of personnel matters, SC code section 30-4-70 (a1) concerning the Utilities manager position. Upon returning to open session, the council may take action on matters discussed in executive session.**

Councilman Prause made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:15 PM – in accordance with SC code section 30-4-70 (a1) concerning the Utilities manager position. Upon returning to open session, the Council may take action upon matters discussed in Executive Session, and it was seconded by Councilman Brown. All voted in favor.

Councilman Porcher made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 9:25 PM, which was seconded by Councilman Timmons. No votes taken.

- 19. Adjournment: Councilman Porcher made a motion for adjournment, and Councilman Prause seconded it. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.**

COUNCILMAN FRAZIER TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Town Council Comments for December 4, 2025

As I finish my term on the council, I want to highlight some of the accomplishments of this council over the past couple of years.

Transparency. Transparency is a key to good governance!

In 2024 the council voted to change the order of our meetings to include Public Comments in the early part of the meeting instead of at the end. This was done to ensure that all citizens who want to be heard are heard by the audience in attendance and prior to any votes/approvals by council.

Early In 2025 this council voted to spend funds to purchase meeting Owls so that all meetings are recorded to watch live or later. This provides all our citizens the opportunity to watch the meetings if they cannot attend. These are also archived in YouTube for anyone to watch later.

This council has adopted the practice of openly discussing items up for a vote in real time. Increasing transparency and ensuring the mayor and council members voices are heard. Publicly bringing to the table pros and cons of items at hand prior to a vote.

Over the past 2 years this council has had very robust discussions regarding the budget, and we have updated the budget and made changes based on these discussions implementing fiscal responsibility at a higher level. I strongly encourage the new Mayor and Council to take the budget discussions very seriously and when deciding on the budget, they will always consider that it is the tax-payers money they are responsible for managing, and to treat the tax-payers money as if it were their own.

Town Hall

Over the past couple of years this council voted to make improvements to our town hall using funds from ARPA

(American Rescue Plan ACT). This includes updating the crawl space, a new roof, updating the HVAC system (still in progress), replacing old wood in the floors and joists etc. As a town we must have a safe and comfortable environment for our

employees and visitors. My hope is that the new Mayor and council will consider updating things in need of repair, like the bathrooms and windows.

Planning

In 2024 the council implemented a zoning/building moratorium so that we can update our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances to be in line with all the future growth that was previously approved. With almost 900 new homes to be built in the coming years, there is a lot of work to do. We as a town must plan smarter, taking into consideration the lack of infrastructure, new traffic patterns as well as the environmental impact. The new council will have to pick up this ball and run with it to ensure wise and responsible decisions are in the best interest of the town. Great strides have already been made. The hiring of a full time planner to help facilitate the Comp Plan and Zoning Ordinances is a win for the town.

Lastly, it has been my honor to serve you over the last 4 years and I look forward to better days ahead for all citizens and our town. Well wishes to Mayor Green, Councilman McNeal and Ketchens as they move on, thank you for your service! I wish nothing but the best for the new Mayor and Council as they continue to work for our town.

God Bless you all and Merry Christmas!

MAYOR MIRIAM C. GREEN'S FINAL ADDRESS
To the Town of Awendaw
December 5, 2025

Good evening, Council Members, staff, residents, family, friends, and guests. Mayor Green sends her warmest greetings, and she offers them in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has carried her through this incredible journey.

Before I continue, let me say this clearly: I have the honor and the privilege of reading Mayor Green's farewell speech tonight—a message from her heart to the people she has served for more than three decades.

Tonight marks the close of a 33-year chapter I never could've imagined when I first became part of the Awendaw community 54 years ago. The road hasn't always been easy, but every challenge, every victory, and every relationship built along the way has been worth it. Serving you has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

Since Awendaw's incorporation in 1992, I have served 22 years as a council member and 11 years as mayor. Through seasons of growth, storms, and transformation, this community has shown resilience, unity, and unwavering commitment. You have taught me the true meaning of public service.

Key Accomplishments Over 33 Years Together, we:

- Grew the Town from its earliest boundaries of about 400 residents to a thriving community of more than 1,600 residents.
- Securing safe drinking water to improve health and safety.
- Expanding economic development with new businesses and amenities.
- Rehabilitating homes through partnerships with the Urban League, USDA, COG, United Methodist Relief Center, Charleston County Human Services, Operation Home, and more.
- Secured major grants, including:
 - o \$3.5M for home rehabilitation
 - o \$1M+ in road improvements
 - o \$2M+ in CDBG funding
 - o Grants for septic systems, water infrastructure, and urgent hazard repairs
- Providing HVAC systems, roof repairs, and critical home improvement for residents

- Supporting the construction of affordable homes
- Purchasing the Awendaw's municipal park with the Late Mayor William H. Alston and Administrator Bill Wallace.
- Strengthening community traditions such as the Blue Crab Festival, back-to-school drives, and cultural events.

Altogether more than \$8 million in funding and grants were secured to improve infrastructure, homes, and the quality of life in Awendaw.

Throughout my tenure, I stood for transparency, fairness, and protecting the heritage of this community. I voted against restoring authority to individuals who misused their power, opposed unnecessary raises, defended settlement communities, and challenged ordinances that threatened our legacy. Even in the face of disrespect, false accusations, and personal attacks, I remained committed to truth, justice, and the people of Awendaw.

To my husband Robert, our children, grandchildren, pastors, family, friends, supporters, staff, fellow council members, and every resident—thank you. Your prayers, encouragement, and trust carried me through every season. I would like to express a special thanks to Mr. Ronald Ravnell, Mr. John Jenkins, Mrs. Earthalee Simmons and Ms. Amanda Williams

Cesar Chavez once said, “The end of all knowledge must be the building up of character.” As I look back over 33 years, I know our greatest strength has always been the character of this town.

I leave office with hope, pride, and a deep belief that Awendaw's best days are still ahead.

May God Bless each of you and May God continue to bless the Town of Awendaw.

Mayor Miriam C. Green

Colonel Willette Alston Hockaday
Town Council Public Comments
December 5, 2025

Good evening, Mayor Crolley

As I stand before you tonight, my heart is heavy yet still full of gratitude. Heavy because I've seen both the beauty and the brokenness of Awendaw. Grateful because, even after everything I've endured, I refuse to stop believing in the promise of this town a place built on faith, family, and generations of people who knew how to stand together even when life wasn't fair.

For months, I've watched pride, politics, and personal agendas test the very soul of this community. And yet I'm not here in anger. I'm here in love, love for Awendaw and love for the people who still believe in what's right.

We can't heal while division is being fed like fuel. We can't grow while leaders use their platforms to stir confusion and cut others down.

Councilwoman Helms, tonight I'm speaking to you without bitterness, but with truth and clarity. Leadership is not about how loud you speak or how many people clap for you. Leadership is how you treat people when nobody's watching... and how you honor the power you've been given.

There's a scene in *The Help* where Viola Davis, playing Aibileen Clark, looks straight into Bryce Dallas Howard's eyes — playing Hilly Holbrook — and asks her, with all the weight in the world:

“Ain't you tired?”

I ask you that same question tonight.

Because what you did to me wasn't a misunderstanding, it was a choice.

You used your influence to publicly mock me. You questioned my character and integrity. You belittled my service in the United States Army — as if a donation from a resident could ever bribe my soul. You turned your platform into a weapon, and you pointed it at me.

And I know you may not care what I'm saying right now because when the leader of the free world can hop on social media and degrade people without consequence, it gives others the confidence to follow that same low road. That doesn't make it right — but it explains the boldness.

And yes — it hurt. It hurt because I love this town. It hurt because I've given Awendaw everything I had. It hurt because leaders aren't supposed to tear down the very people they were elected to serve.

But more than that it hurt Awendaw When a leader chooses spite over integrity, the whole community pays the price.

A leader who sows division will never harvest unity. And Awendaw deserves better.

Now, let me speak on the McClellanville/Awendaw Forum. That space has become a breeding ground for bitterness, misinformation, and selective outrage. The energy on that page is awful; it feeds negativity, not community.

I watched my own son try to defend people because of the hateful things being said there. And the moment residents — Black or White speak truth that doesn't fit the administrator's agenda, the post disappears.

That's not dialogue. That's manipulation. And manipulation dressed up as "community conversation" destroys trust.

Let me say this clearly:

Awendaw must be governed by the officials elected to serve, not by a peanut gallery hiding behind keyboards and anonymous profiles or whispers on the sideline.

There is a group, loud but small, who want influence, not unity. They know who they are. Control, not collaboration. But their reign only works if we stay silent.

And I promise you we won't.

Awendaw is stronger than that. Awendaw is wiser than that. Awendaw deserves leadership, not puppeteering.

As we move into a new year, I pray our remaining council, and our newly elected mayor and councilmembers, lead with fairness, humility, and open hearts. Lead for all of Awendaw not just Romane Retreat, Bulls Bay Overlook, Come About Way, or Hidden Ponds, but equally for Porcher School Road, Jenkins Hill Road, Union Road, Maxville Road, and Milcrest Road.

Because let's be real: when development creeps near certain neighborhoods, some folks holler like the sky is falling. But when those same developments hit Porcher or Union Road? Silence. Because it's "not their side of town."

That's not unity. That's selective compassion, and selective compassion is poison.

My prayer is that two years from now, Awendaw still stands — not just in name, but in spirit. A town that honors its elders, welcomes newcomers, protects its history, and refuses to lose its soul.

Gratitude and Hope

To Mayor Green thank you for 43 years of service to Awendaw and the Tri-County area To Councilman McNeal my brother, friend and my family, thank you for your service to the Awendaw and families across the Tri-County area. To Councilman Ketchens the quiet professional, thank you. To Councilman Frazier God bless you

And finally, I pray our new mayor and council come to the table with open minds, open hearts, and open hands, ready to build, ready to listen, and ready to lead us toward a future where we truly live as:

One Town. Every Voice.

May God bless each of you. And may God continue to bless the Town of Awendaw.

Colonel Willette Alston-Hockaday