



**MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION
September 9, 2024 MEETING**

Meeting Details:

Jim Hamilton – L. B. Owens Airport Community/Conference Room
September 9, 2024
11:30 AM

Roll Call:

Commission Members in attendance:

- Mike Kelly, Esquire, Chairman
- Lynn Hutto, Vice Chairman
- John Parrish, Secretary
- Brianna Barrineau (*via TEAMS*)

The following persons were absent:

- Prentiss McLaurin, Treasurer
- Frank Caggiano
- Lindsey Ott

Richland County Council & Staff in attendance:

- Cheryl English
- Don Weaver
- John Thompson, Asst. County Administrator
- Michael Maloney, DPW Director
- Peter Cevallos, Airport General Manager

Guest in attendance:

- Lee Thomas, Eagle Aviation
- Tyler Moser, Eagle Aviation
- Peggy Roberson, Eagle Aviation
- Jim Herpst, EAA/Hangar Tenant
- Robert Giles, Hangar Tenant
- Alan Lott, Hangar Tenant
- Andy Busbee, MBI
- Aaron Settles, Propel Aviation
- Taj Troy, Propel Aviation

Call to Order

There was a call to order by Chairman Kelly at 11:34pm and a quorum in attendance announced. Vice-Chair Hutto delivered the invocation.

Meeting Agenda Distribution

Chairman Kelly asked the meeting agenda be reviewed and agreed by consensus.

Previous Meetings Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on July 8, 2024 were presented for approval. Commissioner Parrish made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Vice-Chair Hutto; the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Airport General Manager's Report

- *Operations/Finance Report:* Mr. Cevallos briefed Airport Operations for the month of July 2024 was 654 take-offs and 653 landings; for August 2024, 618 take-offs and 624 landings; and for Fiscal Year 2025, 1,272 take-offs and 1,277 landings. Mr. Cevallos recognized Eagle Aviation who provided the fixed base operation activity report. Mr. Cevallos shared the Operating Budget Status for the Airport through June 2024: Airport Revenue was \$27,137, with Personnel expenditures \$26,009, Operations expenditures \$96,845, no capital expenditures were expended in this period; total expenditures \$122,854.

- *Projects Status Report:* Mr. Cevallos briefed with the rotating beacon replacement project, Foundation for beacon tower was constructed in late July/early August; the beacon tower erection is anticipated to begin second week of September, overall completion of this project is estimated the end of month, beginning of October. Mr. Cevallos provided some detail to the construction/erection of the tower. Commissioner Parrish asked Mr. Cevallos what would be done with the existing tower. Mr. Cevallos expected the contractor would be responsible with disposing the replaced tower, and that the State has identified a customer for it. Asst. County Administrator Thompson asked Mr. Cevallos to confirm tower ownership to ensure proper record of disposal; Mr. Cevallos acknowledge he would, and report back his findings.

Mr. Cevallos reported the Airport consultant has completed 35% of the Taxilane Pavement Rehabilitation (Design) project, and that correspondence from FAA has been received where they indicate the available grant funds available in FY 2025 for construction phase of this project is set at \$2,120,000. He explained that this helps consultant set the prioritizing parameters for the different parts of the project once it is ready for bidding. As Mr. Cevallos used an on-line visual representation of the Airport to further explain the project area, discussion ensued to discuss the Airport property and related features. Councilmember English asked if Mr. Cevallos was aware that the property located on 1023 Airport Boulevard, across from the end of Runway 13, was for sale. Mr. Cevallos responded that he was unaware. This prompted further discussion, and a general consensus, on the intent and strategy to obtain those properties that affect approaches to the Airport. Commissioner Barrineau made a motion for Mr. Cevallos to engage the property owner about purchasing this parcel that is in the RPZ. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and was unanimously voted.

- *Other Items:* Mr. Cevallos brief filming of the SC Aviation Association's airport video was conducted August 15. He shared the weather was very conducive for the filming, with a great amount of footage recorded, and the invited participants were interviewed; overall event was deemed successful. He concluded that final editing and production was on-going, and that the first draft was anticipated by end of September. Mr. Cevallos briefed 47 students and three faculty members from the Citadel conducted a site visit in support of their Capstone Project September 3rd; Louis Dessau, Commissioners Hutto, Barrineau, and AGM Cevallos hosted the event; an Airport orientation briefing was given and the visitors conducted an airfield tour, observing the properties that will be considered for their Capstone Project. Mr. Cevallos concluded advising that procurement and installation of the door lock mechanism for the Terminal's main entrance is proceeding, and that the objective is to have the installation completed by the end of the month.

Approval of FAA Standards Assessment Project, FAA Grant Award

Mr. Cevallos briefed that Staff is in receipt of the formal work authorization from Michael Baker International to conduct an FAA Standards Assessment project, which was detailed to the Airport Commission at the July 8, 2024 meeting. The cost for the FAA-approved project scope of work is \$110,310.31. Staff has received the FAA grant offering to fund 90% of the project cost, \$99,280. In addition, he explained the SC Aeronautics Commission approved the 5% State Match of \$5,515.52 for the total project cost at their August 20, 2024 meeting. The remaining 5% local match is been budgeted in the Airport's Matching Funds - Capital account. Commissioner Hutto made a motion for Mr. Cevallos to approve the work authorization from Michael Baker to conduct the FAA Standards Assessment project, and approve acceptance of both the FAA grant offering of \$99,280, and the State 5% match grant of \$5,516. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parrish, and unanimously voted.

General Announcement

The Chair recognized Mrs. Roberson, the FBO manager, who asked to share an announcement that Eagle Aviation and the local Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) chapter will be cosponsoring two events. She described the first event that is being planned at the Airport for October 2025 called Aerofest 2025. The event will be in a fly-in style event and showcase the EAA's B-25 Mitchell bomber. The second event is the SC Breakfast Club will have a meeting at the Airport on Sunday October 20th.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:47pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Airport Commission will be on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 11:30pm.