



MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION MARCH 24, 2025 MEETING

Meeting Details:

WK Dickson Columbia Offices, 1320 Main Street, Suite 400, Columbia, SC
March 24, 2025
11:30 AM

Roll Call:

Commission Members in attendance:

- Lynn Hutto, Chairman
- Brianna Barrineau, Vice Chairman
- Prentiss McLaurin, Secretary/Treasurer
- Lindsey Ott
- John Brisini

The following persons were absent:

- Mike Kelly, Esquire, Immediate Past Chair
- Ken Harrill

Richland County Council & Staff in attendance:

- Don Weaver, Councilmember
- John Thompson, Asst. County Administrator
- Michael Maloney, Department of Public Works Director
- Peter Cevallos, Airport General Manager

Guest in attendance:

- Peggy Roberson, Eagle Aviation
- Jim Herpst, EAA/Hangar Tenant
- Andy Busbee, Michael Baker International

Call to Order

Chair Hutto called the meeting to order at 11:35 pm.

Meeting Agenda Distribution

Vice Chair Hutto asked for adoption of the meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Brisini made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Commissioner McLaurin.

Previous Meetings Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on January 13, 2025 were presented for approval. Commissioner Barrineau made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Commissioner Ott; the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Airport General Manager's Report

- *Operations/Finance Report:* Mr. Cevallos briefed Airport Operations for the month of January 2025 was 765 take-offs and 874 landings, for a total of 1,639; for February 2025, 929 take-offs and 765 landings, for a total of 1,694; for Fiscal Year 2025, the Airport had 12,697 operations, made up of 6,387 take-offs and 6,310 landings. Mr. Cevallos presented a graphic representation that describes the total flight operations for the Airport for Fiscal Year 2025; discussion ensued on the background and the process used to obtain traffic. Mr. Cevallos recognized Mrs. Peggy Roberson with Eagle Aviation who provided the fixed base operation activity report. Mrs. Roberson stated that in comparison for the same period for Fiscal Year 2024, AVGAS fuel sales was up 20% and Jet-A fuel sales was up 8%. Ramp fees collected for January 2025 was \$558, and for February 2025, \$2,813. There are 135 based aircraft (two aircraft related to the Fire Bomber operations are temporarily based), 8 aircraft on tie-down.

Mr. Cevallos shared the Operating Budget Status for the Airport through February 2025 (58% of budget year): Airport Revenue was \$194,837, which is 73% of budget, Personnel expenditures \$115,465, Operations expenditures \$162,212, and capital expenditures \$34,721; total expenditures \$312,398, which is at 57% of budget year, in line with budget expectations. Mr. Cevallos concluded with stating that while he was working through major facility costs associated with the sewer system, the budget should be adequate for the remainder of fiscal year.

- *Projects Status Report:* Mr. Cevallos briefed that for the Taxilane Pavement Rehabilitation-Design project, the consultant submitted the project's plans and specifications to the County's Procurement office so the project can be released for bidding. He also added that through the efforts of Department of Public Works Director Maloney, additional funding for this project has also been secured from the County's Transportation "Penny" program.

For the Airfield Assessment and Alternative Study, Mr. Cevallos briefed the consultant has confirmed the current airport design conditions, and is working on the modifications to standards on file with FAA, to determine applicability and relevance to current FAA Design Airport Design Standards.

- *Notes of Interest:* Mr. Cevallos provided information on the following:
The Avigation Easement for the Pickens Street Townhome Development was approved by County Council at the Feb 4th meeting; the document has been conveyed to the real estate developer and the City of Columbia Planning office for filing.

Mr. Cevallos reported his attendance at the FAA Southern Region Airports Conference in Atlanta in February. It was well attended by airport management of airports of all sizes from the Southern Region (AL, GA, FL, SC, NC, TN, MS, KY, VA). Topics were wide-ranging on Airport operations, design, and administration, with special emphasis on Advanced Air Mobility (eVTOLs). Mr. Cevallos also publicly thanked the Commissioners

who attended the SC Aviation Association's annual conference which was held in February in Greenville, SC.

Mr. Cevallos advised that Dauntless Air, SC Forestry Commission contractor, is operating two Air Tractor AT-802s fire bomber aircraft from the airport. The decision to use our Airport allows quick and easy deployment to anywhere in the State during this fire season, which is anticipated to end May 1st. The aircraft are based on the far end of the ramp near the Maintenance Hangar and contribute to the airport operations with their traffic count and fuel sales.

Mr. Cevallos briefed the Commission on upcoming events: 10 am on April 3rd in the Airport Terminal, the Citadel University's School of Civil Engineering and Construction will be holding a special presentation of the two best designs from their Senior Capstone Project. The project, an educational process where Citadel students design a real-world facility, in this case, they used the CUB Airport as the basis to design a facility that will support aviation's emerging industry, Advanced Air Mobility and the electrical vertical take-off and landing vehicles (eVTOLs).

Mr. Cevallos stated that plans are being coordinated for a major Economic Development Announcement, Early May; right now, projected dates are May 1st, 8th, of 15th; the event's finalized date will be shared in the coming weeks.

'Aerofest 2025': Mr. Cevallos explained that this is the FBO sponsored event that is being planned for December 2025. He recognized Mrs. Roberson, with Eagle Aviation, and Mr. Herpst, President of the local EAA chapter. She provided a summary of the event, naming all the participants for the event, and thanked the Commission for their support in supporting the event. The next planning meeting would be held April 2nd at noon.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Hutto requested an Executive Session. Commissioner Barrineau made a motion for the Commission to enter Executive Session at 12:37pm; Commissioner Ott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Barrineau made a motion for the Commission to come out of Executive Session at 1:24 pm, with no business conducted nor votes taken; Commissioner Brisini seconded the motion and was voted unanimously.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Airport Commission will be on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 11:30pm.