MINUTES FOR THE
RICHLAND COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION
January 12, 2026 MEETING

Meeting Details:

Location: Jim Hamilton – L. B. Owens Airport Community/Conference Room
Time/Date: 11:30 AM, January 12, 2026

Roll Call:

Commission Members in attendance:

- Lynn Hutto, Chairman
- Brianna Barrineau, Vice Chairman
- Prentiss McLaurin, Secretary/Treasurer
- John Brisini
- Ken Harrill

Commission Members absent:

- Mike Kelly, Esquire, Immediate Past Chair
- Taz Little

Richland County Council & Staff in attendance:

- Don Weaver, County Council Liaison
- Dr. John Thompson, Asst. County Administrator
- Peter Cevallos, Airport General Manager

Guest in attendance:

- Tyler Moser, Eagle Aviation
- Peggy Roberson, Eagle Aviation
- Joseph Benevides, AMS, LLC
- Ryan Turiak, AMS, LLC
- Ben Malone, Michael Baker Inc.
- John Culpepper, MD, Aviation Medical Examiner

Call to Order

Chair Hutto called the meeting to order at 11: 37 am, welcoming all those in attendance.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Chair Hutto called for adoption of the agenda, with the modification to enter into executive session at the beginning of the meeting, as opposed to how it is presented with the executive session at

the end of the meeting. Commissioner Brisini made a motion to approve with the modification offered by the Chair, seconded by Secretary McLaurin. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Previous Meetings Minutes

Chair Hutto called for adoption of minutes for the November 10, 2025. Vice-Chair Barrineau made motioned to approve, it was seconded by Commission McLaurin. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Executive Session

Chair Hutto asked that the Commission enter in Executive Session to discuss Commission business. Vice-Chair Barrineau made a motion for the Commission to enter Executive Session at 11:39 am, seconded by Commission McLaurin; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Brisini made a motion for the Commission to come out at 11:43 am, with no business conducted nor votes taken; Vice-Chair Barrineau seconded the motion and was voted unanimously.

Airport Commission Officers for 2026

Chair Hutto presented the following slate of Officers for Calendar Year 2026:

- ✈ Chairman: **Lynn Hutto**
- ✈ Vice Chairman: **Brianna Barrineau**
- ✈ Immediate Past Chair: **Mike Kelly**
- ✈ Secretary/Treasurer: **Prentiss McLaurin**

Commissioner Brisini made a motion to approve the slate as presented; the motion was seconded by Commissioner McLaurin, which the Commission approved unanimously.

Airport General Manager's Report

Mr. Cevallos provided the following brief of airport operations:

Operations/Finance:

- Total Operations for November 2025: 1,671 (833 take-offs and 838 landings)
- Total Operations for December 2025: 1,362 (684 take-offs and 678 landings)
- Total Operations for Calendar Year 2025: 21,380 (10,726 take-offs and 10,654 landings)

Mr. Cevallos pointed out there were 13 "fly-over' for November, and 8 for December; for the year, this total was 334. He presented a graph illustrating total Calendar Year 2025 flight operations to date, along with a chart providing a breakdown of the airport's annual aircraft operations by aircraft type. Mr. Cevallos provided background and explained process used to obtain airport traffic data, when asked by Commissioner Brisini, Mr. Cevallos defined a flyover as those aircraft that transition through the Airport's airspace. Commissioner Harrill asked about the airport monitoring service, and its length of contract. Mr. Cevallos explained that there is no established contract, and the Airport obtains the service

Mr. Cevallos recognized Mrs. Peggy Roberson of Eagle Aviation who reported the following fixed base operation activity:

- Retail fuel sales for November 2024, compared to the same period for 2025, had a decrease of 1%

- Retail fuel sales for December 2024, compared to the same period for 2025, had a decrease of 10%
- Ramp fees for November 2025 totaled $1,996
- Ramp fees for December 2025, totaled $ 874
- 133 based aircraft with 9 aircraft on tie-down

Mr. Cevallos shared the airport's operating budget data through December 2025, which he is explained is 50% of budget year:

- Revenue received was $167,338
- Expenditures was $244,306, which is 32.1% of budget compared to the budgeted amount of $735,149
    - Personnel expenditures was $90,469, compared to the budgeted amount of $204,008, 44.4% of budget;
    - Operations expenditures was $147,302, compared to the budgeted amount of $255,652, 57.5% of budget; and,
    - Capital expenditures $6,535, compared to the budgeted amount of $301,417.

Airport Project Status:

- AIP/SCAC: Airfield Assessment and Alternative Study: Mr. Cevallos briefed that the Final Draft Airfield Assessment Report is pending; consultant is incorporating the cost estimate for the preferred alternative airfield design into the report (the related project components were presented as part of the Capital Improvement Plan update at the November Airport Commission meeting). Once completed, the working paper will be sent to the Airport for concurrence, then to the FAA for their review and acceptance; a copy will also be provided to the State Aeronautics Commission for their courtesy. Once agreed, the report will be recorded as guidance for future project requirements.

- AIP/SCAC: Taxilane Rehabilitation Project: Mr. Cevallos briefed that the consultant has provided the contracts for professional services (construction administration), and construction; these have been forwarded to the County's Attorney's Office for their review. Pending their response, and barring no other procurement requirements, the documents will be coordinated for execution. Once this step is completed, a pre-construction meeting be scheduled to establish a start date and overall phasing of work.

Notes of Interest:

Mr. Cevallos briefed the Airport Commission on the following items:

- Third (final) reading and the public hearing for County Council's approval of Chap 3, Airport, of the Code of Ordinance was held during their January 6 Special Called meeting. There were a number of speakers voicing their opposition to Council approving the Ordinance; Council approved the Ordinance.

- Mr. Cevallos is awaiting job offer/salary acceptance from tentatively selected candidate for the Airport Administrative Coordinator position; if accepted, the individual would start January 26th.

- At the November Commission meeting, the Commission was briefed on a zoning request to the City of Columbia Planning Commission for a proposed townhome development at Rosewood Dr. and Fulton St. The developer was requesting the City to remove the Airport Overlay District requirements. This item was passed by the City's Planning Commission, and moved on to City Council, which considered the item at their December 16th meeting. The Airport Commission Chair and Vice Chair, along with the Airport General Manager attended this meeting, where the Airport General Manager and the SC Aeronautic Commission representatives all spoke in opposition to the request. This request was tabled, so that the developer would withdraw the request, pending further direction from the City Planning staff.
- On Jan 2, here was a small grass fire on the Airport adjacent to the fuel storage area that appears to be a result of fireworks landing in the vicinity. Columbia – Richland Fire Service responded immediately, extinguishing the fire with the only damage being singed grass. The County's Public Works Roads and Drainage Maintenance division has placed more gravel around the concrete pads that areas around the different fuel storage structures.
- Mr. Cevallos is working with the County's Procurement Office on the following solicitations: The Specialized Aviation Services Operator (SASO) solicitation is concluding, with the County in the evaluation/selection process. The Hangar Roof and Door Maintenance solicitation has been separated into two separate solicitation, and currently being advertised (that contract ends February 2026), and the solicitation for airfield mowing has concluded and an award has been made. He reminded the Commission any discussion and/or questions on any of the aforementioned solicitations should strictly be directed to the County's Office of Procurement to ensure a fair and equitable process.
- The SC Army National Guard is coordinating with the Airport and Fixed Base Operator Eagle Aviation to utilizing the facilities to load/unload State Legislators on 22 January in support of the National Guard's Military Day.
- The University of South Carolina will be holding a private event, managed by South Carolina Athletics and the Gamecock Club, to kick off the beginning of Gamecock Baseball and Gamecock Softball season. The expected number of attendees is over 200, and they are working with the Airport to integrate their event into the facilities; no disruption to normal airport operations is anticipated.
- Mr. Cevallos reminded the Commission the 2026 SC Aviation Association Annual Conference will be held on February 11 to 13 at the Marriott Grande Dune Hotel and Resort in Myrtle Beach.

Councilmember Weaver asked to address the Commission so that he can provide an update on the Property Tax issue. He explained that He and Councilmember Terracio have been working towards raising the matter with the rest of County Council, and to work with the County's Tax Auditors on solutions to lower the tax rate in support of the based airport community. Discussion ensued with background points being made along with the cost and benefit of lowering the

property tax and its impact to the Airport. Chair Hutto concluded the discussion, thanking the Council members present for the effort, and to encourage the based community to form a singular coalition to represent themselves so their position could be heard.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:21 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Airport Commission will be on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 11:30pm.