

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPIN, SOUTH CAROLINA EXPRESSING NO CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF MAYOR BILL MITCHELL

WHEREAS, under the Mayor-Council form of government established by South Carolina law, the Mayor serves as the chief administrative officer of the municipality and is charged with faithfully executing the laws, administering the affairs of the Town, supervising municipal departments, and promoting the efficient operation of Town government; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is vested with the legislative authority of the municipality and is responsible for establishing policy, appropriating public funds, and acting as a representative of the citizens of the Town; and

WHEREAS, although the Mayor and Town Council have distinct statutory responsibilities, the effective operation of municipal government depends upon mutual trust, transparency, professionalism, and cooperation between the executive and legislative branches; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has concluded that the Mayor has engaged in a pattern of conduct that has substantially impaired that working relationship and undermined the Council's confidence in the Mayor's ability to effectively lead the administration of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that this loss of confidence is based upon matters occurring during public meetings of the Town Council, official Town records, communications received by Council Members in their official capacities, and other information properly before the Council as follows:

1. A lack of openness and transparency with the Town Council and citizens regarding town affairs;

The Council finds that the Mayor has failed to provide the level of openness and transparency necessary for the Council to effectively perform its legislative responsibilities, including:

- Restricting Council Members from communicating directly with Town employees and requiring that all information be obtained solely through the Mayor,

while employees have been advised that providing information to Council without the Mayor's approval could jeopardize their employment;

- Replacing departmental presentations at Council meetings with reports delivered by the Mayor, thereby preventing Council Members from directly questioning the employees responsible for the administration of those departments;
- Failing to provide complete and timely financial information to the Town Council and failing to make financial information readily available to the public through the Town's website; and
- Failing to keep the Council informed of threatened or pending litigation and other significant matters affecting the Town, including matters relating to the Brighton property.

2. Failure to foster a professional and cooperative working relationship with members of Council.

The Council finds that the Mayor has failed to maintain the professional working relationship necessary for effective municipal government, including:

- Repeatedly making demeaning and disrespectful remarks toward members of the Town Council during both public meetings and executive sessions;
- Engaging in confrontational behavior during executive sessions, including yelling at Council Members and pointing his finger at them during discussions;
- Repeatedly failing to return telephone calls, respond to requests for information, or answer questions from Council Members in a timely manner; and
- Attempting to exercise authority beyond that granted to the Mayor under South Carolina's Mayor-Council form of government by assuming functions reserved to the Town Council.

3. Actions that have unnecessarily created conflict within Town government;

The Council finds that the Mayor's conduct has contributed to instability within the Town's administration, including:

- An unprecedented number of employee dismissals and resignations during the Mayor's administration;
- The resignation of four Town Attorneys who were

unable to maintain an effective professional working relationship with the Mayor;

- The Town's increasing difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified employees and legal counsel because of concerns regarding the Mayor's management style, refusal to accept legal advice, and repeated threats of termination directed toward employees.

4. A pattern of decision-making that has hindered the efficient and effective operation of the Town government and created a loss of public confidence;

The Council finds that the Mayor has demonstrated a pattern of decision-making that has adversely affected the operation of Town government, including:

- Hiring or promoting individuals to positions for which they lacked the qualifications or experience necessary to successfully perform the duties of those positions;
- Making inappropriate and threatening remarks to a member of Lexington County Council concerning matters involving the Brighton property;
- Failing to seek or follow legal advice on matters of significant importance to the Town and instead pursuing courses of action that exposed the Town to unnecessary risk and were not in the Town's best interest; and
- Repeatedly failing to respond to or acknowledge concerns raised by citizens, including failing to return telephone calls from residents seeking assistance or information regarding Town matters, thereby diminishing public confidence in the accessibility and responsiveness of Town leadership.

5. Other actions and conduct reflected in the public record of the Town.

The Council further finds that additional actions and conduct reflected in the official records of the Town support the Council's determination that it has lost confidence in the Mayor's leadership and ability to effectively administer the affairs of the Town.

WHEREAS, the Council has made repeated efforts to work collaboratively with the Mayor in carrying out the business of the Town, but those efforts have not restored the level of trust and cooperation necessary for effective governance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Chapin, in duly assembled meeting, as follows:

Section 1. Findings.

The foregoing recitals are incorporated as findings of fact of the Town Council.

Section 2. No Confidence.

The Town Council hereby formally declares that it has **No Confidence** in the leadership of Mayor Mitchell and finds that the Mayor's actions have materially impaired the effective administration of Town government and the cooperative relationship necessary between the executive and legislative branches.

Section 3. Commitment to the Citizens.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to continue performing its legislative responsibilities with integrity, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and accountability to the citizens of the Town, notwithstanding the Council's lack of confidence in the Mayor's leadership.

Section 4. Call for Corrective Action.

The Council urges the Mayor to immediately undertake meaningful corrective actions to restore transparency, professionalism, accountability, and a productive working relationship with the Town Council.

Section 5. Resignation.

Recognizing that the Mayor's effectiveness depends in substantial part upon maintaining the confidence of both the governing body and the public, the Council respectfully concludes that, if the Mayor is unwilling or unable to restore that confidence, the Mayor should give serious consideration to resigning from office in the best interests of the Town.

Section 6. Effect of Resolution.

This Resolution is an official expression of the judgment of the Town Council. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as removing the Mayor from office or exercising any authority not granted to the Council under the Constitution or laws of the State of South Carolina.

Section 7. Distribution.

The Town Clerk shall enter this Resolution upon the official minutes of the Town Council and provide copies to the Mayor and all members of the Town Council.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.