



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mayor David P. Merchant.

City Council	Title	Status
David P. Merchant	Mayor	Present
James B. Blassingame	Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 2	Present
Anthony Gibson	Councilman, Ward 1	Present
Calvin K. Hastie, Sr.	Councilman, Ward 3	Present
Rebecca Lynn Kennedy	Councilwoman, Ward 4	Present
Colin C. Davis	Councilman, Ward 5	Present
Gifford M. Shaw	Councilman, Ward 6	Present

City Staff	Title
Deron McCormick	City Manager
Howie Owens	Assistant City Manager
Mark Partin	Chief of Staff
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Jonathan Flinchum	Finance Director
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Karl Ford	Fire Chief
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Cathryn Poplin	Capital Improvement Manager
Steven Dara	Assistant Fire Chief
Jeffrey Shirley	Senior Division Chief of Administration/Operations
Judson Coker	Division Chief of Administration/Operations
Shelley Kile	Communications and Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Carter James	Communications Manager
Kelcey Florence	Administrative Coordinator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilwoman Rebecca Lynn Kennedy

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the July 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

*Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame arrived after the vote.*



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**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Municipal Association of South Carolina's Main Street SC	Presentation
Jonathan Irick	2025 Main Street Inspiration Award

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expired June 30, 2025, and other vacancies. **No action taken**

**2. RZ-25-07, 1445 CAMDEN HIGHWAY**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone two parcels of land totaling approximately 1.85 acres from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to Residential-6 (R-6). The properties are located at 1445 Camden Highway and are identified by Tax Map Numbers 202-00-03-014 and 202-00-03-021). **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

*The public hearing was held on July 15, 2025.*

*First Reading was deferred on July 15, 2025.*

**3. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2886** authorizing the transfer of title by deed for certain real property owned by the City of Sumter to Sumter Opera House, LLC. The property is located at 17 North Main Street (formerly 15 and 17 North Main Street) and identified by Tax Map Number 228-12-05-010. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

*First Reading approval was given July 15, 2025.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**4. AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE (BUSINESSES)**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend City Code Chapter 22 ("Businesses"), Article II ("Licenses") to add various provisions, including provisions relating to registration of certain charitable organizations, conditions on business licenses, provisional business licenses, and grounds for denial or suspension or revocation of business licenses. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0



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**5. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

- a) Consider **Resolution Number 995** authorizing a contract for the Broad Street Waterline Relocation 2025 Project. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Gibson Second: Councilman Hastie Vote: 7-0

- b) Consider **Resolution Number 996** authorizing Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment Purchase. **Approved**

Motion: Councilwoman Kennedy Second: Councilman Davis Vote: 7-0

**6. ANNUAL EVENTS RESOLUTION**

Consider **Resolution Number 997** amending Resolution Number 975 which authorized the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages (beer and wine only) at several annual events. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Councilwoman Kennedy Vote: 6-1

*Councilman Hastie opposed the motion.*

**7. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Mayor Merchant                | - Reported that he and the Sumter County Council Chairman, James T. McCain, Jr., were asked to serve on Sumter School District's Master Plan Committee.  |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame | - Inquired about admission fees for the Palmetto Tennis Center and the Aquatics Center.<br>- Received several calls about overgrown lots in the Westend community and potholes on Bartlette Street.<br>- Welcomed Morris College's freshman class, along with parents (August 2 <sup>nd</sup> ).<br>- Attended the unveiling of the Community Hospital Historical Marker (July 30 <sup>th</sup> ). |
| Councilman Hastie             | - Sumter Field Day at South Sumter Park (August 10 <sup>th</sup> ).<br>- Noted the need for seating at Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) bus stops.<br>- Inquired about shelter for the homeless during extreme summer temperatures.  |
| Councilman Shaw               | - Next meeting of Sumter School Board (August 11 <sup>th</sup> )<br>- Expressed concern about the School District's realignment plan and encouraged citizens to attend.<br>- Noted the need for a master plan versus a realignment plan.<br>- Sumter will host the Serve First Open ATP Challenger 125 Tournament (August 11 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> ).                                    |



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- Councilman Gibson
- Also received calls about assistance for the homeless.
  - The SWRTA Board recently approved several new bus stops with coverings.
  - Congratulated Councilman Hastie for achieving his Doctor of Ministry from Covington Theological Seminary in Georgia; he received the highest grade point average in the Class of 2025.
- Councilwoman Kennedy
- Reiterated her request for a preview of the Fantasy of Lights on Thanksgiving night.

**8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick
- Sumter is one of only two host cities worldwide for this year's First Serve Open Tournament, alongside one location in Mexico.
  - The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism awarded the City a \$50,000 grant to support the First Serve Open tournament as a new outdoor event.
  - City staff is coordinating with the military to have squadrons serve as ball runners during the tournament.
  - Provided a brief update and photograph of the Sumter Opera House auditorium demolition.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Councilwoman Kennedy Vote: 7-0

*No action was taken during Executive Session.*

**PUBLIC SESSION**

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Councilman Gibson Vote: 7-0

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:18 p.m.

Motion: Councilwoman Kennedy Second: Councilman Gibson Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

August 1, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification