



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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	Absent
Gifford M. Shaw	Councilman, Ward 6	Present

City Staff	Title
Deron McCormick	City Manager
Howie Owens	Assistant City Manager
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Jonathan Flinchum	Finance Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Clarence Gaines	Community Development/Housing Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Carter James	Communications Manager

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the June 3, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0



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**PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00 P.M.**

**1. RZ-25-06, 1771 AIRPORT ROAD**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone an approximate 211.65-acre parcel of land from Planned Development (PD) to Heavy Industrial. The property is located at 1771 Airport Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 231-00-02-001. **Approved**

Affirmative	Negative
None	None

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expired December 31, 2024, and other vacancies. **Approved**

Appointee	Board Assignment	Appointment Classification	Term
Cassandra L. Thompson	Community Development Housing Board	Reappointment	4 Years
Amanda M. Dudley	Community Development Housing Board	Reappointment	4 Years
Shelley Galloway	Downtown Sumter Committee	Reappointment	4 Years
Julie M. Herlong	Downtown Sumter Committee	Reappointment	4 Years
Randy Abbott	Historic Preservation Design Review Committee	Reappointment	4 Years
Hyacinth Kinley	Historic Preservation Design Review Committee	Reappointment	4 Years
Tanesha Gibbons	Iris Festival Commission	New appointment	4 Years

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

**3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2878** amending the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

*First Reading approval was given June 3, 2025.*

**4. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2879** amending the City of Sumter's budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

*First Reading approval was given June 3, 2025.*



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**5. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

- a) Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2880*** amending commercial garbage collection rates. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

*First Reading approval was given May 22, 2025.*

- b) Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2881*** adopting the City of Sumter’s budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

*First Reading approval was given May 22, 2025.*

**6. ANN-25-04, 1445 CAMDEN HIGHWAY**

Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2882*** annexing by 100 percent petition approximately 2.33 acres of land (including right-of-way) located at 1445 Camden Highway and identified by Tax Map Numbers 202-00-03-014 and 202-00-03-021. **Approved**

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

*First Reading approval was given June 3, 2025.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**7. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY**

- a) Consider ***First Reading*** of an ordinance to approve the transfer of approximately 211.65 acres of city-owned property to Sumter County. The property is located at 1771 Airport Road and identified by Tax Map Number 231-00-02-001. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

- b) Consider ***First Reading*** of an ordinance to authorize the transfer of personal property to the South Carolina Educational Television Commission. **Approved**

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

**8. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION**

Consider ***Resolution Number 989*** authorizing a contract for the Sumter Opera House Renovation Project – Phase 1a. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0



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**9. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Attended “Remember Me,” a musical tribute to Lincoln High School’s legacy and museum fundraiser on Friday, June 6, 2025.
  - Attended the Touch a Truck Storm Readiness Event on Saturday, June 7, 2025.
  - Presented a proclamation and accepted a donation check from Duke Energy Progress on behalf of the City.
  - Attended the South Sumter Park Ribbon Cutting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.
- Councilman Hastie
- Family Fun Day is scheduled to take place at South Sumter Park on Thursday, June 19, 2025.
  - The grand opening of the South Sumter Farmers Market will be held on Friday, June 27, 2025.
- Councilman Gibson
- Attended the Women Veterans Appreciation Day event on Thursday, June 12, 2025.
- Councilwoman Kennedy
- Attended the Grand Closing Bash at the Sumter Opera House on Friday, June 13, 2025.
  - The United States Tennis Association Palmetto Pro Open held June 2-8, 2025, was well attended.

**10. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick
- Provided each Councilmember with the following documents:
    - Demolition updates as of Tuesday, June 17, 2025, including information on the Sumter Pride Demolition Program, the Clyburn Demolition Grant, and the Graham Demolition Grant.
    - May 2025 Monthly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**11. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Stephen Sanford
Ruth McKinney



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**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:05 p.m.

Motion: Councilman Hastie Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda D. Hammett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "L" and "H".

Linda D. Hammett  
Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

June 13, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification