



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025

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	Present
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
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Cathryn Poplin	Capital Improvement Manager
Shelley Kile Hartley	Communications and Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Anthony Gibson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the August 05, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

PUBLIC HEARING

1. RZ-25-14, 419 SOUTH LAFAYETTE DRIVE

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of a request to rezone an approximate 0.15-acre parcel of land from General Commercial (GC) to General Residential (GR). The property is located at 419 South Lafayette Drive and is identified by Tax Map Number 250-09-04-025. **Motion to defer**

Affirmative	Negative
Keanu James	

Motion: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Second: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Vote: 7-0



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Deferred until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

2. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

3. RZ-25-07, 1445 CAMDEN HIGHWAY

Consider **Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2887** rezoning two (2) 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 Shaw _____ Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Vote: 7-0

First Reading approval was given on August 5, 2025.

4. AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE (BUSINESSES)

Consider **Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2888** amending 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: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Second: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Vote: 7-0

Motion to amend First Reading

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Vote: 7-0

Motion for Final Approval (as amended)

NEW BUSINESS

5. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS

- a) Consider **Resolution Number 998** authorizing the purchase of one (1) Knuckle Boom Loader. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Vote: 7-0

- b) Consider **Resolution Number 999** authorizing a contract for the Quail Hollow Water System Connection Project. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Vote: 7-0

- c) Consider **Resolution Number 1000** authorizing a contract for the North Main Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 2. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Gibson _____ Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame _____ Vote: 7-0

- d) Consider **Resolution Number 1001** authorizing the purchase of one (1) Main Line Sewer/Stormwater Camera. **Approved**



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

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Merchant
- Thanked City staff for their hard work in support of the Serve First Open ATP Challenger 125 Tournament held August 11-17, 2025.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Attended the Serve First Open Tournament on August 11-12, 2025.
 - Bartlette Street needs to be resurfaced due to several potholes.
 - Trash and other items are being dumped in the Cook Street area, including Queen Street and South Street.
 - Inquired about a grand opening date for Westend Park on Oakland Avenue. Staff estimated an opening date near the end of September 2025.
 - Attended the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments Board meeting on August 11, 2025, along with Mayor Merchant and Councilman Gibson.
- Councilman Hastie
- The City Manager provided City updates at the South Sumter Neighborhood Beautification Association meeting on August 18, 2025.
 - Additional benches are requested for installation under the airnasium and at the pickleball courts in South Sumter Park.
 - The South Sumter Farmers Market is held each Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fifty (50) boxes of food will be given away to seniors on Friday, August 22, 2025.
 - Dr. Shaun Owens, Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina's College of Social Work, recently conducted several community seminars in Sumter on aging in place.
- Councilman Davis
- Provided a brief Sumter Area Transportation Study (SUATS) update. Some of the major projects included the following:
 - Red Bay Road Bridge
 - Manning Avenue Bridge Replacement
 - Broad Street/US-378 Improvements near Shaw Air Force Base, Saint Paul's Church Road, and Oleander Drive
 - Guignard Drive and Bultman Drive
 - Corridor Improvements on North Main Street and Manning Avenue
 - Attended a swim meet at the Aquatics Center on August 16, 2025.
- Councilwoman Kennedy
- The Serve First Open Tournament was very successful.



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7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Deron McCormick

- Provided each Councilmember with the following documents:
 - Demolition Update as of August 19, 2025.
 - July 2025 Monthly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- A post Serve First Open update will be provided to Council on September 2, 2025.
- Met with officials from Duke Energy on August 19, 2025. Crews will be relocating power poles on North Main Street and Manning Avenue during the next six (6) months.

8. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Thoney Williams
Gloria Nesmith Clark
Lottie Spencer
Linda Hasty
Michelle Ross

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Second: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ 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: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame _____ Vote: 7-0

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Motion: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame _____ Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

August 15, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification