



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 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	Absent
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
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Ellen Jansen	Operations Manager
Seth Reimer	Cultural Manager
Tim Langford	Technical Director
Kara Grover	Theater Services Coordinator
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Hastie

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the March 4, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Hastie Second: _____ Councilman Davis Vote: 5-0

Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame arrived after the vote.



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SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Sumter Opera House	Presentation
Opera House Staff	Overview of Opera House Grand Closing events and invitation. The Sumter Opera House will close on June 13, 2025, for renovations.

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Appointee	Board Assignment	Term
Vernon Disney	Housing Authority	5 Years
Austin Floyd	Housing Authority	5 Years
Matthew White	Downtown Sumter Committee	4 Years

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis Second: _____ Councilman Shaw Vote: 6-0

2. ANNEXATIONS – FINAL READING

a) ANN-25-01, WEST OAKLAND AVENUE

Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2872*** annexing by 100 percent petition approximately 2.99 acres of land (including right-of-way) from a larger parcel located on West Oakland Avenue and identified by Tax Map Number 206-00-03-023 (part). **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy Second: _____ Councilman Shaw Vote: 6-0

First Reading approval was given March 4, 2025.

b) ANN-25-02, 775 ST. AUGUSTINE DRIVE

Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2873*** annexing by 100 percent petition approximately 2.27 acres of land located at 775 St. Augustine Drive and identified by Tax Map Number 185-00-02-054. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis Second: _____ Councilman Shaw Vote: 6-0

First Reading approval was given March 4, 2025.



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3. LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Consider ***Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2874*** entitled: “An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Performance of a Lease-Purchase Agreement and Other Documents Relating to the Lease-Purchase Financing of Certain Vehicles and Equipment in an Aggregate Principal Amount of Not Exceeding \$2,075,000.00, and Other Matters Relating Thereto.” **Approved**

Motion: Councilwoman Kennedy Second: Councilman Shaw Vote: 6-0

Motion to amend First Reading.

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Councilman Hastie Vote: 6-0

Motion for Final Approval (as amended).

NEW BUSINESS

4. FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Consider ***Resolution Number 982*** designating the month of April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Sumter. **Approved**

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

5. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION

Consider ***Resolution Number 983*** authorizing a contract for Veterans Park - Phase Two (2). **Approved**

Motion: Councilwoman Kennedy Second: Councilman Hastie Vote: 6-0

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

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| Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame | - Attended the following events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Patriot’s Village Veterans’ Nursing Home on Friday, March 14, 2025.- Hidden Wounds Village (Alpha) Groundbreaking on Monday, March 17, 2025, along with Councilmembers Hastie and Kennedy. |
| Councilman Hastie | - The Festival on the Avenue will take place April 10-12, 2025. He encouraged the City’s participation in the golf tournament and the parade. |
| Councilman Shaw | - The Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at Alice Drive Baptist Church, with Keynote Speaker Rodney D. Bullard. |



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7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Deron McCormick

- The staff has been working on the budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and the preliminary draft will be presented to Council on April 1, 2025.
- Each member of Council was given a copy of the February 2025 Financials.
- The Willie "Bill" Pinkney Bust has been relocated from Dalzell, South Carolina, to Manning Avenue.

8. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Lewis Watkins
Dia Clyburn
Thoney Williams
Linda Hasty

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Vote: 6-0

10. SUMTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Council voted to contribute \$300,000 to Sumter Economic Development to support its Business Accelerator Project. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Second: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Vote: 6-0



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11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

March 14, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification