



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 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	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
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Shelley Kile Hartley	Communications and Tourism Director
Clarence Gaines	Community Development/Housing Director
Larry McFadden	HOPE Centers Coordinator
Danielle Malachi	Codes Enforcement Supervisor
Glenn Button	Litter Control Officer
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Marc Engle	Multimedia Specialist

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilwoman Rebecca Lynn Kennedy

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

PalmettoPride Youth Ambassador Program	Presentation
Glenn Button, Litter Control Officer Sarah Lyles, PalmettoPride Executive Director	Recognized Ethan Budden, Sumter High School Senior, as a PalmettoPride 2025-2026 Youth Ambassador.



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Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians	Presentation
Francis Benenhaley, Chief Rob Collins, Genealogist Josh Shumak, Program Coordinator – South Carolina Commission for Community Advancement and Engagement (formerly South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs)	Overview of Native American Heritage Month and History and Initiatives of the Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indians

**PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:00 P.M.**

**1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

Receive comments from the public regarding the proposed Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. **No action taken**

Citizens
Elayne Brunson

**2. RZ-25-18, 100 EAST LIBERTY STREET**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone three (3) parcels of land of a combined size of approximately 1.28 acres from General Commercial (GC) to Central Business District (CBD). The properties are located at 100 East Liberty Street, 108 East Liberty Street, and 11 South Harvin Street, and are identified by Tax Map Numbers 249-16-01-001, 249-16-01-002, and 249-16-01-011. **Approved**

Affirmative	Negative
Craig Ness	None
Mark Jahnke	

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 7-0

**3. RZ-25-20, 685 DESCHAMPS ROAD**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone approximately 31.34 acres of land from Residential-6 (R-6) to Residential-9 (R-9). The property is located at 685 Deschamps Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 184-00-01-001. **Approved**

Affirmative	Negative
Shawn Ragin	Christopher Bartholomew
Cindy Brooks-Parks	

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

*Councilman Shaw recused himself from the vote.*



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**4. RZ-25-21, 20 PACK ROAD**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone an approximate 5.10-acre parcel of land from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to General Commercial (GC). The property is located at 20 Pack Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 225-00-03-013 (part). **Approved**

Affirmative	Negative
Gavin Melia	None

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

**5. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments due to expire December 31, 2025, and other vacancies. **No action taken**

**6. OA-25-06, SPECIAL EVENT FACILITIES**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend Article 3, Exhibit 3-5; Article 5.b.1.i.; Article 5.b.2.; Article 5.b.3., and Article 10.b.1. to modify the zoning districts in which special event facilities can be established, to require special exception approval for zoning districts where special event facilities can be established, to establish more robust use-specific criteria for special design facilities, and to modify the definition of special event facility. **Approved**

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

*First Reading was deferred on October 21, 2025.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**7. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

- a) Consider **Resolution Number 1013** authorizing a contract for Professional Services for the US 15 South Pump Station Project. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

- b) Consider **Resolution Number 1014** authorizing a contract for the Sister Wimberly Playground at Swan Lake - Site Work Project. **Approved**

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

- c) Consider **Resolution Number 1015** authorizing a contract for the Sister Wimberly Playground at Swan Lake - Playground Equipment Project. **Approved**

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

- d) Consider **Resolution Number 1016** authorizing a contract for the Swan Lake Northside Entrance Renovation Project. **Approved**

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



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**8. COUNCIL REPORTS**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Mayor Merchant                | - Recognized several members of the Ross McKenzie Emerging Leaders who were in attendance.  |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Thanked the Sumter Police Department for installing cameras on Cook Street.</li><li>- Continues to receive calls from residents regarding the need for lighting on Cook Street, South Street, and North Street located off McCray's Mill Road.</li><li>- Received calls from several residents about the timeline for Phase 2 of Westend Park, which will include restroom facilities.</li><li>- Attended the Veterans Day Parade and Program, along with fellow Councilmembers on November 11, 2025.</li><li>- Announced that Councilman Hastie was recently named South Carolina's Juvenile Public Defender of the Year for 2025.</li></ul> |
| Councilman Hastie             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Thanked City Council and Staff, on behalf of the South Sumter Neighborhood Beautification Association, for approving the lease of the property located at 627 South Sumter Street to be used as a community garden.</li><li>- Attended the South Carolina Book Tour featuring Congressman James E. Clyburn's book signing for <i>The First Eight</i> at Sumter Patriot Hall on November 16, 2025.</li><li>- Expressed the need for signs to be posted at city parks notifying the public that parks close at dusk.</li></ul>  |
| Councilwoman Kennedy          | - The opening ceremony for the Fantasy of Lights will be held on December 1, 2025. A partial preview of the lights will be on display on Garden Street during Thanksgiving weekend.   |

**9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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|-----------------|---|
| Deron McCormick | - Provided each Councilmember with the October 2025 Monthly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. |
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**10. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Thoney Williams
Hyacinth Kinley



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**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

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

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

November 14, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification