



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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	Absent
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
BJ Reed	Strategic Initiatives Manager
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Jeff Derwort	Zoning Administrator
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Carter James	Communications Manager
Anukkah Chandler	Communications Specialist

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tempore James B. Blassingame

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the September 16, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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



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

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance 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. **Deferred**

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

First Reading was deferred until October 21, 2025.

First Reading was initially deferred on August 19, 2025, and again on September 2, 2025.

3. RZ-25-15, 3241 WEDGEFIELD ROAD

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone an approximate 2.2-acre portion of a 9.15-acre parcel of land from Residential-15 (R-15) to General Commercial (GC). The property is located at 3241 Wedgefield Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 183-00-02-010 (part). **Denied**

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

First Reading was deferred on September 16, 2025.

4. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2884** authorizing the transfer of approximately 211.65 acres of city-owned property. The property is located at 1771 Airport Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 231-00-02-001. **Approved**

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

First Reading was given on June 17, 2025.

5. OA-25-02, TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS IN CBD ZONING DISTRICT

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2889** amending Article 3, Exhibit 3-5, and Article 5.b.4.a of the City of Sumter Zoning and Development Ordinance to allow telecommunications towers via special exception use in the Central Business District (CBD). **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame Vote: 6-0

First Reading was given on September 16, 2025.

6. SALE OF PROPERTY

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2890** authorizing the sale of certain city-owned properties acquired through the Neighborhood Improvement Program. **Approved**

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

First Reading was given on September 16, 2025.



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7. LEASE OF PROPERTY

- a) Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2891*** authorizing a lease agreement with respect to certain real property. The property is located at 201 South Harvin Street and is identified by Tax Map Number 250-01-03-006. **Approved**

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

First Reading was given on September 16, 2025.

- b) Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2892*** authorizing a lease agreement with respect to certain real property. The property is located at 627 South Sumter Street and is identified by Tax Map Number 227-12-03-026. **No action taken**

This item was removed from the agenda until October 21, 2025.

First Reading was given on September 16, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

8. ANN-25-05, 2665 WEST OAKLAND AVENUE

Consider ***First Reading*** of an ordinance to annex by 100 percent petition approximately 12.33 acres of land (including right-of-way) located at 2665 West Oakland Avenue and identified by Tax Map Number 206-00-02-001. **Approved**

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

9. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS

- a) Consider ***Resolution Number 1004*** authorizing the purchase of one (1) bar screen for the Pocatigo Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Approved**

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

- b) Consider ***Resolution Number 1005*** authorizing a contract for the State Street Resurfacing Project for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame _____ Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Vote: 6-0

- c) Consider ***Resolution Number 1006*** authorizing a contract for the City Street Resurfacing Project for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **Approved**

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

- d) Consider ***Resolution Number 1007*** authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2026 MV607 Dump Truck for the Water and Sewer Department. **Approved**

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

- e) Consider ***Resolution Number 1008*** authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2026 MV607 Dump Truck for the Public Works Department. **Approved**



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

- f) Consider **Resolution Number 1009** authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2026 MV607 Flatbed Dump Truck for the Public Works Department. **Approved**

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

- g) Consider **Resolution Number 1010** authorizing a contract for the Bobby Richardson Sports Complex Design Development. **Approved**

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

10. COUNCIL REPORTS

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| Mayor Merchant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attended the 55th Anniversary of BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), along with Councilmembers Blassingame, Gibson and Kennedy, on October 3, 2025.- Thanked all who assisted with and participated in the eSTEAM Parade and Festival. The event was very well attended. |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expressed appreciation to Council and the staff for their condolences, the beautiful floral arrangement, and the sympathy letter from Mayor Merchant sent during the recent passing of his father.- Thanked all who attended the ribbon cutting for Westend Park on September 17, 2025, and the launching of Sumter's Track Trails Program held on September 30, 2025, at the Prisma Health Shot Pouch Greenway Trailhead at Swan Lake Iris Gardens.- Thanked Mayor Merchant for his congratulatory letter to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in recognition of its 132nd Church Anniversary on September 28, 2025. |
| Councilman Shaw | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thanked the public for their attendance and support.- Thanked the group of citizens who submitted a neighborhood petition with more than 300 signatures from residents against the rezoning of the property located at 3241 Wedgefield Road (RZ-25-15). |
| Councilman Gibson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attended the 55th Anniversary celebration of BD on October 3, 2025, and the eSTEAM Parade and Festival on October 4, 2025. |

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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|-----------------|---|
| Deron McCormick | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided a brief demolition update. The staff continues to work on the Clyburn Demolition Grant, and the City has recently been awarded the Graham Demolition Grant.- Provided each Councilmember with the August 2025 Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.- Recollected that Councilman Hastie requested an update on properties acquired through the Neighborhood Improvement Program and sold through Request for Proposals for residential redevelopment. He called on BJ Reed to provide that update. |
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- BJ Reed - Provided a demolition/redevelopment update which included before and after photographs of eight (8) properties on West Oakland Avenue, Church Street, Dingle Street, and Wright Street. The update also included who the properties were awarded to, the amount paid for the properties, and the City's property tax benefit for each property.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

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

APPEAL FROM SUMTER BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BOA-25-03)

Council voted to authorize General Counsel to proceed as discussed in Executive Session concerning the proposed resolution of the Market Place Spirits Appeal from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:23 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Second: Councilwoman Kennedy Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

October 3, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification