



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 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	Absent

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
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Carter James	Communications Manager

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilwoman Kennedy

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the April 1, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: Councilwoman Kennedy Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 5-0

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Midlands Fatherhood Coalition	Presentation
Keith Ivey, Director of Operations Eleanor Boyd, Senior Development Consultant Andrew Coston, Director of Data and Technology Terrance Whitfield, Site Manager	Overview of current program initiatives.



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**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expired December 31, 2024, and other vacancies. **No action taken**

**2. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

Receive an updated draft for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **No action taken**

**3. ANN-25-03, PINEWOOD ROAD**

Consider ***Final Reading*** of Ordinance Number 2875 annexing by 100 percent petition approximately 8.11 acres of land (including right-of-way) from a larger parcel located on Pinewood Road and identified by Tax Map Number 207-11-07-006 (portion). **Approved**

Motion: Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame Second: Councilman Hastie Vote: 5-0

*First Reading approval was given April 1, 2025.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**4. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Mayor Merchant                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attended and presented a proclamation recognizing Willow Drive Elementary School's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. The keynote speaker was Sumter School District Board Trustee Matthew "Mac" McLeod of District 6.</li><li>- The City of Sumter is partnering with Willow Drive Elementary to construct new basketball courts on the school's campus.</li></ul>   |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attended the following events:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- South Carolina Walkability and Active Transportation Workshop – Held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the Sumter Opera House, followed by a city walk audit that included Downtown Sumter.</li><li>- Duke Energy Trails-Trees-Trash Service Event - Participated on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, as part of Duke Energy's environmental initiative. During the event, Duke Energy presented a \$3,500 check to Sumter Green to support tree planting along the Prisma Health Shot Pouch Greenway.</li><li>- Ribbon Cutting celebrating Sumter Physical Therapy joining McLeod Health Clarendon on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 1185 Wilson Hall Road.</li></ul></li></ul> |
| Councilman Hastie             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Expressed appreciation to Council for their participation in the Festival on the Avenue events.</li><li>- The Memorial Day Celebration is scheduled to take place at South Sumter Park on Monday, May 26, 2025.</li></ul>   |
| Councilwoman Kennedy          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Members of the Heart of Sumter Neighborhood Association are very pleased with the progress of construction improvements underway at Memorial Park.</li></ul>  |



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**5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Deron McCormick

- The Iris Festival will be held a week early this year on May 15-18, 2025.
- A date for the Broad Street Trailhead Groundbreaking will be announced soon.

**6. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Tamekia Hunter Ross
Linda Hasty
Matthew White/Desiree Ross
Ida Melton
Lewis Watkins

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:17 p.m.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie      Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ 5-0

Respectfully submitted:

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

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April 11, 2025      Certification of Public and Media Notification