



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

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	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
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Danielle Malachi	Codes Enforcement Supervisor
Glenn Button	Litter Control Officer
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Gifford M. Shaw

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the January 6, 2026, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

City of Sumter Litter Awards

Category	Recipient(s)
Volunteer Cleanup	Liberty STEAM Charter School
Most Litter Picked Up	Scout Troop 342 of Shaw Air Force Base
Above and Beyond	Billy Sams



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Category	Recipient(s)
Elementary School “Love Where You Live” Poster Contest	Barkley Helms, 3 rd grade, Manchester Elementary School
Middle School “Love Where You Live” Poster Contest	Winnie Caughman, 7 th grade, Wilson Hall School
High School “Love Where You Live” Poster Contest	Sarah Sloan Motley, 9 th grade, Wilson Hall School

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Consider appointments expired December 31, 2025, and other vacancies. **No action taken.**

2. MORATORIUM ORDINANCE

Consider ***Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2899*** establishing a temporary moratorium on applications, processing and approval of applications for development of major residential subdivisions under the current City Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance and proposed Unified Development Ordinance. **Approved**

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

First Reading approval was given January 6, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

3. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Merchant - Cited the Civility Pledge of the Municipal Association of South Carolina and emphasized its importance for all cities and towns.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame - Attended the following events:
 - The Stand Against Hate Rally at the State Capitol on January 13, 2026.
 - The 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamwalk on January 19, 2026, beginning at the University of South Carolina Sumter.
 - The Municipal Association of South Carolina’s Hometown Legislative Action Day, along with fellow Councilmembers and staff members, on January 20, 2026.
- Announced that the H.Y.P.E. Afterschool Programs would sponsor a Civic Engagement Night on January 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the North HOPE Center.
- Councilwoman Kennedy - Thanked City Staff for their outstanding maintenance of the Prisma Health Shot Pouch Greenway.



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4. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Deron McCormick - Provided each Councilmember with a Demolition Update as of January 20, 2026,

5. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Thoney Williams
Keith Ivey

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Councilman Gibson Vote: 6-0
No action was taken during Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:52 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

January 16, 2026 Certification of Public and Media Notification