



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Karl Ford	Fire Chief
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Steven Dara	Assistant Fire Chief
Jeffrey Shirley	Senior Division Chief of Administration/Operations
Shelley Kile Hartley	Communications and Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Anukkah Chandler	Communications Specialist

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Gifford M. Shaw

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the October 21, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Mayor Merchant recognized Debbie Kelso (Player 026), a contestant on Season Two (2) of Netflix's Squid Game: The Challenge.



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**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

**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. **Denied**

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

**3. LEASE OF PROPERTY**

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. **Approved**

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

*First Reading was given on September 16, 2025.*

**4. BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE**

Consider **Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2894** amending the Business License Ordinance of the City of Sumter to update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020, and to update the Rate Schedule. **Approved**

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

*Motion to Amend First Reading*

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

*Motion for Final Approval (as amended)*

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**5. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION**

Consider **Resolution Number 1012** authorizing a contract for the Stadium Road Fire Station Additions and Renovations. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kennedy Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis Vote: 6-0



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**6. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Merchant
- Extended Birthday wishes to Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame who will celebrate a birthday on November 5, 2025.
  - Met with Dr. William "Clay" Smith prior to his retirement ceremony and presented to him a token of appreciation from the City of Sumter in recognition of 31 years of dedicated service to Alice Drive Baptist Church and to the Sumter community.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Attended the following events:
    - The second Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor James Kennedy of Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church on October 26, 2025.
    - The Morris College Homecoming Parade on November 1, 2025.
    - Dr. Clay Smith's final sermon at Alice Drive Baptist Church on November 2, 2025.
    - The Magnolia Arbor Truss Signing Ceremony, along with Councilwoman Kennedy, on November 3, 2025.
    - A special-called meeting of the Westend Neighborhood Association on November 3, 2025. Concerns expressed by Association members included:
      - Opposition to the liquor store proposed for the corner of Guignard Drive and West Liberty Street.
      - Illegal dumping on Cook Street.
      - The need for additional lighting in the Green Swamp area.
    - Announced that a series of community engagement meetings have been scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations:
      - November 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
      - December 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Birnie HOPE Center.
      - January 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the North HOPE Center.
- Councilman Davis
- Presented a proclamation to Dr. Clay Smith during his retirement ceremony on November 1, 2025.
- Councilwoman Kennedy
- Attended the Magnolia Arbor Truss Signing Ceremony on November 3, 2025.

**7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick
- Provided each Councilmember with a demolition update as of November 4, 2025.



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**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: Councilman Davis 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 Shaw Vote: 6-0

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:46 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett  
Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

October 31, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification