



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 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
Jeffery Jackson	Assistant Police Chief
Kyle Kelly	Senior Planner/Transportation
Shelley Kile	Communications and Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Shaw

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the June 17, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

South Sumter Gym	Presentation
Coach Junko Allen	Overview of current program initiatives.



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PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00 P.M.

1. RZ-25-07, 1445 CAMDEN HIGHWAY

Receive comments from the public and consider ***First Reading*** of an ordinance to rezone two parcels of land totaling approximately 1.85 acres from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to Residential-6 (R-6). The properties are located at 1445 Camden Highway and are identified by Tax Map Numbers 202-00-03-014 and 202-00-03-021). **Deferred until August 5, 2025**

Affirmative	Negative
None	Tim Williams
	Karen Watts
	Wayne Rogers
	Timothy Hawkins

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis Second: _____ Councilman Shaw Vote: 7-0

OLD BUSINESS

2. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

3. RZ-25-06, 1771 AIRPORT ROAD

Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2883*** rezoning an approximate 211.65-acre parcel of land from Planned Development (PD) to Heavy Industrial. The property is located at 1771 Airport Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 231-00-02-001. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy Vote: 7-0

First Reading approval was given June 17, 2025.

4. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2885*** authorizing the transfer of personal property to South Carolina ETV. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw Second: _____ Councilman Gibson Vote: 7-0

First Reading approval was given June 17, 2025.

5. RZ-25-02, 819 SOUTH GUIGNARD DRIVE (WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT ON JULY 14, 2025)

Consider ***Final Reading*** of ***Ordinance Number 2876*** rezoning an approximate 3.0-acre parcel of land from Residential-15 (R-15) to General Commercial (GC). The property is located at 819 South Guignard Drive and is identified by Tax Map Number 226-03-03-005.



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NEW BUSINESS

6. REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION

Consider **Resolution Number 990** declaring the intent of the City of Sumter to reimburse itself for certain expenditures with the proceeds of tax-exempt obligations to be incurred by the City. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Second: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Vote: 7-0

7. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to approve and authorize the transfer of title by deed for certain real property owned by the City of Sumter to Sumter Opera House, LLC. The property is located at 17 North Main Street (formerly 15 and 17 North Main Street) and identified by Tax Map Number 228-12-05-010. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Second: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Vote: 7-0

8. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS

a) Consider **Resolution Number 991** authorizing a contract for the Crosswell Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements Project – Phase 1. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame _____ Vote: 7-0

b) Consider **Resolution Number 992** authorizing the purchase of one (1) Automated Garbage Truck. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Gibson _____ Vote: 7-0

c) Consider **Resolution Number 993** authorizing an agreement with the South Carolina Department of Transportation for professional services for the Sumter Sidewalk Connectivity Project. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Second: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Vote: 7-0

d) Consider **Resolution Number 994** authorizing a contract for professional services for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Project. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Second: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Vote: 7-0



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9. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Attended the Westend Community Association monthly meeting on Monday (July 7); Residents requested:
 - Community camera installation
 - Traffic light at Bartlette Street and Guignard Drive
 - Cleanup of overgrown lots on Charles Street
 - Chief Roark will speak at the August meeting.
 - Presented a proclamation honoring Dr. T.L. Penny's 25th Pastoral Anniversary (July 13).
 - Attended the 118th South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church (July 13) with Mayor Merchant and Councilman Hastie; the Mayor gave remarks on behalf of the City.
- Councilman Hastie
- Recognized Amy James and youth from Ballersworld Global Foundation for their community work.
 - Announced the next South Sumter Neighborhood Beautification Association meeting: July 21st at 6:00 p.m., South Sumter Resource Center. Speakers include Police Chief Russell Roark and Litter Control Officer Glenn Button.
- Councilman Davis
- Gave updates from the Sumter Area Transportation Study Policy Committee (June 20) on:
 - Red Bay Road Bridge
 - Manning Avenue Bridge Replacement
 - Corridor Improvements on North Main and Manning Avenue
 - Broad Street/US-378 Improvements near Shaw Air Force Base, Saint Paul's Church Road, and Oleander Drive.
- Councilman Shaw
- Encouraged resident participation in local government.
 - Applauded City staff for securing funding to enhance quality of life.
 - Commended Police Chief Roark's efforts in public safety and surveillance expansion; a new camera will be installed near Liberty STEAM Charter School following a recent incident.



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10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Deron McCormick

- The City is currently partnering with Millwood and Wilder Elementary Schools to upgrade their basketball courts.
- The Palmetto Tennis Center will host the Serve First Open Tournament on August 11-17, 2025.

11. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Ruth F. McKinney
D. B. Prescott
Gwend D. China
Heather Sanford
Kia Smith
Amy James and Ernest Gass
Mike Bradley
James Evans

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

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

No action was taken during Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw Second: _____ Councilman Davis Vote: 7-0

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Motion: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy Second: _____ Councilman Shaw Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

July 11, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification