



INVEST. INVITE. SERVE.

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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	Present
Rebecca Lynn Kennedy	Councilwoman, Ward 4	Absent
Colin C. Davis	Councilman, Ward 5	Present
Gifford M. Shaw	Councilman, Ward 6	Present

City Staff	Title
Deron McCormick	City Manager
Mark Partin	Chief of Staff
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Jeffery Jackson	Assistant Police Chief
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 Colin C. Davis

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the November 18, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 5-0

*Councilman Gibson arrived after the vote.*

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Recognized City of Sumter employees with ten (10) and fifteen (15) years of service.



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**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments due to expire December 31, 2025, and other vacancies. **Approved**

Appointee	Board Assignment	Appointment Classification	Term
William "Clay" Smith	Zoning Board of Appeals	Reappointment	4 Years
Amanda Reed	Housing and Economic Development Corporation	New Appointment	3 Years
John Howlett	Litter Advisory Board	New Appointment	3 Years
Frenche Brewer	Historic Preservation Design Review Committee	New Appointment	4 Years

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

**2. RZ-25-18, 100 EAST LIBERTY STREET**

Consider **Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2895** rezoning three (3) parcels of land of a combined size of approximately 1.28 acres from General Commercial (GC) to Central Business District (CBD). The properties are located at 100 East Liberty Street, 108 East Liberty Street, and 11 South Harvin Street, and are identified by Tax Map Numbers 249-16-01-001, 249-16-01-002, and 249-16-01-011. **Approved**

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

*First Reading was given on November 18, 2025.*

**3. RZ-25-20, 685 DESCHAMPS ROAD**

Consider **Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2896** rezoning approximately 31.34 acres of land from Residential-6 (R-6) to Residential-9 (R-9). The property is located at 685 Deschamps Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 184-00-01-001. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Hastie Second: Councilman Davis Vote: 5-0

*Councilman Shaw recused himself from the vote.*

*First Reading was given on November 18, 2025.*

**4. RZ-25-21, 20 PACK ROAD**

Consider **Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2897** rezoning an approximate 5.10-acre parcel of land from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to General Commercial (GC). The property is located at 20 Pack Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 225-00-03-013 (part). **Approved**

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

*First Reading was given on November 18, 2025.*



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**5. OA-25-06, SPECIAL EVENT FACILITIES**

Consider **Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2898** amending Article 3, Exhibit 3-5; Article 5.b.1.i.; Article 5.b.2.; Article 5.b.3., and Article 10.b.1. to modify the zoning districts in which special event facilities can be established, to require special exception approval for zoning districts where special event facilities can be established, to establish more robust use-specific criteria for special design facilities, and to modify the definition of special event facility. **Approved**

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

*First Reading was given on November 18, 2025.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

a) Consider **Resolution Number 1017** authorizing a contract for the Downtown Water Improvements 2025 Project. **Approved**

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

b) Consider **Resolution Number 1018** authorizing a contract for the Sibley Village Pump Station and Force Main Project. **Approved**

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

**7. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Merchant
  - Thanked Chief Roark and the Sumter Police Department for traffic control during the Fantasy of Lights Opening Ceremony.
  - The winning entries from the Mayor’s Christmas Card Competition will be a permanent part of the Fantasy of Lights display at Swan Lake Iris Gardens.
  
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame
  - Attended the following events:
    - State of Education Breakfast at Christ Community Church on November 21, 2025.
    - Dedication ceremony and unveiling of a South Carolina Historical Marker for Palmer Memorial Chapel at 304 South Main Street on November 25, 2025, along with Councilman Hastie.
    - The South Carolina Council of Governments Conference held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on November 23-25, 2025, along with Councilman Gibson.
    - Westend Neighborhood Association’s end of the year Christmas celebration at Birnie HOPE Center on December 1, 2025.
  - Thanked City staff and the South Carolina Department of Transportation for the sidewalk repairs near the intersection of Guignard Drive and West Liberty Street.
  - Thanked City staff for the installation of additional lighting in the Cook Street area located off McCray’s Mill Road.



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- Councilman Hastie
- Attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln High School Black-Tie Gala & Fundraiser on November 28, 2025, along with Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame.
  - Attended the Fantasy of Lights Opening Ceremony along with fellow Councilmembers.
- Councilman Shaw
- Attended the Sumter School District Superintendent Search Focus Group meeting on November 19, 2025, along with Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame and Councilman Hastie.
  - Provided an enrollment update for Liberty STEAM Charter School for the 2026-2027 school year.

**8. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick
- Provided each Councilmember with a Demolition Update as of December 2, 2025.
  - Announced that a special-called meeting of City Council was scheduled for December 11, 2025, to receive the Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

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

*No action was taken during Executive Session.*

**PUBLIC SESSION**

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

Motion:           Councilman Hastie           Second:           Councilman Gibson           Vote: 6-0

**MORATORIUM**

- 1) Motion that the Council, at its meeting on January 6, 2026, consider first reading of an ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on new applications for approvals of major residential subdivisions under the City of Sumter Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance, and
- 2) that the Council request City staff to arrange for a newspaper advertisement providing public notice of Council’s consideration at that meeting of the moratorium ordinance.

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



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**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda D. Hammett".

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

November 26, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification