



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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
Kyle Kelly	Senior Planner/Transportation
Shelley Kile Hartley	Communications and Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Marc Engle	Multimedia Specialist

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Calvin K. Hastie, Sr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the October 7, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Sumter City-County Planning Department	Presentation
Kyle Kelly, Senior Planner/Transportation	Update on Historic Resources Survey for Westend, Hampton Park, and Mason Croft Neighborhoods



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PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00 P.M.

1. OA-25-06, SPECIAL EVENT FACILITIES

Amend Article 3, Exhibit 3-5; Article 5.b.1.i.; Article 5.b.2.; Article 5.b.3.; Article 8, Exhibit 8-12; 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 event facilities, and to modify the definition of special event facility. **Deferred**

Affirmative	Negative
None	Elayne Brunson

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

First Reading was deferred until November 18, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

2. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

3. 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. **Deferred**

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

First Reading was deferred until November 4, 2025.

First Reading was initially deferred on August 19, 2025, and again on September 2, 2025, and October 7, 2025.

4. ANN-25-05, 2665 WEST OAKLAND AVENUE

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2893** annexing by 100 percent petition approximately 12.33 acres of land (including right-of-way) located at 2665 West Oakland Avenue and identified by Tax Map Number 206-00-02-001. **Approved**

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

First Reading was given on October 7, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

5. BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend 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 Shaw _____ Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Vote: 7-0



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6. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION

Consider **Resolution Number 1011** authorizing a contract for the Sumter Opera House Renovation Project, Phase 2 – Renovation of Auditorium, Annex, and Connector Spine. **Approved**

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

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

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| Mayor Merchant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided an overview of the Tennis 4 Turkeys Tournament held at the Palmetto Tennis Center October 18-20, 2025. This year's proceeds exceeded \$14,000 and will provide Thanksgiving meals to more than 250 Shaw Air Force Base military members and families. |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thanked Council and Staff, on behalf of the Westend Neighborhood Association, for the improvements to Westend Park.- Expressed appreciation to Police Chief Roark and the Sumter Police Department for their support during the funeral service for the late Reginald Furman, husband of Lieutenant Cerdetricka Furman, held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.- Attended the Pinedale Neighborhood Association meeting on October 16, 2025.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- He and Councilman Hastie will be working together as Council representatives for the Association.- The Association will host a <i>Fall into Unity</i> event on October 23, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.- Announced that the Morris College Homecoming Parade will be held on November 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. |
| Councilman Hastie | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided information pertaining to youth sports activities occurring at South Sumter Park. A girl's flag football tournament was recently held at the Park with more than 400 youth and family members in attendance.- The South Sumter Farmers Market is ongoing on Manning Avenue on Fridays from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| Councilwoman Kennedy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attended the Historic Resources Survey meeting on October 20, 2025, at the Meetinghouse.- Noted the need for additional lighting in the parking lot of the Meeting House. |

8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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| Deron McCormick | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided each Councilmember with the following documents:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- September 2025 Monthly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.- Demolition Update as of October 21, 2025. |
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9. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Collette Jones
Stephen Winn
Ruth McKinney
Phillip Marshall

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ 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: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame _____ Vote: 7-0

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:08 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

October 17, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification