



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

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**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	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
Jonathan Flinchum	Finance Director
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Central Carolina Technical College	Presentation
Dr. Kevin Pollock	Overview of current college initiatives.



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**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expired December 31, 2024, and other vacancies. **Approved**

Appointee	Board Assignment	Term
Dixie Hardy	Iris Festival Commission	4 Years

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

**2. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

Receive preliminary draft for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **No action taken**

**3. ANN-25-03, PINEWOOD ROAD**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to annex by 100 percent petition approximately 8.11 acres of land (including right-of-way) from a larger parcel located on Pinewood Road and identified by Tax Map Number 207-11-07-006 (portion). **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

**NEW BUSINESS**

**4. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Merchant - Thanked City Council for attending recent events in his absence.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame - Attended the following events:
- Read Across America Day, Monday, March 3, 2025  
Read for students at Lemira Elementary School (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Liberty STEAM Charter school (4<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Municipal Association of South Carolina Municipal Elected Officials Institute, Wednesday, March 26, 2025
  - Welcomed guests on behalf of Mayor Merchant to the Landmark Conference, March 27-29, 2025
  - Vietnam Veterans' Appreciation Day, Friday, March 28, 2025
  - Lincoln High Museum and Heritage Complex Groundbreaking Ceremony, Friday, March 28, 2025
- Councilman Hastie - Invited the public to attend the following events:
- Festival on the Avenue, April 10 – 12, 2025
  - Iris Festival, May 16-18, 2025
  - South Sumter Neighborhood Beautification Association Memorial Day Celebration, May 26, 2025
- Councilman Davis - Hosted an industry group that included individuals from across the country. Grateful for all the compliments about the Sumter community from those in attendance.



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Councilman Shaw

- Attended with Councilman Gibson the Durant's Children's Center National Child Abuse Prevention Month Kickoff. A proclamation was read on behalf of Mayor Merchant as a part of the event.
- Councilman is supportive of the Sumter School District and their capital needs.

**5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Deron McCormick

- Demolition update copies, detailing the use of Clyburn grant funding, were distributed to each council member for review.
- North Main Corridor project progressing well.
- Previewed the Grainger McKoy Fountain art rendering being created for the Sumter Museum.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

*No action was taken during Executive Session.*

**PUBLIC SESSION**

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:03 p.m.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

*CC Newman*

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Cecilia Newman  
Records Management Administrator

March 28, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification