



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 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	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
Mark Partin	Chief of Staff
Jonathan Flinchum	Finance Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Jeffery Jackson	Assistant Police Chief
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Susan Wild	Director of Partnerships
Carter James	Communications Manager

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the December 17, 2024, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Recognized the Ross McKenzie Emerging Leaders Class of 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Consider appointments expired December 31, 2024, and other vacancies. **No action taken.**



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TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

2. RZ-24-21, 3840 PATRIOT PARKWAY

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2866** rezoning approximately 5.21 acres of land from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to Residential Multi-Family (RMF). The property is located at 3840 Patriot Parkway and identified by Tax Map Number 184-00-01-009. **Approved**

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

First Reading approval was given December 17, 2024.

3. CITY CODE AMENDMENT (UTILITIES)

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2867** amending Chapter 98 (Utilities) of the City of Sumter Code of Ordinances to add a new Section 98-63 (Backflow and Cross-Connection Control Policy).

Approved

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

First Reading approval was given December 17, 2024.

4. SALE OF PROPERTY

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2868** authorizing the sale of 0.226 acres of property jointly owned by the City of Sumter and Sumter County to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). The property is located on Broad Street and identified by Tax Map Number 154-00-01-002.

Approved

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

First Reading approval was given December 17, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

5. SALE OF PROPERTY

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to authorize the sale of a 0.013-acre strip of property from two (2) parcels of property owned by the City of Sumter to SCDOT. The properties are located at 847 and 849 North Main Street and identified by Tax Map Numbers 229-05-05-035 and 229-05-05-022, respectively.

Approved.

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

6. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS

- a) Consider **Resolution Number 973** authorizing the acquisition of approximately 0.516 acres of property located at the end of Quandry Road and identified by Tax Map Number 186-00-04-019 (part of) for an additional elevated water tank associated with Water Treatment Plant Number Five (5).

Approved

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



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

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- b) Consider **Resolution Number 974** authorizing a contract for an additional elevated water tank associated with Water Treatment Plant Number Five (5). **Approved**

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

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Merchant
- City parks are being updated in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act.
 - The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) reported at a luncheon with Senator Jeff Zell on December 19, 2024, that plans are underway for a third lane on Interstate 95 in South Carolina and a contract has been awarded for a new bridge over Lake Marion.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Attended the aforementioned luncheon with Senator Jeff Zell, other elected officials, and SCDOT.
 - Attended the monthly meeting of the Westend Community Association on Monday, January 6, 2025, where the following concerns were raised:
 - o Status of the groundbreaking for the Westend Community Park Project.
 - o The need for street lights on Dingle, Blanding, Wright, Queen, North, and Charles Streets.
 - o Ben and South Streets have street lights, but they are currently not working.
- Councilman Hastie
- The South Sumter Park Revitalization Project has an estimated completion date of April 2025 with hopes to have the annual Veterans Association Memorial Day celebration there.
 - The South Sumter Art Park is complete. Concerned that there is no gate to prevent access after hours.
 - Inquired about the status of the Manning Avenue Bridge Project and the North Main Street and Manning Avenue Corridor Projects.

8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Deron McCormick
- Provided an update on housing demolition through the Clyburn Demolition Grant.
 - Reported that the letting of the Manning Avenue Bridge Project and the North Main Street and Manning Avenue Corridor Projects is confirmed for April 2025.
 - Each member of City Council was given a copy of the November 2024 financials.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

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



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

PUBLIC SESSION

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

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

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES

Authorized the City Manager to work on community safety initiatives. **Approved**

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

January 3, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification