



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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	Absent
Rebecca Lynn Kennedy	Councilwoman, Ward 4	Present
Colin C. Davis	Councilman, Ward 5	Present
Gifford M. Shaw	Councilman, Ward 6	Present

City Staff	Title
Howie Owens	Assistant City Manager
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Jonathan Flinchum	Finance Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Clarence Gaines	Director of Community Development
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Annie Williams	Office Assistant

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Gibson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the May 6, 2025, regular meeting minutes and May 13, 2025, special called meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: Councilwoman Kennedy Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 6-0

PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:00 P.M.

1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Receive comments from the public regarding the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. The CAPER is a report on the City’s utilization of the Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$368,392.00 for the period of April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. **No action taken**

Affirmative	Negative
None	None

2. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Receive comments from the public on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **No action taken**

Affirmative	Negative
None	None



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

3. RZ-25-02, 819 SOUTH GUIGNARD DRIVE

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone 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. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Vote: 5-1
Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame opposed the motion.

Affirmative	Negative
None	Audrey Perkins

4. PD-25-01, PINWOOD ROAD AND STADIUM ROAD

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone approximately 34.38 acres of property from Residential-15 (R-15) to Planned Development (PD-25-01). The property is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Pinewood Road and Stadium Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 207-00-05-001.

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame _____ Vote: 6-0

Affirmative	Negative
Mack Kolb	None
Greg Thompson	
George Harb	

OLD BUSINESS

5. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

6. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Receive an updated draft budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **No action taken**

NEW BUSINESS

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Merchant
- The Iris Festival was a great success, including the Taste at the Gardens on Thursday, May 15, 2025, and the parade on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication in preparation for and during the festival.
 - Attended Senior Class Day at Sumter High School today, May 20, 2025.
 - Congratulated all graduates in the community.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Attended the following events:
 - The Jazz in Pink event held on Friday, May 2, 2025, in support of breast cancer awareness.
 - Two groundbreaking ceremonies sponsored by the Sumter County Community Development Association on Friday, May 2, 2025.
 - HYPE Awards Banquet on Friday, May 16, 2025, with former Senator Kevin Johnson as the keynote speaker.
 - Presented a proclamation at the Mayfest event celebrating Mental Health Awareness month on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at Morris College.
- Councilwoman Kennedy
- This year’s Iris Festival was one of the best yet. Expressed appreciation to all participants.



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

8. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Howie Owens

- Provided an update on housing demolition through the Clyburn Demolition Grant, as of May 20, 2025.
- A copy of the City of Sumter 2024 Annual Water Quality Report was provided to each member of Council for review. There were no violations.
- Each member of Council was given a copy of the April 2025 financials.
- The Youth Hunting Take One Make One Program, in connection with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, will commence at the Welcome Center at Shaw-Sumter Farm on September 20, 2025.
- The 2025 Fourth Fridays concert series will kick off on Friday, May 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. on the Courthouse lawn, featuring Terrance Lonon and the Untouchables.

Shelley Kile

- Provided details on the 2025 Iris Festival.
- The United States Tennis Association Palmetto Pro Open will be held at the Palmetto Tennis Center June 2-8, 2025.
- Touch a Truck Storm Readiness event will be held in the Sumter Opera House parking lot on June 7, 2025.

9. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Deloris Pringle
Thoney Williams
Linda Hasty
Madisen Galiano

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame _____ Vote: _____ 6-0

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: _____ 6-0

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Motion: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame _____ Vote: _____ 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

_____ May 16, 2025 _____ Certification of Public and Media Notification