



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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
Audrey Shirley Ford	Human Resources Director
Jonathan Flinchum	Finance Director
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Karl Ford	Fire Chief
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Lefford Fate	Support Services Director
Jeffery Jackson	Assistant Police Chief
B. K. Floyd	Captain Administrative Services
William Lyons	Captain of Investigative Services Division
Robert Singleton	Captain of Patrol
James Sinkler	Sergeant Major
Steven Dara	Assistant Fire Chief
Jeffrey Shirley	Senior Division Chief of Administration/Operations
Shelley Kile Hartley	Communications and Tourism Director
Carter James	Communications Manager
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Marc Engle	Multimedia Specialist

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Anthony Gibson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council was asked to approve the December 2, 2025, regular meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Recognized City of Sumter employees with twenty (20), twenty-five (25), thirty (30), thirty-five (35), fifty (50), and fifty-five (55) years of service.

MAYOR’S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Recognized winners of the Mayor’s Christmas Card Competition.

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Consider appointments due to expire December 31, 2025, and other vacancies. **No action taken**



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NEW BUSINESS

2. CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR 2026

Adopt the City Council Meeting Calendar for 2026. **Approved**

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

3. MUNICIPAL JURY LIST 2026

Adopt the Municipal Court Jury List for 2026 received from the South Carolina Election Commission.
Approved

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

4. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION

Consider ***Resolution Number 1019*** authorizing a contract for the Riley Maintenance Storage Building Project. **Approved**

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

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

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| Mayor Merchant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thanked Councilman Shaw for attending the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Sumter Home Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on November 19, 2025.- Expressed gratitude to all Councilmembers for their support and attendance at various community events during this time of the year. |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attended the following events:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arbor Day tree-planting at Westend Park on December 5, 2025.- The Legislative Breakfast at Christ Community Church on December 12, 2025.- The Safe Streets for Sumter Public Workshop at the Meeting House at Memorial Park on December 11, 2025.- Bates Middle School's Academic Pep Rally on December 12, 2025, along with Mayor Merchant where eight (8) outstanding educators were recognized as part of a South Carolina Strategic Compensation Pilot Grant Award.- Expressed appreciation to General Counsel Crowe for his assistance in getting the Market Place Spirits store proposed for Guignard Drive removed from the South Carolina Circuit Court dockets. |
| Councilman Hastie | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Visited Crosswell Elementary and Lemira Elementary Schools within the last month.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Crosswell Elementary recently received a national award for work on transforming student/learning supports through the University of California, Los Angeles School Mental Health Project & National Center for Mental Health in Schools.- Crosswell Elementary will soon receive a grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 to fund an afterschool tutoring program.- Served as Grand Marshall in the Veterans Day parade at Lemira Elementary. |
| Councilman Gibson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Principal Fullard of Bates Middle School was very appreciative of Mayor Merchant's and Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame's attendance at the school's Academic Pep Rally on December 12, 2025.- Attended the St. Paul Pentecostal Church Groundbreaking Ceremony on West Moore Street on December 14, 2025. |
| Councilwoman Kennedy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attended the Safe Streets for Sumter Public Workshop on December 11, 2025, at the Meeting House at Memorial Park. Commended City Staff for the new lighting in the parking lot. |



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6. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- Deron McCormick - Provided each Councilmember with the November 2025 Monthly Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- Jonathan Flinchum - Provided each Councilmember with a copy of the City of Sumter Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025.

7. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Talana Harris

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

December 12, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification