



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 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
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Jeff Derwort	Zoning Administrator
Cathryn Poplin	Capital Improvement Manager
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

Mayor Pro Tempore James Blassingame

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:00 P.M.

1. RZ-25-15, 3241 WEDGEFIELD ROAD

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone an approximate 2.2-acre portion of a 9.15-acre parcel of land from Residential-15 (R-15) to General Commercial (GC). The property is located at 3241 Wedgefield Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 183-00-02-010 (part).
Deferred

Affirmative	Negative
Greg Googer	Jennifer Johnson
Stephen Deschamps	Joey Duggan
Bobby Newman	Hubert Moser
Charles L. Hodge	Jacqueline Overfield
	Michelle Pappas
	Woody Boykin
	Joe Allbritton
	William Day, III
	Jeremiah McDaniel
	Carlos Morales
	Ann LeGrand
	Larry and Kimberly McDowell
	Josh Joslin
	Stephen Hopkins
	Maria Morales



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Councilman Hastie Vote: 6-1

First Reading was deferred until October 7, 2025.

Councilman Shaw opposed the motion.

2. OA-25-02, TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS IN CBD ZONING DISTRICT

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend Article 3, Exhibit 3-5, and Article 5.b.4.a to allow telecommunications towers via special exception use in the Central Business District (CBD). **Approved**

Affirmative	Negative
None	None

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

OLD BUSINESS

3. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

NEW BUSINESS

4. SALE OF PROPERTY

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to authorize the sale of certain city-owned properties acquired through the Neighborhood Improvement Program. **Approved**

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

5. LEASE OF PROPERTY

- a) Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to authorize a lease agreement with respect to certain real property. The property is located at 201 South Harvin Street and is identified by Tax Map Number 250-01-03-006. **Approved**

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

- b) Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to authorize a lease agreement with respect to certain real property. The property is located at 627 South Sumter Street and is identified by Tax Map Number 227-12-03-026. **Approved**

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

6. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION

Consider **Resolution Number 1003** authorizing a contract for the Theatre Drive Parking Lot Project (corner of University Drive and Theatre Drive). **Approved**

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

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Merchant
- Presented a proclamation on September 16, 2025, to Sumter County Adult Education declaring September 15-19, 2025, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week in the City of Sumter.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Attended the following events:
 - Westend Community Association meeting on September 8, 2025.
 - M. G. Walters Community Day on Saturday, September 13, 2025.
 - Municipal Association of South Carolina Regional Advocacy Meeting in Lexington, South Carolina, on September 9, 2025, along with Councilmembers Kennedy and Gibson.
 - Prayer vigil in memory of the late Charlie Kirk on September 15, 2025, on the steps of the Sumter County Courthouse.
 - Presented a proclamation recognizing the month of September as Suicide Prevention Month on September 12, 2025, at Morris College.
 - Potholes need to be repaired on Bartlette Street near Westend Community Church.



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

- Councilman Hastie
 - Inquired about the possibility of the City assisting with the cost of uniforms for three (3) youth football teams affiliated with South Sumter Park.
- Councilman Shaw
 - Spoke at the Sumter School District Board meeting on September 8, 2025, when the Board agreed to postpone decisions on school realignment and its master plan.
 - The South Carolina High School League will present the Sportsmanship Award to Sumter High School on September 19, 2025.
- Councilman Gibson
 - He and Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame attended the August 22, 2025, swearing-in ceremony for Keishan Scott, South Carolina Representative for House District 50.

7. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- Deron McCormick
 - Provided each Councilmember with a demolition update as of September 16, 2025.
 - Announced that the ribbon cutting for Westend Park would be held on September 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

8. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Thoney Williams

9. 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.

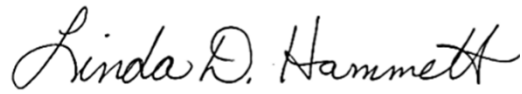
Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Kennedy _____ Vote: 7-0

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:



Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

September 12, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification