



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 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	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
Deron McCormick	City Manager
Howie Owens	Assistant City Manager
Mark Partin	Chief of Staff
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Jeffery Jackson	Assistant Police Chief
Cathryn Poplin	Capital Improvement Manager
B. K. Floyd	Captain of Administrative Services
Mike Evans	Captain of Special Operations Division
William Lyons	Captain of Investigative Services Division
Robert Singleton	Captain of Patrol
Joe Lane	Captain of Organized Crime and Vice Control
Tyshica Gayle	Lieutenant of Recruitment
James Sinkler	Sergeant Major
Tonyia McGirt	Public Information Officer
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Davis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Vote: 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Appointee	Board Assignment	Term
John T. Rivers, IV (joint appointment)	Planning Commission	4 Years
Eugene Weston	Zoning Board of Appeals	4 Years

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Vote: 6-0



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2. RZ-24-23, 314 LESESNE COURT

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2871** rezoning an approximate 0.34-acre portion of a larger parcel of land from Residential-9 (R-9) to Limited Commercial (LC). The property is located at 314 Lesesne Court and identified by Tax Map Number 228-01-01-039 (part). **Approved**

Motion: Councilwoman Kennedy Second: Councilman Davis Vote: 5-0

First Reading approval was given February 18, 2025.

Councilman Shaw recused himself from the vote.

NEW BUSINESS

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Russell Roark presented the 2024 Annual Report for the Sumter Police Department and gave a brief update on juvenile crime. **No action taken**

4. ANNEXATIONS – FIRST READING

a) ANN-25-01, WEST OAKLAND AVENUE

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to annex by 100 percent petition approximately 2.99 acres of land (including right-of-way) from a larger parcel located on West Oakland Avenue and identified by Tax Map Number 206-00-03-023 (part). **Approved**

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

b) ANN-25-02, 775 ST. AUGUSTINE DRIVE

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to annex by 100 percent petition approximately 2.27 acres of land located at 775 St. Augustine Drive and identified by Tax Map Number 185-00-02-054. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Councilman Shaw Vote: 6-0

5. MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE/DEED OF DEDICATION

Consider acceptance of a Maintenance Guarantee/Deed of Dedication for 24 lots in Phase Three D (3D) of Timberline Meadows Subdivision, consisting of lots 85-102 and 283-288 located along Riders Drive and Hacienda Court. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Shaw Second: Councilman Davis Vote: 6-0

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Merchant - Requested that City Manager McCormick give a demolition update during the City Manager’s Report.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame - Attended the SAFE Federal Credit Union Groundbreaking, along with Councilman Hastie, on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 1970 McCrays Mill Road.
- Attended the monthly meeting of the Westend Community Association on Monday, March 3, 2025, where the following concerns were expressed:
 - Residents and business owners of Ward 2 are opposed to the ABC Package Store proposed at 7 North Guignard Drive.
 - Streets need resurfacing.
 - There are several dilapidated houses on Sampson Street.
- Councilman Davis - Brown goods are left at the curb for extended periods after evictions. He Inquired about a means to put the responsibility on landlords to clean up anything left behind after the timeframe allowed by law.
- Councilman Shaw - Liberty STEAM Charter School welcomed the following state leaders for campus tours:
 - Congressman James E. Clyburn in November of 2023.
 - Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann, City of Columbia in February of 2025.
 - Senator Lindsey Graham on Monday, March 10, 2025.



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- Councilwoman Kennedy
 - Ward 4 residents still have concerns about the need for additional four-way stops. She inquired about following the same design as Calhoun Street to Hampton Avenue and to Haynsworth Street.
 - Excited about new four-way stops on Oakland Avenue.
 - A petition is being circulated requesting a preview of the Fantasy of Lights at Swan Lake Iris Gardens on Thanksgiving.

7. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- Deron McCormick
 - Staff will research the City’s options regarding brown goods left behind beyond the time frame allotted by law after evictions.
 - Provided updates on the Congressman James E. Clyburn Demolition Grant, the Senator Lindsey Graham Demolition Grant, and other demolition projects as of March 4, 2025.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilwoman Kennedy _____ Vote: 6-0

PUBLIC SESSION

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Vote: 6-0

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

February 28, 2025 Certification of Public and Media Notification