



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

**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
Steven H. Corley	Councilman, 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
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Beth Reames	Finance Director
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Danielle Malachi	Codes Enforcement Supervisor
Glenn Button	Litter Control Officer
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Corley

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the January 2, 2024, meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Recognize winners of the City of Sumter Litter Awards.

Elementary	Aaron Duncan, 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade, Liberty STEAM Charter School
Middle School	Amera Jefferson, 6 <sup>th</sup> grade, Furman Middle School
High School	Benjamin Morrow, 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, Sumter High School



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Most Litter Picked Up	Palmetto Optimist Club
Volunteer Cleanup Award	The Rotary Club of Sumter
Above and Beyond	Candida Dixon and Sondra Ruff

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expired on December 31, 2023, and other remaining vacancies. **No action taken**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION**

Consider **Resolution Number 929** authorizing a contract for Professional Services for the Unified Development Ordinance. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Corley \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Merchant
  - Reminder to spread the word about the January 22-26, 2024, Curbside Junk Removal event.
  - Reminder about the CSX Railroad Resurfacing Project to start on Monday, January 29, 2024. Shelley Kile shared additional details about the various closings.
  
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame
  - Thanked the members of City Council and City Staff for the outpouring of support and prayers during his Fortieth (40) Church Anniversary, held on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Councilman Shaw presented a proclamation to commemorate the event.
  - Attended the following events:
    - o Martin Luther King, Jr. Service at Shaw Air Force Base on Thursday, January 11, 2024. The keynote speaker was Brigadier General Jason E. Kelly of the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson.
    - o Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Walk at University of South Carolina (USC), Monday, January 15, 2024.
    - o Sumter NAACP observance service at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church on Monday, January 15, 2024.



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- Thanked the staff of the City of Sumter Public Works Department for attending the Westend Community Association monthly meeting on January 8, 2024, to talk about the upcoming Curbside Junk Removal event. Public Works staff will also be attending the Pinedale Association monthly meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the South Hope Center.
  
- Councilman Hastie
  - Requested an update on funding received by the City of Sumter to demolish dilapidated homes. The City Manager, Deron McCormick stated that the city was waiting for government approval to begin spending.
  - Reminder that an additional shelter for the homeless is available during the winter months at 125 Magnolia Street (the former mental health ).
  
- Councilman Corley
  - Thanked the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the “Love Where You Live” poster contest.
  
- Councilman Shaw
  - Asked questions regarding the budget and TIF Revenue Funding. The City Manager, Deron McCormick, provided a breakdown of the expenditure.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick
  - No City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024, due to the Hometown Legislative Action Day.
  - Copy of the “Save the Date” has been placed in the City Council packets for the Tuskegee Airmen Monument Dedication on Friday, February 9, 2024, at Veterans Park. A time for the program has yet to be determined.
  - Riley Ballpark’s first game is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2024.
  - A date to celebrate the completion of the Riley Park improvement project will be announced at a later date.
  - Shelley Kile shared additional details about what to expect for the Curbside Junk Removal event.

**COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Tasha Gardner
Linda Hasty



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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

*Linda D. Hammett*

Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

  January 12, 2024   Certification of Public and Media Notification