



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 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	Absent
Steven H. Corley	Councilman, Ward 4	Absent
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
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Karl Ford	Fire Chief
Jeffery Jackson	Assistant Police Chief
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Beth Reames	Finance Director
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Clarence Gaines	Community Development Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Gibson

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the January 16, 2024, meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Second: Councilman Davis Vote: 5-0

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Award	Recipient(s)
Legacy of Excellence (Black History Month)	Hattie S. Scarborough & Thomas "Bubba" J. Lowery
Firefighter of the Year	Division Chief Hal Watts
Police Officer of the Year	Sergeant Robert Beckford



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**PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00 P.M.**

**1. RZ-24-01, 160 HOYT STREET**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone one (1) parcel of land totaling approximately 0.17 acres from Residential-6 (R-6) to General Residential (GR). The property is located at 160 Hoyt Street and identified by Tax Map Number 227-13-01-019. **Denied**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 5-0

*Councilman Shaw motioned to deny due to the comments and concerns of the Hoyt Street residents.*

Affirmative	Negative
John McKnight	Annie Walters
	Alicia Walters
	Burles James
	Shedrack Williams
	Wayne Williams

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to adopt the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025. **Approved**

Motion: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 5-0

**4. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION**

Consider **Resolution Number 930** authorizing a contract for the South Milton Road Sewer Replacement Project. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 5-0

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Merchant

- Thanked the city staff for diligently working on multiple events in such a short period of time.
- Glad to have General Charles Q. Brown Jr. visit the City of Sumter for the Tuskegee Airmen Monument Dedication Ceremony.
- Grateful to have Chris Singleton in Sumter on February 12, 2024, sharing his powerful message of unity. Three speaking engagements took place:
  - Sumter High School at 9:00 a.m.



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- Encouraged by the students and the experiences that they shared on this unique platform.
- Sumter Opera House at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame

- Attended the following events:
  - February 5, 2024, American Legion Post 15 Annual Public Safety Awards Ceremony.
  - February 5, 2024, Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments Board Meeting.
  - February 6, 2024, Municipal Elected Officials Training sessions in Columbia. Councilmen Gibson and Hastie were also in attendance.
  - February 9, 2024, Tuskegee Airmen Monument Dedication Ceremony.
  - February 12, 2024, Unity in the Community – Chris Singleton.

Councilman Shaw

- The City of Sumter is blessed to have so many great first responders. Applauded Division Chief Hal Watts and Sergeant Robert Beckford for how they serve our community.

Councilman Gibson

- The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bobby Richardson Field at Riley Park, held on February 10, 2024, was a great success. Dr. Stagers from Morris College is excited about the opportunity for the students to play on the new field.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

Howie Owens

- City of Sumter received a \$10,000 grant from Duke Energy for Youth Mentoring and Senior Fitness Program at the South Sumter Gym.
- During the Curbside Junk Removal event, a total of 1.2 million pounds of debris was removed from city residences. An overall recap will be forthcoming.

**COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Ruth McKinney
Thoney Williams
Tasha Gardner
Phillip Marshall
Rashad Hilton



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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Motion:           Councilman Davis           Second:   Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame   Vote:   5-0  

Respectfully submitted:

  
Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

February 15, 2024 Certification of Public and Media Notification