



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 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	Absent
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
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Beth Reames	Finance Director
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
BJ Reed	Strategic Initiatives Manager
Kyle Kelly	Senior Planner
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Walt Beard	Director of Utilities
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the March 5, 2024, meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie      Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame      Vote: 6-0

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Recognized Ross Connor as the Swamp Fox Water Treatment Operator of the Year for 2023.



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**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Name	Project
Mark Champagne	Sumter United Ministries Tiny Transitional Homes Update
BJ Reed	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Update

**PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:00 P.M.**

**1. RZ-24-02, 718 NORTH MAIN STREET**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone an approximate 0.73-acre split-zoned parcel of land from Residential-6 (R-6) and Limited Commercial (LC) to Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W). The property is located at 718 North Main Street and is identified by Tax Map Number 229-13-01-030. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Corley \_\_\_\_\_ Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame Vote: 6-0

Affirmative	Negative
Tressa Fullard	None
Terri Kenely	

**2. RZ-24-03, 9 AND 11 SOUTH BLANDING STREET**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone an approximate 0.37-acre portion of a larger 1.01-acre parcel of land from Residential-6 (R-6) and General Commercial (GC) to General Commercial (GC). The property is located at 9 and 11 South Blanding Street and is identified by Tax Map Number 228-14-05-001. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

Affirmative	Negative
William Hodge, III	Vera Pringle

**3. RZ-24-04, 365 BARNEY LANE**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone two (2) parcels of land totaling approximately 10.95-acres from General Residential (GR) to Residential Multi-Family (RMF). The property is located at 365 Barney Lane and is identified by Tax Map Numbers 250-03-02-004 and 250-03-02-025. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame Vote: 6-0

Affirmative	Negative
Nateshia Thompson	None
Theron Smith	
Tressa Fullard	



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**4. OA-22-04, UPDATES TO STREET DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend Article 8.d. of the City of Sumter Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance to update the standards for street design and associated transportation network standards. **Approved**

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

Affirmative	Negative
None	None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**5. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expired on December 31, 2023, and other remaining vacancies.

Appointee	Board Assignment	Term
Earl Wilson	Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission	Not Applicable
Kimberly Rauschenbach	Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission	Not Applicable

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

Appointee	Board Assignment	Term
Neil Neaderhiser	Downtown Sumter Committee	4 Years

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6. FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

Consider **Resolution Number 932** designating the month of April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Sumter. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Corley \_\_\_\_\_ Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

**7. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

- a) Consider **Resolution Number 933** authorizing reimbursement to South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) in the amount of \$304,096.64 from the City of Sumter for the shared costs of the bridge replacement and utility relocation for the Red Bay Road Bridge at Turkey Creek Project. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0

Consider **Resolution Number 934** authorizing the acquisition of two (2) parcels of land. The property is located at 301 West Liberty Street and is identified by Tax Map Numbers 228-12-01-043 and 228-12-01-044. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0



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**8. LEASE AGREEMENTS**

- a) Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance authorizing a lease agreement with respect to certain real property. The property is located at 1077 Alice Drive and is identified by Tax Map Number 204-11-04-008. **Approved**

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

- b) Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance authorizing a lease agreement with respect to certain real property. The property is located in the Pocotaligo Industrial Park. **Approved**

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

**9. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Merchant - Many projects and events are happening in the City of Sumter. Construction is underway on the South Sumter Art and West End Parks.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame - Attended the following events:
- March 15, 2024, Announcement of the façade and streetscape project at the entrance to Morris College.
  - March 17, 2024, Westend Community Church 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
  - March 19, 2024, Liberty STEAM Workforce Development Day.
- Announced that the Morris College Annual Scholarship Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 12, 2024, with keynote speaker Major General Jason E. Kelly, Commanding General at Fort Jackson.
- Councilman Hastie - Attended the following events:
- March 16, 2024, Prayer Breakfast at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.
  - March 18, 2024, South Sumter Neighborhood Association meeting, along with Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame.
- Announced that the Festival on the Avenue event is scheduled for April 11-13, 2024.
- The location for the annual Memorial Day event held at South Sumter Park will change this year due to renovations at the park.
- Councilman Shaw - Thanked the Mayor, Council, and Staff for their support of Liberty STEAM Workforce Development Day.
- Attended the Groundbreaking for eVAC Magnetics on March 8, 2024.

**10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick - The February financial report was provided on each Councilmembers's desk.
- Draft budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 will be presented at the April 2, 2024, Council meeting.



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**11. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Ruth McKinney
Lottie Spencer
Ronetta Moses
Regina Lemus
Annette Garris Wilbur
Linda Hasty
Tressa Fullard

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0  
*No action was taken during Executive Session.*

**PUBLIC SESSION**

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

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

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:57 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

March 15, 2024 Certification of Public and Media Notification