



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 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
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Beth Reames	Finance Director
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Shaw

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:00 P.M.**

**1. RZ-24-05, 545 OXFORD STREET**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone an approximate 0.38-acre parcel of land from Planned Development (PD-02-04 Revision 1) to Professional Office (PO). The property is located at 545 Oxford Street and is identified by Tax Map Number 229-16-03-025. **Approved**

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

Affirmative	Negative
None	None



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**2. OA-24-01, NONCONFORMING LOTS OF RECORD**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend *Article 6.d.1* of the City of Sumter Zoning and Development Standards to clarify requirements pertaining to nonconforming lots of record. **Approved**

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

Affirmative	Negative
None	None

**3. OA-24-02, UPDATES TO NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (NAICS) PERTAINING TO ANIMAL BOARDING**

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend *Article 3, Exhibit 3-5*, and corresponding references in *Article 5* to update certain NAICS references pertaining to animal boarding. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

Affirmative	Negative
None	None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**4. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

**5. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

Receive budget updates. **No action taken.**

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

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2847** amending *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 Corley \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Hastie \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

*First reading approval was given* \_\_\_\_\_ April 2, 2024.



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**7. ANN-24-01, 1950 CAMDEN HIGHWAY**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2850** annexing (by 100 percent annexation petition) approximately 7.00 acres of property located at 1950 Camden Highway and is identified by Tax Map Numbers 202-08-03-001 and 202-00-01-035. **Approved**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 7-0

*First reading approval was given* April 2, 2024.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**8. COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Merchant

- The “Love Where You Live” litter initiative received a \$1,500 grant from Duke Energy to continue the litter initiative programs. The new litter mascot, Liberty: The Litter Pup, was introduced during the check presentation.
- Worked with Sumter County Council Chairman James McCain regarding an issue involving stray dogs on Lincoln Avenue. A grateful constituent sent a note of thanks for the police department’s quick response.

Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame

- Thanked the community for attending and participating in the Festival on the Avenue.
- Thanked the city staff for the construction progress happening at South Sumter Park.
- Received constituent questions regarding the timeline for Westend Park renovations.
- Thanked the city for the opportunity to attend the Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala held on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

Councilman Hastie

- Requested directives on the next steps required for the funding to demolish dilapidated homes. The City Manager, Deron McCormick, explained the process required for reimbursement through the grant. Requests for proposals have been received for two projects. City Council will be updated as bids are submitted.
- The resident of 341 Bowman Drive is concerned about receiving a fine for the improper disposal of trash. He asked city staff to consider options to detect and punish individuals who illegally dump trash.
- Invited the community to participate in the Community Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 20, 2024.
- Participated in the Festival on the Avenue Parade with Mayor Merchant, Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame, Councilmen Corley and Gibson.



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- Councilman Corley
  - Appreciated the efforts from city staff in preparation for Art in the Park, on Saturday, April 20, 2024.
  - Request that the city staff ensure that all overhead street signage is secured with proper hardware.
- Councilman Shaw
  - Encouraged the community to attend the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Alice Drive Baptist Church. The keynote speaker will be Judi Gatson, anchor for WIS-TV.

**9. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick
  - Monthly financial report as of March 31, 2024, was provided for each City Council member.
  - Working to finish out the last quarter of the current fiscal year.

**10. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Lewis Watkins
Sarah Williams

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:27 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

April 12, 2024 Certification of Public and Media Notification