



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 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	Present
Colin C. Davis	Councilman, Ward 5	Absent
Gifford M. Shaw	Councilman, Ward 6	Present

City Staff	Title
Deron McCormick	City Manager
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Jonathan Flinchum	Assistant Finance Director
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
John Macloskie	Codes Enforcement Director
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Kyle Kelly	Senior Planner/Transportation
Clarence Gaines	Community Development Director
Larry McFadden	HOPE Centers Coordinator
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 June 4, 2024, meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Name	Award
Quinetta Buterbaugh	Duke Energy Mobile Weather Station Grant



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**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expiring on June 30, 2024, and other vacancies. **No action taken**

**2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2854** amending the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. **Approved**

Motion: Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame Second: Councilman Shaw Vote: 5-0

**3. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2855** amending the City of Sumter’s budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Corley Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame Vote: 5-0

**4. BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2856** adopting the City of Sumter’s budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Shaw Second: Councilman Corley Vote: 5-0

**NEW BUSINESS**

**5. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

- a) Consider **Resolution Number 945** authorizing a contract for the Sumter Aquatics Swimming Pool Resurfacing Project. **Approved**

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

- b) Consider **Resolution Number 946** authorizing a contract for the dust hazard safety upgrade equipment for the Pocatigo Wastewater Treatment Plant Bio Solids Drying Plant. **Approved**

Motion: Councilman Shaw Second: Councilman Corley Vote: 5-0

**6. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame - Grateful for the City’s quick response to the flooding issues on Floyd Drive.  
- Attended the Guignard Park Neighborhood Association meeting. The group is reorganizing after being inactive for several years.
- Councilman Corley - Excited about all the transportation changes occurring throughout the city.



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Councilman Shaw

- Thanked the public for attending the City Council meetings.
- Very proud of the Wastewater Treatment Plants and the quality of water within the City of Sumter.

## 7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Deron McCormick

South Sumter Park Updates:

- Thrilled about the progress of the project.
- Currently putting base coats on the basketball courts and installing fencing.
- Second phase of the project includes an airnasium. Thanked Representative Weeks and the Legislative Delegation for providing funding to make this part of the project a reality.
- Additional details regarding the second phase of the project are forthcoming.

Requested the following updates:

- Michael Geddings
  - Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Quality)
    - South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control requires that the report be provided to city residents annually.
    - Official report is available on the City of Sumter website.
  - South Sumter Park
    - Project is on schedule.
    - Currently working on underground utilities and grading.
    - Preparing for the second phase of the project which will extend the timeline and cost.
    - Projected to finish the first phase by the end of 2024.
  - South Sumter Ark Park
    - Working on landscaping, painting, and other small tasks.
    - Project should be complete by the end of summer.
- John Macloskie – Demolition Update
  - Three (3) Federally Funded Opportunities:
    1. Community Development Block Grant
      - Ten houses are scheduled for demolition



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2. Funding appropriated through Congressman James Clyburn's Office:

- \$850,000 (county)/\$750,000 (city)
- Approximately one (1) month away from starting demolition.
- Environmental study is complete and both structures have been scheduled for demolition:
  - 321 South Sumter (corner of Dingle and South Sumter Streets)
  - 421 South Main Street (structure at the rear of Emmanuel United Methodist Church)

3. Funding appropriated through Senator Lindsey Graham's Office:

- \$750,000 (city)
  - Waiting to receive funding.
- Kyle Kelly
- Manning Avenue Bridge Replacement
  - North Main Street Revitalization
  - Manning Avenue Revitalization
  - Manning Avenue Corridor Replacement Improvement
  - Intersection Projects:
    - Broad Street at North Saint Pauls Church Road and Oleander Drive
    - Veterans Park
    - Broad Street at Loring Mill Road
    - Broad Street at Robert Dinkins Road
  - West Liberty Street Corridor Improvements
  - Connect 378 Project
  - Bridge Replacement Projects
  - South Carolina Department of Transportation Paving Project:
    - Bultman Drive and Guignard Drive
  - Neighborhood Traffic Calming:
    - Hampton Park Neighborhood
    - West End Neighborhood



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**8. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Lewis Watkins
Richard C. Jones
Rashad Hilton

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

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

*No action was taken during Executive Session.*

**10. PUBLIC SESSION**

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:38 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

June 14, 2024 Certification of Public and Media Notification