



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 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
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Jonathan Flinchum	Finance Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
BJ Reed	Strategic Initiatives Manager
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
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 June 18, 2024, meeting minutes. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Corley _____ Second: _____ Councilman Gibson _____ Vote: 7-0



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PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:00 P.M.

1. PD-00-08, CONSTITUTION DRIVE – ADDITIONAL TOWNHOUSE UNITS

Receive comments from the public and consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to increase the number of units allowed within the Townhouse Development on Brushwood and Constitution Drives from 52 to 56 in accordance with a site-specific development plan. This represents an additional 0.93-acre proposed for residential units within the commercial portion of Sumter West Planned Development. The property is located at 585 Constitution Drive and identified by Tax Map Number 185-00-01-128. **Approved**

Affirmative	Negative
None	None

Motion: _____ Councilman Gibson _____ Second: _____ Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame _____ Vote: 7-0

OLD BUSINESS

2. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Consider and ratify appointments expired on June 30, 2024, and other remaining vacancies. **Approved**

Appointee	Board Assignment	Term
Lucy Sanders Wilson	Historic Preservation Design Review Committee	4 Years

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Vote: 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

3. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION

Consider **Resolution Number 947** authorizing a contract for the second phase of the Riley Park Upgrades to include replacement of the existing scoreboard with a new Riley Park branded scoreboard. **Approved**

Motion: _____ Councilman Corley _____ Second: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Vote: 7-0

4. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to approve the transfer of three (3) parcels of city-owned properties. The properties are located at 107, 109, and 111 East Bee Street and identified by Tax Map Numbers 227-04-04-057, 227-04-04-058, and 227-04-04-059. **Approved**

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



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5. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mayor Merchant
- Enjoyed being a part of the program for the 117th Annual Session of the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education.
 - Exciting things are happening in the City of Sumter. There are numerous opportunities for citizens to show off our city.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame
- Morris College is hosting the 117th Annual Session of the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education this week. Thanked Mayor Merchant for providing the welcome for the first day of the event. Program took place on Sunday, July 14, 2024, at Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church.
 - Thanked the city staff and the South Carolina Department of Transportation for attending the monthly meeting of the Westend Neighborhood Association. Residents in attendance were very appreciative of the staff attending and their ability to answer questions.
- Councilman Hastie
- Attended the South Sumter Neighborhood Association meeting held on Monday, July 15, 2024, at the South Sumter Gym. Residents attending the meeting requested a response to the following topics:
 - Consider adding a Police Substation in the area of the South Sumter Gym.
 - Are the cameras in the area operable?
 - Who monitors the cameras?
 - When will the South Sumter Park and the South Sumter Art Park be completed?
 - Concerned about the median income of residents in Ward 3, employment opportunities, and affordable housing.
 - The grand opening for the Manning Avenue Farmers Market, Friday, July 26, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Met with the Crosswell Neighborhood Association and Councilman Gibson last week to discuss rental agreement laws and the challenges happening in Ward 3. Recognized Crosswell Neighborhood Association President, Ruth McKinney who was present for the City Council meeting.
- Councilman Shaw
- Celebrated the third-year anniversary for Liberty STEAM Charter School. Excited about the results from the first year of Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Reading and Math testing.
 - Optimistic about the Liberty STEAM Charter students and their future as Sumter residents.



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6. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- Deron McCormick
- BJ Reed provided an update for the Palmetto Tennis Center and the Sumter Aquatics Center.
 - Announced Jonathan Flinchum’s promotion to Finance Director following the retirement of Beth Reames.
 - A copy of the June financials was provided for each member of Council.

7. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS

Citizens
Ruth McKinney
Tasha Gardner
Hyacinth Kinley
Tressa Fullard
Gregory Wells
Rashad Hilton

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: _____ Councilman Shaw _____ Second: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Vote: 7-0

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: 7-0

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:09 p.m.

Motion: _____ Councilman Davis _____ Second: _____ Councilman Hastie _____ Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:



Linda D. Hammett
City Clerk

July 12, 2024 Certification of Public and Media Notification