



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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
Michael Geddings	Director of Public Services
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 September 3, 2024, regular meeting minutes and September 4, 2024, special called meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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



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**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

**a) CITY ROAD RESURFACING FISCAL YEAR 2024 – 2025**

Consider **Resolution Number 961** authorizing the purchase of supplies, services, equipment, or construction items. **Approved**

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

**b) STATE ROAD RESURFACING FISCAL YEAR 2024 – 2025**

Consider **Resolution Number 962** authorizing the purchase of supplies, services, equipment, or construction items. **Approved**

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

**c) MILLER ROAD TO MORGAN AVENUE STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT**

Consider **Resolution Number 963** authorizing a contract for the Miller Road to Morgan Avenue Stormwater Improvement project. **Approved**

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

**3. MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE/DEED OF DEDICATION**

Consider acceptance of a Maintenance Guarantee/Deed of Dedication for Phase 1-A of Sibley Village Subdivision, consisting of Lots 1-14 and 63-72. **Approved**

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

**4. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Mayor Merchant
- Thankful for visitors today from Sumter County Adult Education. Presented a proclamation and heard stories from the group about their education experiences.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame
- Attended the Westend Community Neighborhood Association meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024, at the Birnie HOPE Center. Thanked city staff for providing a rendering of Westend Park, also to Lefford Fate, Support Services Director, for sharing information about the Capital Projects (Penny) Sales Tax Referendum.
  - Thanked city staff for assisting with sidewalk cleanup in the Blanding Street neighborhood.
  - Approached by a citizen thankful for the ongoing demolition projects.



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- Received calls from the residents of Knights Village regarding faded street signs in their community.
  - The President of Morris College, Said Sewell, Ph.D., CFRM, appreciated Mayor Merchant for taking the time to meet with him.
- Councilman Hastie
- Attended the South Sumter Neighborhood Beautification Association meeting on Monday, September 16, 2024, at the South Sumter Gym. Senator Kevin Johnson was in attendance to share updates about current events in Sumter.
  - Mentioned that a meeting to discuss violence reduction and parental involvement is currently ongoing at Westend Community Church.
  - Thanked Mayor Merchant for issuing a proclamation celebrating the life of Reverend Marion Walters.
  - Provided Councilmembers with a list of properties currently scheduled for demolition and funded by a Community Project Funding Grant (Clyburn Grant).
- Councilman Corley
- Approached by several members of the community inquiring about the Capital Projects (Penny) Sales Tax Referendum.
  - Encouraged the public to vote on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
- Councilman Davis
- Attended the Top Gun Baseball and Softball Tournaments held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, in Sumter. Approximately 300-400 people were in attendance who invested a considerable amount of revenue into the local economy.
- Councilman Shaw
- Councilmembers recently attended the State of the Economy Seminar hosted by the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, Thursday, September 5, 2024, at Christ Community Church. Concerned about the lack of growth in Sumter County and Sumter becoming a bedroom community, with its citizens working in other cities.

## 5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Deron McCormick
- Spoke briefly about the importance of the Capital Projects (Penny) Sales Tax Referendum and how it affects our community.
  - Shelley Kile shared project updates:
    - o [www.sumterscouth.com](http://www.sumterscouth.com)



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- As a follow-up to Mayor Merchant’s, Recent Events Forum held on May 29, 2024, a new website was created to promote available youth programs and services.
  - o Learn to Play Pickleball
    - North HOPE Center, Saturday, October 26, 2024
  - o Veterans Day Celebration
    - November 11, 2024
    - Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Main and Bartlette Streets
    - Ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. on the front lawn of the courthouse

**6. COMMENTS BY CITY CITIZENS**

Citizens
Ruth McKinney
Cleyardis Amaker
Alvin Conyer
Tasha Gardner-Greene
Tony Dibartoco

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

Motion: Councilman Shaw Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame 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

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

  
 Linda D. Hammett  
 City Clerk

September 13, 2024 Certification of Public and Media Notification