



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mayor Merchant.

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
Howie Owens	Assistant City Manager
Mark Partin	Organizational Improvement Director
Jeffery Jackson	Assistant Chief of Police
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Beth Reames	Finance Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Public Services Director
John Macloskie	Codes Enforcement Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION**

Councilman Shaw

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council is asked to approve the September 19, 2023, meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expired June 30, 2023, and other vacancies. **No action taken**



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**2. REZONING- FIRST READING**

**RZ-23-19, 1030 LORING MILL ROAD**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to rezone one (1) parcel of land totaling approximately 10.84 acres from Residential-15 (R-15) to Residential-6 (R-6). The property is located at 1030 Loring Mill Road and is identified by Tax Map Number 184-00-02-001. **Approved.**

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

**Partial approval** of RZ-23-19, with the 2.86-acre portion of the tract located north of Loring Mill Road to be rezoned from Residential-15 (R-15) to Residential-6 (R-6).

**3. CITY CODE AMENDMENT (ANIMALS)**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2829** amending Chapter 14 (“Animals”) of the City Code by repealing the current Section 14-2 and substituting a new Section 14-2 to allow only for the keeping of domesticated female chickens under certain conditions and to make unlawful the keeping of other fowl except as provided. **Approved.**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0  
*Approved with Amendments (#3)*

Name	Amendment Research
Danny Crowe	Spoke on Amendments to the Ordinance.
John Macloskie	Shared research from like Cities – Spartanburg, Greenville, and Mount Pleasant.

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Corley \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Davis \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: 6-0  
*Motion for Final Approval (as Amended)*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTION**

Consider **Resolution Number 915** authorizing a contract for the Pear Street Sewer Replacement Project (Brown Street to North Main Street). **Approved**

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

**2. SALE OF PROPERTY (SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SCDOT)**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to authorize a sale of portions of City-owned properties to SCDOT for right-of-way acquisition for three SCDOT Projects. **Approved**

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



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**3. BUDGET AMENDMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. **Approved**

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

**4. LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance entitled: *“An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Performance of a Lease-Purchase Agreement and Other Documents Relating to the Lease-Purchase Financing of Certain Vehicles and Equipment in an Aggregate.* **Approved**

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

**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Merchant

- Attended the Northeast Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church which brought many visitors and encouraged them to spend money within the City. Presented a Proclamation to the Conference and a Key to the City to Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
- Presented the Wilson Hall Softball State Championship Proclamation to the varsity softball team.
- Spoke to Wilson Hall eleventh graders about community leadership. Always enjoys speaking with youth encouraging leadership and community involvement wherever they may settle.

Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame

- Thanked the City for the support and acts of kindness during the time of bereavement of the family of Former Mayor Pro Tempore William S. Randolph and Mrs. William S. Randolph.
- Letters written by Mayor Merchant were read at both funeral services of Former Mayor Pro Tempore William S. Randolph and Mrs. William S. Randolph.
- Former Mayor Pro Tempore William S. Randolph’s funeral procession was led by a fire engine to Hillside Memorial Park.
- Attended the 2023 Commander’s Breakfast on September 27, 2023, along with Mayor Merchant, Councilman Hastie, and Councilman Gibson.
- Attended the Northeast Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from September 28-30, 2023.



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- Councilman Hastie
- Enjoyed walking the Shot Pouch Greenway with fellow church members. Suggested additional signage for walkers.
  - Announced that he and Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame will be participating in the Sumter Baptist Missionary and Education Association's upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Session events.
  - Admired the beauty of South Sumter Park.
  - Thanked the City for use of the greenspace on Manning Avenue for the South Sumter Farmers Market.
  - Encouraged participation of City residents in the upcoming Community Development Block Grant public meetings being held at the Hope Centers and South Sumter Resource Center.
  - Interviewed by WLTX concerning the South Sumter Farmers Market.
- Councilman Corley
- Received positive public comments about the new intersection signs.
  - Appreciated the new format of the City Council minutes.
  - Looking forward to seeing new intersection signs throughout the City if funding permits.
- Councilman Davis
- Appreciated the opportunity to interact with City Ward 5 residents about the Loring Mill Road rezoning request.
  - Enjoyed attending the presentation of the proclamation to the Wilson Hall varsity softball team and speaking with the Lady Barons.
- Councilman Shaw
- Attended the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Government meeting held on Monday, October 2, 2023. Learned that widening a two-lane road to a four-lane road costs an estimated \$10 million per mile.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Howie Owens
- Finance provided the August 2023 financial documents to Council. Advised to contact the City Manager or Assistant City Manager with any questions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:28 p.m.

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



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Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda D. Hammett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

September 29, 2023 Certification of Public and Media Notification