



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mayor 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
Mark Partin	Organizational Improvement Director
Russell Roark	Police Chief
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Beth Reames	Finance Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Public Services Director
BJ Reed	Strategic Initiatives Manager
Randolph Paige	Director of Sanitation
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Gibson

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- Mayor Merchant - Presented a Fifty (50) Year Service Award to Mr. Roosevelt Rouse.
- BJ Reed - Provided program updates on the Palmetto Tennis Center and Aquatics Center.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the October 17, 2023, meeting minutes. **Approved**

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



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

---

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

**2. REZONING - FINAL READINGS**

**(a) RZ-23-18, 9 PHILLIPS STREET**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance 2833** to rezone five (5) parcels of land totaling approximately 1.83 acres from Residential-6 (R-6) and General Commercial (GC) to Professional Office (PO). The properties are located at 9 Phillips Street and identified by Tax Map Numbers 229-12-02-020, 229-12-02-019, 229-12-02-018, 229-12-02-017, and 229-12-02-016. **Approved**

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

*First reading approval was given October 17, 2023*

**(b) RZ-23-20, 122 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET AND 201 WEST HAMPTON AVENUE**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2834** rezoning two (2) parcels of land totaling approximately 3.75 acres from Professional Office (PO) to Central Business District (CBD). The properties are located at 122 North Washington Street and 201 West Hampton Avenue and identified by Tax Map Numbers 228-12-02-14 and 228-12-02-017, respectively. **Approved**

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

*First reading approval was given October 17, 2023*

**3. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - FINAL READINGS**

**(a) OA-22-13, RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2835** amending Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 of the City Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance to revise certain residential development standards. **Approved**

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

*First reading approval was given October 17, 2023*

**(b) OA-23-03, AMENDMENT TO SIGN REQUIREMENTS**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2836** amending Articles 8 (Section H), Exhibits 8-5 and 8-6 of the City Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance pertaining to sign requirements. **Approved**

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

*First reading approval was given October 17, 2023*



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

---

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ANNEXATION – FIRST READING**

**ANN-23-09, BOULEVARD ROAD (UNADDRESSED)**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to annex (by 100 percent annexation petition) approximately 0.16 acres of property located off Boulevard Road and identified by Tax Map Number 250-03-02-029.

**Approved**

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

**2. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

**(a)** Consider **Resolution Number 918** authorizing a contract for the 2023 West Williams Street Sewer Replacement project. **Approved**

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

**(b)** Consider **Resolution Number 919** authorizing a contract for the Deschamps Road Waterline Extension project. **Approved**

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

**(c)** Consider **Resolution Number 920** authorizing a contract for an addition to the Secondary Aeration Basin Rehabilitation project. **Approved**

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

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Mayor Merchant                | - Wished Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame a happy birthday.  |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame | - Thanked Mayor Merchant for speaking at the Morris College President’s Lecture Series. The entire college family enjoyed hearing the mayor’s life story.<br>- Attended the Sumter National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Freedom Fund Banquet. Thanked the City for sponsoring a table.<br>- City and County Councils rode together during the Morris College Homecoming Parade. Thanked the city staff for helping to make the event happen.<br>- Attended the monthly meeting of the Westend Community Association on Monday, November 6, 2023. Thanked the city staff for providing handouts to assist with some of the questions. Expressed that some residents were dissatisfied with responses and noted the need to continue to work on their concerns. |



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

---

- Thanked city staff for looking into the sidewalk issue at the corner of Marlborough Drive and Kingsbury Drive. Sidewalks will be completed by South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT).
- Received numerous calls from concerned citizens in Ward 3 regarding shootings in their area.
- Enjoyed the Shaw Military Appreciation Picnic which was well attended.
- Proud of Jordan Montgomery, previous Ward 6 resident and pitcher for the Texas Rangers, for winning the 2023 World Series.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- Gave a brief overview of the Business License Amendment Ordinance and language pertaining to:
  - Protecting citizens as consumers
  - Giving the Business License office the opportunity to deny an application, but it does not require denial based on criminal background.
  - Denial of license (revoke or suspend)

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Advised that the Years of Service Awards will be presented in December. Thanked City Council for acknowledging Mr. Roosevelt Rouse for his fifty (50) years of service.
- Thanked the eighty-one (81) Veterans who serve as a part of the city's workforce. A thank you card will be given to each Veteran staff member thanking them for their service.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Council entered Executive Session to discuss contractual matters, personnel matters, appointments to Boards and Commissions, and receive legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege, if necessary, in accordance with Section 30-4-70 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

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



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

---

**PUBLIC SESSION**

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

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

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

City Council ratified the appointment of Dr. Terri Smith to the Historic Preservation Design Review Committee for a term of four (4) years.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

November 3, 2023 Certification of Public and Media Notification