



SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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	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	Chief of Police
Staci Johnson	Administrative Services Director
Beth Reames	Finance Director
Helen Roodman	Planning Director
Michael Geddings	Public Services Director
Danny Crowe	General Counsel
Linda Hammett	City Clerk
Shelley Kile	Communications & Tourism Director
CC Newman	Records Management Administrator
Carter James	Communications Coordinator

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Davis

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

City Council was asked to approve the November 21, 2023, meeting minutes. **Approved**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Employee Recognition - Ten (10) and fifteen (15) years of service.



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**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Consider appointments expiring on December 31, 2023, and other vacancies. **No action taken**

**2. REZONING - FINAL READING**

**RZ-23-24, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET/6 EAST OAKLAND AVENUE AND 8 EAST OAKLAND AVENUE**

Consider **Final Reading** of **Ordinance Number 2839** rezoning three (3) parcels of land totaling approximately 2.03 acres from Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W) to Central Business District (CBD). The properties are located at 303 South Main Street, 6 East Oakland Avenue, and 8 East Oakland Avenue and identified by Tax Map Numbers 227-04-02-005, 227-04-02-002, and 227-04-02-004, respectively. **Approved**

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

*First reading approval was given November 21, 2023.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**3. BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE**

Consider **First Reading** of an ordinance to amend the Business License Ordinance of the City of Sumter to update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020. **Approved**

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

**4. PROCUREMENT RESOLUTIONS**

**(a)** Consider **Resolution Number 922** authorizing the purchase of a NIBIN Cartridge Cases Analysis and Triage Package for the Sumter Police Department. **Approved**

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

**(b)** Consider **Resolution Number 923** authorizing the purchase of a VisionX Advanced Comparison Microscope with Accessories for the Sumter Police Department. **Approved**

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

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor Merchant

- Enjoyed seeing photos of the Fantasy of Light’s Opening Ceremony at Swan Lake Iris Gardens on Friday, December 1, 2023. The event appeared to be well attended.
- Thanked Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame for representing the City in his absence during the Fantasy of Light’s Opening Ceremony.
- Winners of the Christmas Card contest will be acknowledged at the December 19, 2023, City Council meeting.



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- Mayor Pro Tempore Blessingame
- Attended the Arbor Day Ceremony at the Birnie Hope Park on Friday, December 1, 2023. Thanked the City staff for attending the event and assisting in planting a tree during the ceremony.
  - Thanked Mayor Merchant for presenting a Proclamation to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at the South Hope Center. This event was held to commemorate Founders Day and the organization's 117 years of service.
- Councilman Corley
- Admired the large crowd for the 2023 Christmas Parade.
  - Acknowledged the two (2) Procurement Resolutions presented during today's City Council meeting and mentioned that purchasing well-made equipment helps to maintain good morale within the Sumter Police Department.
- Councilman Shaw
- Privileged to have the opportunity to show Congressman Jim Clyburn around the City of Sumter several weeks ago. Their tour included Liberty STEAM Charter School and the Quixote Club. They enjoyed dinner at Hamptons.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Deron McCormick
- Thanked Mayor Merchant and City Council for acknowledging City employees and their years of service.
  - A portion of the forward command for the United States Air Force Central Command (AFCENT), currently stationed in Qatar, will be moving to Shaw Air Force Base. This is a huge win for the City of Sumter. Mayor Merchant and City Council are in support of having more facilities available for an influx of personnel coming to the Base.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

To discuss contractual matters, personnel matters, and appointments to Boards and Commissions, and/or to 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:   6-0



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**PUBLIC SESSION**

City Council made a motion to return to Public Session.

Motion: Councilman Davis Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 6-0

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:55 p.m.

Motion: Councilman Shaw Second: Mayor Pro Tempore Blassingame Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Linda D. Hammett

Linda D. Hammett  
City Clerk

December 1, 2023 Certification of Public and Media Notification