



SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY | AUGUST 11, 2026 | 6:00 PM

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING | 3RD FLOOR | COUNCIL CHAMBERS

13 E. CANAL STREET | SUMTER, SC

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James R. Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman; Vivian Fleming McGhaney, Tasha Gardner-Greene, Artie Baker, Charles T. Edens, and Carlton B. Washington.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Amanda W. Mitchum, Lorraine Dennis, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Helen Roodman, Shirley Goodman, Kirsten McCoy, Greg Hawkins, and two Sheriff's Deputies.

MEDIA PRESENT: Kylie Cordell, The Sumter Item.

PUBLIC PRESENT: There were approximately 45 members of the public present in the gallery.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman James T. McCain, Jr.

INVOCATION: The invocation was delivered by Councilmember Vivian Fleming-McGhaney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Chairman James T. McCain, Jr.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action: Motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Greene to approve the August 11, 2026, meeting agenda as presented.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – County Council Meeting Held on July 14, 2026

Action: Motion was made by Councilmember Edens and seconded by Councilmember Byrd to approve the July 14, 2026, County Council Meeting Minutes.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS

(1) RZ-26-03, 1420 Pinewood Rd. – Second Reading & Public Hearing

Presenter: Helen Roodman, Planning Director

Summary: A request to rezone approximately 60.56 acres from Residential-15 (R-15) to Agricultural Conservation (AC). Planning staff advised that a substantial portion of the property lies within a special flood hazard area and that the AC designation is more consistent with the site constraints and the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Applicant/property owner Michael “Chad” Carson stated that he may seek future conditional-use approval to relocate his concrete-finishing specialty contracting business to the developable portion of the property.

Public Hearing Results: Chairman McCain opened the public hearing. Michael “Chad” Carson spoke in support of the request. No other speakers came forward, and the public hearing was closed.

Action: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd and seconded by Councilmember Greene to approve Second Reading of RZ-26-03.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

(2) RZ-26-04, 18-30 Callen Dr. – Second Reading & Public Hearing

Presenter: Helen Roodman, Planning Staff

Summary: A request to rezone four approximately one-acre parcels from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to Residential-9 (R-9). The applicant proposes four single-family attached structures, totaling eight dwelling units. Planning staff advised that the R-9 designation is supported by the Suburban Development Planning Area of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Public Hearing Results: Chairman McCain opened the public hearing. Buddy Ward, on behalf of B&E Investments, spoke in support of the request. Ben McMurtry, a Callen Drive resident, expressed concerns regarding additional housing, traffic, and speeding on the neighborhood street. The public hearing was closed.

Action: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd and seconded by Councilmember Baker to approve Second Reading of RZ-26-04.

Note: Following the vote, the applicant agreed to meet with concerned residents regarding the proposed development.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

(1) Ordinance 26-1050, Solar Moratorium – Third Reading

Presenter: Johnathan Bryan, County Attorney

Summary: An Ordinance To Impose A Temporary Moratorium On The Approval Of New Permits For Primary And Accessory Photovoltaic Solar Energy Systems. County Attorney Bryan advised that there were no changes since Second Reading.

Action: Motion was made by Councilmember Edens and seconded by Councilmember Greene to approve Third Reading of Ordinance 26-1050.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

(2) Ordinance 26-1051, BESS Moratorium – Third Reading

Summary: An Ordinance To Impose A Temporary Moratorium On The Approval Of New Permits For Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

Action: Motion was made by Councilmember Edens and seconded by Councilmember McGhaney to approve Third Reading of Ordinance 26-1051.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

(3) Ordinance 26-1052, Data Center Moratorium – Third Reading

Summary: An Ordinance To Impose A Temporary Moratorium On The Approval Of New Permits For Data Centers.

Action: Motion was made by Councilmember Edens and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve Third Reading of Ordinance 26-1052.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

(4) Ordinance 26-1053, Nuisance Animals – Second Reading

Summary: An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 6, Article II Of The Sumter County Code Of Ordinances Regulating Dogs And Other Animals In Sumter County.

Action: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd and seconded by Councilmember Baker to defer Second Reading of Ordinance 26-1053 to allow additional discussion and review.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

(5) Ordinance 26-1054, Pocotaligo East Industrial Park – Second Reading

Presenter: Johnathan Bryan, County Attorney

Summary: An Ordinance Authorizing The Amendment To The Restrictive Covenants On The Pocotaligo East Industrial Park To Include A Recently Acquired Approximately 79-Acre Parcel. County Attorney Bryan explained that the property south of Racetrack Road was recently rezoned Heavy Industrial and would be incorporated into the industrial park covenants so that the same restrictions apply to the newly added parcel. A public hearing is scheduled for Third Reading.

Action: Motion was made by Councilmember Edens and seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 26-1054.

Vote: Unanimously carried by Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) Land Use Committee Meeting Held On August 11, 2026 At 4:30 PM

Committee Chairman Edens reported that the Committee continued its review of proposed development standards for data centers. The Committee recommended forwarding the proposed ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and input. Chairman Edens emphasized that additional Committee and Council review would occur before final consideration.

Action: Motion and a second from Committee to forward the proposed data center ordinance to the Planning Commission was unanimously carried by Council.

Chairman Edens also reported continued discussion regarding rural land-use standards and options intended to better direct residential development in rural areas. No action was taken on that matter.

(2) Public Safety Committee Meeting Held On August 11, 2026 At 5:15 PM

Committee Chairman Washington reported that the Committee continued discussion regarding nuisance and roaming animal concerns, including issues raised in the Sans Souci neighborhood. Additional work and discussion will continue before the matter returns to Council. No action was taken.

(3) Reports From County Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings And/Or Conferences

None.

MONTHLY REPORTS

None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following citizens addressed Council during the public comment period:

Lori Cook-Briggs, representing the Sumter SPCA, discussed free-roaming cats and dogs, animal overpopulation, public-safety concerns, disease risks, and the role of the SPCA in accepting

stray and unwanted animals. She offered Council information concerning humane trap-neuter-return practices and related studies.

Ms. Wright, a Sumter resident and retired Air Force veteran, raised concerns regarding animal-control staffing, transparency, public reporting, facility conditions, stray-animal response, and budget accountability, and requested stronger public reporting and updated animal-control policies.

Tanya Eddins addressed Council regarding proposed data-center regulations and encouraged review of experiences in other communities, including Virginia, before adopting permanent standards.

Caleb Bonds spoke in opposition to data-center development, citing concerns regarding water consumption, electrical demand, infrastructure, and impacts on the community.

Tony DiBartolo spoke regarding the need to regulate data centers and raised concerns about noise, utility usage, and potential impacts on residents.

Michelle Richardson spoke in opposition to data centers, citing concerns regarding noise, utility costs, families, animals, and quality-of-life impacts.

Margaret Dancy spoke in opposition to data centers, citing concerns regarding electricity and water usage and the number of jobs such facilities may provide.

Lisa Hall, a former Windy Ridge Rescue volunteer, discussed the stray-cat population and animal-rescue efforts and stated that local advocates are working toward a collaborative proposal for addressing animal-welfare concerns.

Katina Dreamer presented support for a low-cost spay and neuter clinic and referenced a community petition supporting such services.

Chandler Schwede discussed animal-control staffing and facility resources and stated that local animal-welfare advocates intend to develop recommendations involving trap-neuter-return, affordable spay/neuter services, breeder regulation, animal registration, and additional animal-control staffing and training.

Matthew Stewart, representing his family in Paxville, spoke in opposition to data centers and raised concerns regarding farmland, agriculture, wildlife, water use, heat, noise, and environmental impacts.

Lorenzo Rivers, a volunteer at the South Sumter Resource Center, raised concerns regarding facility maintenance, security improvements, neighborhood infrastructure, and abandoned manufactured homes.

Sharon Sisson continued her comments regarding animal registration and suggested registration and enforcement mechanisms as tools to measure and address animal-control concerns.

Kylie Cordell shared a personal experience involving stray cats and the difficulty of obtaining assistance with removal of a deceased animal from a public area.

Sondra Ruff, a Windy Ridge Rescue foster volunteer, discussed the burden on foster volunteers, trap-neuter-return efforts, and the continuing number of abandoned and stray cats.

A District 7 resident identified in the transcript only as **Bryce** spoke in opposition to data-center development, particularly regarding water usage, and commented on the stray-cat issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

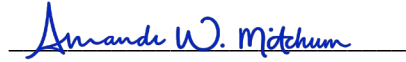
Action: Motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd and seconded by Councilmember Greene to adjourn.

Vote: The motion unanimously carried.

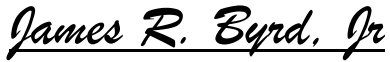
CERTIFICATION

I, Amanda W. Mitchum, Clerk to Sumter County Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the actions taken by Sumter County Council at its regularly scheduled meeting held on August 11, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda W. Mitchum, Clerk
Sumter County Council



James R. Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman
Sumter County Council

Approved on August 25, 2026.

Public Notice Submitted to the Media on August 7, 2026.