



**Minutes**  
**Sumter County Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 12, 2021 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Sumter County Administration Building, Third Floor**  
**13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC**

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**Council members and the public will be required to wear a face mask  
and have temperatures checked upon arrival. Social Distancing is also required.**

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Eugene R. Baten, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Carlton B. Washington.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Helen Roodman, David Shadoan, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, Allen Daily, and two Sheriff Deputies.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** No members of the public attended the meeting.

**MEDIA PRESENT:** The Item Newspaper

**CALL TO ORDER:** Councilman James T. McCain, called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Councilwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Everyone in attendance repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Councilman McCain asked the Clerk, Mrs. Blanding, if there were any changes to the agenda. Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes to the agenda. Then Councilman McCain called for a motion on the approval of the agenda.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Councilman McCain asked for a motion to approve the minutes for County Council's December 8, 2020, meeting as prepared by the Clerk to Council.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes as presented for December 8, 2020, as presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

(1) Election Of Sumter County Council’s Officers: (a) Chairman (b) Vice Chairman.

Councilman McCain chaired the meeting and then he declared all offices of Sumter County Council (Chairman and Vice Chairman) are open for nominations.

**NOMINATION:** For Chairman of Sumter County Council

**MOTION** by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, to nominate James McCain as Chairman of Sumter County Council.

**MOTION** by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Washington, to nominate Vivian Fleming McGhaney as Chairman of Sumter County Council.

There were no further nominations; the nomination came to a close. Then Councilman McCain carried the motion for the nomination of Chairman of Sumter County Council.

**MOTION** on James T. McCain being Chairman of Sumter County Council:

Affirmative: Baker, Byrd, Edens, and McCain

Nay: Baten, Washington and McGhaney

NOTE: With Councilman McCain receiving a majority vote; there was no need to vote on the nomination for Councilwoman McGhaney as Chairman.

The **MOTION** carried for Councilman James T. McCain, Jr., to become Chairman of Sumter County Council for years 2021-2022.

**NOMINATION:** For Vice Chairman of Sumter County Council

**MOTION** by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, to nominate James R. Byrd as Vice Chairman of Sumter County Council.

**MOTION** by Councilman Baten to nominate Vivian Fleming McGhaney as Vice Chairman of Sumter County Council.

There were no further nominations; the nomination came to a close. Then Chairman McCain carried the motion for the nomination of Vice Chairman of Sumter County Council.

**MOTION** on James R. Byrd being Vice Chairman of Sumter County Council:

Affirmative: Baker, Byrd, Edens, and McCain

Nay: Washington and McGhaney, and Baten

NOTE: Councilman Baten stated that there is no way he can support someone that does not support the public schools and does not support veterans.

The **MOTION** carried for Councilman James R. Byrd to become Vice Chairman of Sumter County Council for years 2021-2022.

**COMMENT:** Councilman Washington asked the Chairman to allow him to give the motion during adjournment of tonight’s meeting in honor of the late Wilhelmina Scott, the wife of former Councilman (Rev.) Otis Scott, Jr. He further stated that the Scott’s are his aunt and uncle.

Permission was granted for Councilman Washington to give the motion during the adjournment of this meeting.

**LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:  
Planned Development/Rezoning Requests**

*NOTE: RZ = Rezoning Of Property As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

*AC = Agricultural Conservation As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

*NC = Neighborhood Commercial As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

- (1) **RZ-20-16 -- 475 Myrtle Beach Highway (County) – First Reading -- A Request To Rezone +/- 7.00-Acre Tract From Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W) To Heavy Industrial (HI). The Property Is Located At 475 Myrtle Beach Hwy. And Is Represented By Tax Map # 268-15-01-041.**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director, stated that the applicant, Brown Investments of Sumter, LLC, has requested that approximately 7.00 acres of land be rezoned from Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W) to Heavy industrial (HI). The applicant is requesting this rezoning in an effort to resolve an active zoning enforcement case initiated by the Sumter City-County Zoning Enforcement Officer. Some site work, including clear cutting of trees, was conducted prior to the submission of a rezoning application. The applicant has indicated that this property will be developed as a used automotive parts salvage yard on the site. This use is classified as SIC 5015, Motor Vehicle Parts, Used.

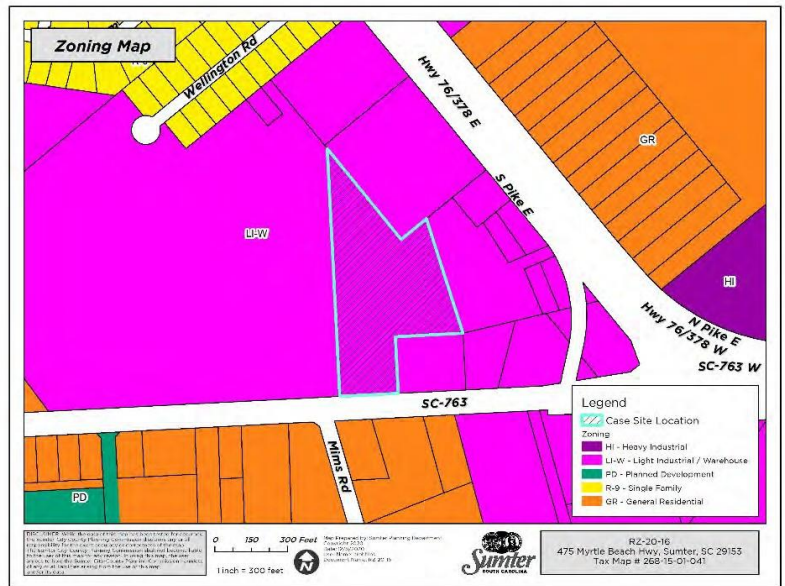
Mrs. Roodman also stated that the primary purpose of the HI zoning district is to concentrate on heavy industrial uses in areas where they will flourish without adversely affecting adjacent less intensive uses, and to preserve prime industrial lands for future industrial development. Toward these ends, residential development is not permitted in this zoning district, nor is the establishment of this district on other than a major road or highway. If successfully rezoned, the applicant has referenced plans to establish a used automotive parts salvage yard on the property.



Rezoning to Heavy Industrial (HI) would permit the applicants proposed use on the subject property provided it is developed in accordance with all Sumter County Zoning & Development Standards Ordinance requirements.

It was also stated by Mrs. Roodman that Heavy Industrial development is also very reliant on utility infrastructure for most permitted uses, particularly water supply and wastewater service. While water supply service is available to the site, wastewater service does not exist in the area, currently terminating +/- 750 ft. from the site.

In summary, the subject property is located within an area designated for protection against uses such as industrial, automotive repair, or uses primarily engaged in outdoor storage, which are permitted uses in the Heavy Industrial zoning district requested by the applicant. Therefore, the requested Heavy Industrial zoning district is incompatible with the intent of the Priority Commercial Mixed Use policies as applied to the subject property.



The SUATS 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan does not recommend any improvements on Myrtle Beach Hwy in the area of this site. The issue of rezoning to Heavy Industrial (HI) at this location is not a straightforward matter. Rezoning the property to Heavy Industrial zoning is not consistent with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan commercial/mixed-use designation. However, the existing pattern of development in close proximity to the site is similar to the proposed end use. Additionally, adjacent property is zoned light industrial and heavy industrial. Although the property is influenced by the commercial mixed use node plan designation, the existing development pattern partially mitigates the request’s inconsistency with the future land use plan.

The Planning staff and Planning Commission recommended denial of the request.

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on this rezoning request.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading on this rezoning request in order to allow for the public to be heard at second reading scheduled for January 26, 2020.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

1. **R-21-01 -- A Resolution Authorizing (1) The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax And Incentive Agreement By And Between Sumter County, South Carolina (The "County") And Thompson Construction Group, Inc., Acting For Itself, One Or More Affiliates, And/Or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, The "Company"), Pursuant To Which The County Shall Covenant To Accept Certain Negotiated Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes With Respect To The Establishment And/Or Expansion Of Certain Facilities In The County (The "Project"); (2) The Benefits Of A Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park To Be Made Available To The Company And The Project; (3) Certain Special Source Revenue Credits In Connection With The Project; And (4) Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed resolution for County Council's consideration to adopt on behalf of an economic development matter for a Company which plans to establish and/or expand its facility in Sumter County.

Also on the agenda is ordinance 21-942 which is listed for first reading. However, it is suggested that Council defer first reading on the ordinance to allow for development of another ordinance to place this company in a Multicounty Industrial Park. Thereby allowing ordinance 21-942 and a Multicounty Park Ordinance to receive their three readings on the same dates and have the public hearings at the same meetings.

After discussion on this matter, the Chairman asked for a motion on the resolution, and then referenced action on the ordinance as listed under Item #2 under New Business.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant adoption of the resolution as presented and directed the Chairman and the Clerk to Council to execute and deliver the resolution on behalf of Sumter County Council.

2. **21-942 -- First Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing (1) The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax And Incentive Agreement By And Between Sumter County, South Carolina (The "County") And Thompson Construction Group, Inc., Acting For Itself, One Or More Affiliates, And/Or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, The "Company"), Pursuant To Which The County Shall Covenant To Accept Certain Negotiated Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes With Respect To The Establishment And/Or Expansion Of Certain Facilities In The County (The "Project"); (2) The Benefits Of A Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park To Be Made Available To The Company And The Project; (3) Certain Special Source Revenue Credits In Connection With The Project; And (4) Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

This ordinance was discussed simultaneously with resolution R-21-01, item #2 under New Business. After all discussions concerning this ordinance, Council took action on first reading.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to defer first reading on this ordinance as presented.

3. It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Employment Matter, An Economic Development Matter, A Legal Briefing, Or Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session, And Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter If Required.

No executive session was held.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.

**Councilman Baten** reported on a meeting he attended called the Veterans Upward Bound group called VET TALK. He stated that many of the veterans spoke during the meeting expressing their concerns about the COVID-19 virus and how it is affecting them. One reason that they are concerned is the lack of many people not wearing masks, thereby, putting the veterans at risk who already have underlying issues from their service in the military.

Councilman Baten thanked the Administrator for what he has already done. However, Councilman Baten would also like to know the total number of people that have died in Sumter County. He further asked the Administrator for a breakdown of how many African American males, females; how many Caucasian males, females, others, and veterans.

Councilman Baten stated that the coronavirus pandemic has impacted everyone. Veterans have not been spared from the virus. As of December 22, 2020, the VA (Veterans Affairs) reported 142,511 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,192 deaths. The mortality rate is higher than the national mortality rate. These figures do not take into account veterans not receiving services through the VA or whose deaths are not being counted by the VA.

One of the reasons veterans may see more fatalities during the pandemic is their age. Nearly 50% of veterans are 65 or older, which puts them at greater risk of severe illness or death due to COVID 19.

Additionally, many veterans are at a higher risk of respiratory illness due to the environments and toxins they were exposed to while on active duty, which places them in a high risk group for coronavirus.

Veterans who served during the Vietnam era (February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975) and were stationed in Vietnam and Thailand, were exposed to a herbicide called Agent Orange. Most of these veterans contacted one or more of 14 Agent Orange related diseases which includes Ischemic Heart Disease, Prostate Cancer, Type 2 Diabetes, Respiratory cancer, and Parkinson and Hodgkin's disease.

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, Sumter has the highest percentage of Veterans of total population. Many veterans live in Sumter County because of Shaw AFB. Conversely, Sumter County, as of January 9, 2021, had 6,172 confirmed COVID1-9 cases and 115 deaths.

He further stated that during the period of December 8, 2020, and January 11, 2021, 26 veterans died from this virus. Councilman Baten also stated that after January 20, 2021, the new President of the United States will put into effect certain mask mandates which will help reduce some of the problems with COVID-19. President Elect Biden hopes to require people to wear masks for 100 days in all federal buildings as an Executive Order. He further stated that based on the fact of the veterans that are dying from COVID-19 in this County and based on the fact there is a high population of veterans in Sumter County, that this Council pass a Mask Mandate that is similar to the Mask Mandate that the City of Sumter has adopted. Councilman Baten also stated that if Council does not adopt a Mask Mandate, he believes that this Council does not give a “d---m” about whether veterans live or die.

**Chairman McCain** reported that he had the opportunity earlier today to meet with Alysia Richardson who is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Tim Scott. Ms. Richardson and two other staff members of Senator Scott came to Sumter to see what was going on in Sumter County and to find out if there are needs that Senator Scott may not know about. The meeting was held at the Economic Development Office Complex. Chairman McCain informed Ms. Richardson that the County is in need of reimbursement (\$1,200,000) for refurbishing the Second Mill Pond Dam because FEMA denied the County’s request for reimbursement. The dam was destroyed during the thousand year flood in 2015. Ms. Richardson will take the request to Senator Scott.

**Chairman McCain and Councilman Washington:** Chairman McCain pinned Councilman Washington with the official Sumter County Council Pin. Once a person is elected to Sumter County Council, a gold lapel pin is given to the individual signifying that they have been sworn-in as a member of Council.

**Councilman Washington** thanked Council and the Chairman for the Pin he received. He also asked to make comments concerning veterans. Councilman Washington stated that Veterans are near and dear to his heart because he is a veteran. He also stated that he is aware that the Veterans Affairs Director for the County, Ms. Valerie Brunson, has been recognized as one of the top Executive Directors for the State of South Carolina. Councilman Washington further stated that he followed the request from Mrs. Brunson for additional staff during the previous budget year. However, to his knowledge, the funds were not granted to the office. Councilman Washington stated that it is his hope that during the budget process that Council will review this matter and he will share with Council some of his ideas on how additional funding can be granted to this office to help with the staffing issue and to better serve the Veterans.

Lastly, Councilman Washington stated that the request from the Veterans Office is what he calls a basic service, and he feels that the County must get back to basic services for its citizens because that is why government was established – to provide basic services for the citizenry. Councilman Washington asked for Council members help to get back to basic services.

## MONTHLY REPORTS



- Zoning Board of Adjustment And Appeals Meeting – January 13, 2021
- S. C. Economic Development School – Dates are as follows:  
 The Institute is comprised of four two-day sessions held in different locations around the state. The 2021 schedule is as follows:
  - 1) February 4-5: Leadership & Communication Skills - Hartsville, SC
  - 2) May 13-14: Community Development & Tourism - North Augusta, SC
  - 3) August 5-6: Business and Industrial Development - Beaufort, SC
  - 4) November 11-12: Product Development - Orangeburg, SC

**\*Attendees are required to attend all sessions in consecutive order beginning with Session I.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Mixon stated that in Council’s packet is the report for COVID-19; however, the report is presented in a different fashion due to the assistance of Mrs. Helen Roodman. Because there are many different factors in preparing the report, Mr. Mixon asked Mrs. Roodman to present the report to County Council.

Mrs. Roodman stated that the report from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) confirms and suspects deaths on a daily basis and the total numbers are usually 48 hours behind. DHEC also gives raw data as well as percentages as it relates to age, gender, numbers of cases, hospitalization, and deaths, etc. Ms. Roodman also stated that DHEC has several different racial cohorts; however for Sumter County’s usage, the races on the report will be Caucasian, African Americans and other. DHEC also provides its information in 10 year cohorts, but the County’s report will be in small cohorts. Also, DHEC will not provide a Cohort with five or fewer deaths, which prevents the numbers from adding. Mrs. Roodman also informed Council about the differences in how DHEC provides other information. DHEC does not provide “Veterans” death; to keep from identifying a particular information.

**Administrator Report**  
**Sumter County COVID-19 Update**  
 December 26, 2020 through January 8, 2021

<i>Total Number of Sumter County Positive Cases:</i>	6052
<i>Total Number of Cases Over the Past 14 Days:</i>	861
<i>Daily Average Number of Cases Over Past 14 Days:</i>	62
<i>Previous 14 day Daily Average (December 5, 2020-December 18, 2020):</i>	41

**Deaths:**

<i>Confirmed Number of Deaths in the Past 14 Days:</i>	9
<i>Total Number of Confirmed Deaths:</i>	118
<i>Total Number Suspected &amp; Confirmed Deaths:</i>	125
<i>(includes deaths under investigation)</i>	

**Age Statistics all Deaths:**

<i>Average Age:</i>	73
<i>Maximum Age:</i>	103
<i>Median Age:</i>	74
<i>Minimum Age:</i>	23

<b>Recent Death Demographics (last 14 days):</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>61+</b>	7
	31-60	3
	30 & Below	0
<b>Race</b>	<b>African-American</b>	5
	Caucasian	2
	Other	3
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	3
	Female	6
<b>Veterans</b>		

<b>Death Demographic Totals:</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>61+</b>	105
	31-60	19
	30 & Below	0
<b>Race</b>	<b>African-American</b>	56
	Caucasian	41
	Other	26
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	64
	Female	60
<b>Veterans</b>		

NOTE: Data suppressed for categories with less than 5 individuals in aggregate data. Some numbers may not be comparable from category to category as a result of rounding (i.e. gender versus total number of deaths).



Chairman McCain asked for the County Administrator to see if he can obtain the information about the Veterans from the Coroner. The Administrator will also check with the Coroner to find out how many Veterans have died due to the COVID virus since its initial reporting.

**COVID-19 Vaccine** Mr. Mixon also reported that there has been a lot of miss information about where the COVID-19 Vaccine would be administered. He stated that McLeod Medical Center here in Sumter had agreed to give the County's 1A staff members (EMS) the vaccine; however, they ran out before it could be done. Nonetheless, Tuomey hospital administered the vaccine to the County's 1A employees. Tuomey will be able to administer the 1B employees of the County which will include the Law Enforcement and other first responders. Prior to McLeod Medical Center running out of its vaccine, some of the County's Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Department Officers, and Detention Center staff members were able to get the vaccine on a first come first serve basis.

What should be happening is that the County is supposed to provide DHEC with the names of the individuals that are in 1A, 1B, etc. Then the VANN system will reach out to the person and an appointment will be made. Right now, this is not happening, but changes will be made.

Mr. Mixon stated that he and other persons working with him through this matter, are trying to see if a provider, such as CVS or Walgreen can come to the County Building and give the vaccine as they have done in the past with the flu shot.

**LITTER:** Mr. Mixon stated that he is from the Sumter area and has never seen litter like it is now. He also mentioned that the City, County, and others were working on this prior to COVID-19, however, it was sidetracked. It is time to get back to working on this project and the following timeframe and strategy will be followed if agreed to by County Council.

- Developed Joint Advisory Committee with the City of Sumter. The City of Sumter is in support of this action. Also, members of the previous Litter Committee that Councilman Edens was a part of are eager to work with the proposed Litter Advisory Board.
- January 26, 2021, Litter Advisory Board Ordinance will be placed on agenda for first reading consideration. Once the Advisory Board is created, they can meet and bring suggestions back to both Councils for consideration of implementation.
- February 9, 2021, County's second reading for Litter Advisory Board Ordinance.
- February 16, 2021, First Reading on City Council Litter Advisory Board Ordinance.
- February 23, 2021, County's third reading of Litter Advisory Board Ordinance.
- March 2, 2021, Second Reading on City Council Litter Advisory Board Ordinance.
- April 13, 2021, would be the time that the Advisory Board can start meeting, which will also be just in time for the budget process.
- Consideration to budget for equipment and staffing. Each matter will need to be prioritized.
- The Litter problem is a three legged stool: (a) Clean-up, (b) Enforcement and Summary Court, and (c) Change in the Culture of our citizens. State Department of Transportation(SCDOT) must also work with City and County to ensure that this whole process works.

More information will be coming forward. Councilman Edens stated that the Advisory Committee would also consist of ex-officio members from City Council, County Council, the Chamber, the Development Board, SCDOT, and other appropriate agencies. The voting members on the Committee will consist of the appointed members by the City and County Council.

Councilman Washington stated that the rural areas are worse than in the urban areas of the County when it comes to litter. He also said there is a false notion that Litter cannot be controlled; however, litter can be controlled. Orangeburg and Greenville both have litter trucks. One truck has a rack on it and it rakes up the litter, while the other truck has a vacuum on it and it vacuums the litter that has been racked up by the first truck. These two counties have had major success with their litter projects and other Counties are seeking them out to see how they can incorporate the same type of litter program in their counties.

Councilman Washington also stated that he hopes to work with the Solicitor's Office as well as Sheriff's Office where no violent offenders can work off some of their time or issues by working through the litter program. He also said that the cost for the trucks is approximately \$200,000 each. Also, it was noted by Councilman Washington, that the State of South Carolina has one billion dollars of non-restricted funds. He believes that if the City can receive \$2,000,000 for a Tennis Center, then the County should be able to receive some funding for the Litter Program. Councilman Baker and Councilman Washington recently received an email from a constituent that had concerns about the litter problem at all entrances to Shaw Air Force Base.

Lastly, Councilman Washington stated that this is a basic service that the County should be performing; he also said that he will work with the County Administrator to develop a proposal and then bring the proposal to County Council to consider.

Prior to final discussion on this matter, Councilman Washington suggested that contact should be made with the Sumter County Delegation members sooner than later so that the Delegation members can be looking at ways to get the appropriate funding for Sumter County prior to committing to other projects.

Councilman Baten stated that he lives on a State road and it is bad when SCDOT cuts the grass. He said that sometimes when they cut the grass, it is worse because of all the trash that has been cut up with the grass. Mr. Mixon mentioned that SCDOT will have to be at the table for the litter project to work. Also Mr. Mixon mentioned that the City of Sumter has hired a litter officer, and the officer is working with SCDOT to find out the time of the cutting schedule to ensure that the litter is picked up prior to cutting the grass.

Council members McGhaney and Baker also spoke concerning the process in which SCDOT cuts the grass and not have the litter picked up first as well as other litter problems. They both are in support of the information that the Administrator provided.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

After all discussions, motion was made by Councilman Carlton B. Washington to adjourn the January 12, 2021, meeting of Sumter County Council in memory of Mrs. Wilhelmina Scott, wife of former Council Member, the late Otis S. Scott, and she was a former school teacher in Sumter County for over

37 years; the motion was seconded by Councilman Edens to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. McCain, Jr.  
Chairman or Vice Chairman  
Sumter County Council

Mary W. Blanding  
Clerk to County Council  
Sumter County Council

Approved: January 26, 2021

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I certify that public and media notification of the above-mentioned meeting was given prior thereto as follows required by Freedom of Information:

Public Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Was not posted on bulletin board on third floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted:

Media Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agenda Information is listed on Sumter County’s Home Page, and E-mailed to The Item, The Chamber, WIS-TV, WBTW, and Time Warner Cable.

Date Notified: January 8, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding  
Mary W. Blanding