



Minutes
Sumter County Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building
Third Floor, County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

Social Distancing Is Encouraged At All of County Council's Meetings, And Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjiqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Vivian Fleming McGhaney

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Uvette Rogers, Lorraine Dennis, Helen Roodman, Greg Hawkins, Joe Perry, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelbie Goulding.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 37 members of the public were present.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilman McCain called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: The Clerk to Council, Mary W. Blanding gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairman McCain due to the absence of **Veteran** David Trask, Council District #7. Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman McCain read the information concerning Veteran David Trask. US Navy Veteran David Trask served our Country from April 1981 to September 1995. He is a Gulf War Service Veteran that supported Operation Desert Storm and Dessert Shield. He currently lives in County Council District 7.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Councilman James T. McCain, Jr. called for a motion on the approval of the agenda for Council's January 24, 2023, meeting.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the agenda as published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Councilman James T. McCain, Jr. called for a motion on the approval of the minutes for County Council's, January 10, 2023, meeting.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the minutes for Council's January 10, 2023, meeting as presented.

NOTE: Chairman McCain recognized Erika D. Williams, the Manager, Communications and Strategic Initiatives for the Sumter Development Board and Sumter Edge Group and asked her to introduce the students that attended this meeting with her. Ms. Williams announced that she had seven students with her, and they are involved with the fifth class of Emerging Leaders Program. She informed those that were present at Council’s meeting that the Emerging Leaders Program is a program which allows High School Juniors to be a part of this leadership program. The program includes nine sessions monthly. The group has met with the County Administrator and the City Manager to learn about budgeting and operations of each municipality. During the student’s senior year, they are allowed to sit on boards and commissions throughout the community which equips the students to learn how to make discissions for the further growth of this City and County. Students are chosen from the local schools from Sumter and Lee Counties. This year the students are from Sumter High School, Lakewood High School, Crestwood High School, Lee Central High School, Lee Academy, and Thomas Sumter Academy. The students were introduced, and Ms. Williams asked Council to allow for the students to have photos with Council members at the end of the meeting. (Students that attended the meeting: *Aryanna Tatum, Keyaun McKnight, DaQuan Hampton, Reymart Velasco, Jaden Cooper, Michael Bland, and Holden Trimmal.*)

NEW BUSINESS

- (1) Sumter County Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit Report From Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs and Advisors.

Mr. Mixon introduced Mr. Grant Davis from the external auditing company. Mr. Mixon also stated that members of Sumter County Council and staff received more detailed information during its Special meeting held at 5:15 p.m. today. Mr. Grant will give a brief overview for the public.

Mr. Davis said that the Company provides three documents for members of Council and staff which are as follows: The Auditor’s Discussion and Analysis Financial and Compliance Audit Summary as of June 30, 2022, Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022, and Statement which received an Unmodified Opinion (clean report), an Audit Discussion Analysis, and a reference letter concerning Internal Controls. After Mr. Davis’s brief comments, the Chairman thanked Mr. Davis for his work and the work of the County’s Financial Staff, especially Mrs. Uvette Rogers, the Finance Director. This matter was received as information. No action taken.

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.

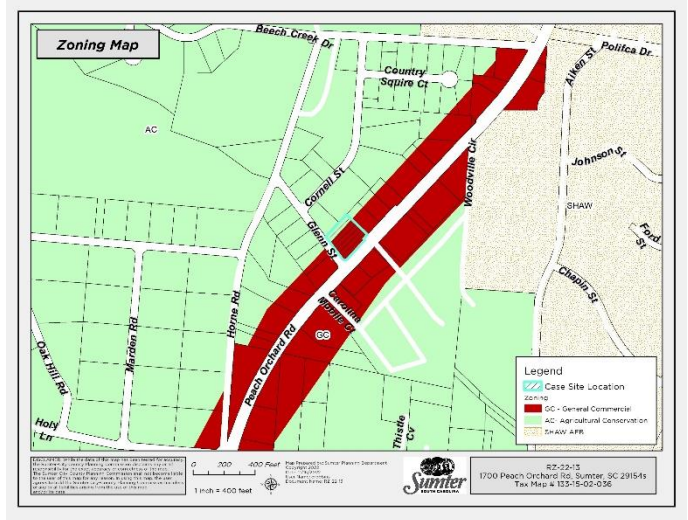
NC = Neighborhood Commercial As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.

LI-W = Light Industrial-Warehouse As Applicable in Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.

- (1) **RZ-22-13 -- 1700 Peach Orchard Road -- (County) – Second Reading/Public Hearing -- A Request To Rezone +/- 0.22-Acre Portion Of TMS# 133-15-02-036 From Agriculture Conservation (AC) To General Commercial (GC). The Property Is Located At 1700 Peach Orchard Road, And It Is Represented By TMS # 133-15-02-036 (Part). (Prior To Action On Second Reading, County Council Will Hold A Public Hearing On This Proposed Rezoning Request.)**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, the Planning Director, presented this proposed rezoning request for second reading and public hearing. Mrs. Roodman stated that the applicant and property owner, Ms. Gayle Langan, hopes to have this property, a small section of 1700 Peach Orchard Road to be rezoning to

General Commercial due to the split zoning of this property. The remaining portion of the property is currently zoned General Commercial. It was also stated by Mrs. Roodman that the general area around the property is lightly developed with a mix of residential, agricultural, commercial, and military lands. The property is directly adjacent to AC zoned land to the se and GC Zoned land to the north, east, and south. Mrs. Roodman also cited that the small sliver of property that is green on the Zoning Map for this property is the portion that is to be rezoned if approved by Sumter County Council.



Mrs. Roodman stated that it is the intent of the applicant and her family to establish a Garden Center Nursery on the property. The applicant was present on behalf of the rezoning request. After comments from Mrs. Roodman, Councilman Washington asked her what is the opinion of the Planning staff and Commission about the proposed rezoning. Mrs. Roodman stated that the Planning staff believes that this request makes sense so that one piece of property will have one zoning and not two.

Then the Chairman convened the public hearing on this proposed ordinance.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval of this proposed ordinance as presented.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) None

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- (2) Action On Ratification Of Sumter County Council’s 2023-2024 Standing Committee Appointments.

Chairman McCain introduced this item and stated that the proposed Standing Committee Appointments have not changed from 2021-2022. He asked if any Council members had any questions; there were not questions about the appointments. Then the Chairman called for a motion on ratifying the appointment assignments as prepared by the Chairman of Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the 2023-2024 Standing Committee Appointments as presented by the Chairman of Sumter County Council.

COMMITTEE NAME	CHAIRMAN	MEMBERS
Inter Government Liaison	James T. McCain, Jr.	Charles T. Edens Vivian Fleming McGhaney

Fiscal, Tax, and Property	James T. McCain, Jr.	Charles T. Edens Vivian Fleming McGhaney
Internal Affairs	Jimmy Byrd	Artie Baker Vivian Fleming McGhaney
Land Use Committee	Charles T. Edens	Eugene R. Baten Artie Baker
Military Affairs S. C. Military Base Task Force Committee	Eugene R. Baten	James T. McCain, Jr. Carlton B. Washington
Public Safety	Carlton B. Washington	Eugene R. Baten Jimmy Byrd
Public Works and Solid Waste	Artie Baker	Eugene R. Baten Carlton B. Washington
Technology/Personnel	Vivian Fleming McGhaney	Jimmy Byrd Carlton B. Washington
Public Utilities	Charles T. Edens	James T. McCain, Jr. Eugene R. Baten
COUNCIL'S LIAISONS		
Cultural/Fine Arts Liaison (2)	James T. McCain, Jr. Charles T. Edens	
Economic Development Liaison (2) - (LINK) (Ex officio members Chairman or Designee and Administrator or Designee)	James T. McCain, Jr. Gary Mixon	
Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce (2) (Ex officio members Chairman or Designee and Administrator or Designee)	James T. McCain, Jr. Gary Mixon	
Education Liaison(2)	James R. Byrd Artie Baker	
OTHER COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AND BOARDS		
SUATS Committee (Chairman and one other member)	Jimmy Byrd James T. McCain, Jr.	
Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Chairman or Designee	James T. McCain, Jr.	
Lynches River Advisory Council	Charles T. Edens	
Santee Lynches Council On Governments (appointed by Chairman)	James T. McCain, Jr., Eugene R. Baten, Vivian Fleming McGhaney Chuck Wilson, Earl Wilson, Herbert McClary	
Career Center	Eugene R. Baten	
Wateree Community Actions (Appointed by Chairman)	TBA	
Santee Wateree RTA	James T. McCain	
S. C. Military Base Taskforce Committee	Eugene R. Baten - James T. McCain, Jr.	

- (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 In Open Session If Necessary.

No executive session was held.

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) Ordinance #22-983 -- Third Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of The Property Located At 205 And 215 North Magnolia Street To C&C Property Holdings, LLC. (Previously Identified In The First Reading As Being Connelly Development, LLC.)

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for third reading. He stated that there have been no changes to this ordinance since second reading. He also added that this ordinance will allow for the sale of property better known as the former Mental Health Building on Magnolia Street in Sumter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) Special Meeting Of Sumter County Council To Be Held On January 24, 2023, At 5:15 p.m. In The County Administrator's Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC 29150.

Chairman McCain stated that the Special Meeting that was held at 5:15, prior to this meeting pertained to the 2022 Audit report that was given in detail to Council members. A brief report was given earlier this evening during this meeting. There was no other business at the Special meeting.

- (2) Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.

Chairman McCain asked Council members if there were any meetings, training, and/or conferences that Council would like to report on. The following Council members reported during this portion of the agenda.

Councilman Washington noted that the Clerk to Council provided copies to each Council member, and on the television screen for the audience, pictures that Ms. Yvonne China had presented to him concerning the litter problem in Sumter County especially in Council District One on Scotts Branch Road. He stated this is not the first time that trash has been dumped to this degree. This is not only happening in District One but other areas in the County. He further stated that he thought it was important to share the pictures because it is clear that the County take immediate action on this problem. Additionally, he stated that there is a Litter Advisory Board, that litter meetings have been held and asking communities to have Litter Pick-Up Parties; however, he further stated that the litter problem is a basic service of Sumter County and Council has to get its arms around this problem.

Councilman Washington stated that the County needs to dedicate a pot of money to clean-up the litter. It makes no sense for the County to bush-hog roads and cutting the grass and spreading the litter around—that is what is happening. The Councilman also said that if we are talking about Team Sumter, Economic Development, retaining people in Sumter as new residents, keeping Shaw AFB, and other things, then the “litter problem” should be a top priority. Councilman Washington said he will be calling a Public Safety Committee meeting for February 14, 2023. The Litter problems will be discussed; there must be some specific directions that come out of this upcoming Committee meeting

to address these issues. Councilman Washington also stated that he specifically wants a funding line for trash clean up. It was also noted by the councilman that all the trash clean-up is not related just to the County because all the roads are not County roads. Councilman Washington stated that he wanted to prepare County Council for this proposed meeting and that he would like to have a commitment from the Committee that will be forwarded to Council to address this issue.

The second matter Councilman Washington brought before County Council was a letter from Mr. Gilford Taylor, Jr. who is a landowner at 435 Tamplico Road. He is currently in Detroit, Michigan. He stated that his concern is that the US Postal Service will not come on the road any longer. The residents had to work together to pull the mail truck out of a bog. He further stated that if there are residents on the road that are elderly and need nursing care, or other public safety services and have children that are riding the bus to school and those vehicles cannot come on the road because of its poor condition, then this is a public issue, it is no longer a private road issue. It is Council's responsibility, and this Council has to do something other than saying "No." Councilman Washington said he will also discuss this matter in the Public Safety Meeting in two weeks.

Councilman Baker asked if the China family addressed the trash issue with the people that had envelopes in the trash that was shown on the pictures from Councilman Washington through Yvonne China. Councilman Washington replied that he would not ask anyone to take on this matter; however, the Sheriff is involved with this information that was shared during this meeting.

Councilman Baker stated that these people should be fined; however, Councilman Washington stated that they should not just be fined, their names need to be put in the newspaper, their pictures need to be placed on billboards, etc. It was stated by Councilman Washington again that a source of funding needs to be dedicated to assist in this matter for clean-up and enforcement.

Councilman Baten reported that he and Councilman Washington attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 16, 2023, at Trinity United Methodist Church. It was a well-attended program with the President of the Sumter Branch of the NAACP, Mrs. Elizabeth Kilgore, in attendance at the celebration and in attendance at this Council meeting. Councilman Baten elaborated on the speech that Ms. Kilgore gave at the MFK Celebration concerning Voting Rights and the problems there are with people trying to vote. He noted that there is a lot of voting suppression and the drawing of district lines for political bodies such as the Congressional District in Charleston was intentionally drawn to delete Black people to reduce their power to vote. Per Councilman Baten, it would make it more favorable for Republicans to be elected. Councilman Baten said this, the voting problems, is not over. We should all be fair with the right to vote, and Councilman Baten said the right to vote is being tampered with.

Councilman Baten also said that in addition to the MFK remarks, Ms. Kilgore addressed the issue concerning the poverty level. A commercial was made that shows children willing and ready to go to school because they know that they will get a hot meal at school. It was noted that Sumter County has a high poverty rate, 20%. This is higher than the State and National levels of poverty rate. He mentioned that Sumter County has approximately 22,000 people on poverty level. It was stated by Councilman Baten that Council members should be aware of the poverty level because when Council members think that everyone is economically equal, having that dream life, everyone does not have it. Poverty is something that we all should be concerned about. Lastly, he stated that he will be looking forward to dealing with this matter of poverty because everyone of us should be able to live the American Dream.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Building Code
2. Public Works
3. Planning Department
4. Sheriff's Office
5. Citizen Participation Form – HUD Home Program -- 6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 23, 2023, 230 Purdy Street, Sumter, SC

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Administrator informed Council that the Public Works Director, Ms. Karen Hyatt, has already asked for a Public Works Committee Meeting on February 14, 2023, to introduce Mr. Mike McCoy, the new Litter Officer. The two of them will provide Council with some strategies and programs that will be coming forth concerning the litter issues in Sumter County.

Mr. Mixon also mentioned that as of yesterday, January 23, 2023, two citizens were charged with litter violations. They met with the Judge and charged as well as allowed to have a reduction in fines if they participated in litter clean-up.

Mr. McCoy reached out with Ms. China, and they have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, January 25, 2023.

Councilman Washington stated that it is hope that the Item Newspaper will report on these incidences when citizens are being prosecuted for litter, pictures, names, and addresses should also be used. This will help people to stop littering in the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizens Desiring to Speak Are Limited To No More Than Three (3) Minutes; Comments Are To Be Made Through The Chairman Of Sumter County Council.

The following persons spoke during public comment.

- Bill Lyons from the American Legion, Post 15, gave each Council member and Mr. Mixon an invitation to the Annual Awards Banquet for Public Safety Officials. The Banquet will be held on Monday February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building on Artillery Drive in Sumter.

Mr. Lyons also said that litter is a problem all over Sumter and not in just one section of the County. He added that if someone would follow the garbage trucks going to Bishopville and other locations, you will see the trash flying off the trucks all the time. Mr. Lyons also said that people just do not have respect for other people's property or this County. Lastly, he thanked County Council for all they do for the County.

- Daisy Bradley said she lives on Tamplico Road and stated that the members of this community are here at this meeting to let Council know that at one time Tamplico Road was potholes, now the road is full of ditches and the residents on this road need help. Ms. Bradley said that when public service vehicles come on the road it takes them forever to try to maneuver to get on and off the road. She also mentioned that there is a large pothole right as you are getting off the highway onto Tamplico Road and

if you do not drive fast enough, the 18-wheeler trucks will push you off the highway onto Tamplico Road. Ms. Bradley asked Council for help with this road.

- Dr. Juanita Britton stated that Council needs to get Highway 521 paved and widened. She reminded Council that twice there were funds to start the process and the funds went to other locations north of Rembert and South of Rembert. There is still work that needs to be completed on Highway 521 in Rembert. Also, there is maintenance work that has been done on Highway 521, but more work needs to be done in this area. Dr. Britton talked about several other matters as it relates to roads including Dais Road, Spring Hill Road, and 521 in the city area of Rembert with water settling on the road.
- Mr. Martin said he also lives on Tamplico Road. He stated that his father and daughter live on Tamplico Road. He asked Council members to come view the road and see how bad the road is at this time. Lastly, Mr. Martin mentioned that he has had two cars destroyed on this road. One had the muffler removed and the other had several other issues.
- Stephanie China stated that the pictures that were shown earlier in the meeting were pictures from Scotts Spring Road. She also said the problems with the litter was resolved earlier today, January 24, 2023. Ms. China further stated that they have problems with rural county roads, debris, litter, dead animals, etc. Ms. China said that she is a 26-year veteran and she has worked diligently over the past five months picking up trash on the road in her area. Yet there are no signs in the area that states no littering. She also said that she has not seen any litter event in her area as of yet. The great American Clean-Up Campaign that was launched in April 2022, seemed to bypass the rural area. It was also stated by Ms. China that they do not have a litter problem, it is a people problem that continue to break the law. She also said that everyone should work together to eradicate this problem that is plaguing the homes, bus stops, and businesses.
- Jackie Hughes stated that she lives in Sumter County. She stated that she lives near Lewis Road, and she has seen people picking up litter every two months; however, before the people can complete the day of litter pick-up, someone else comes by and throws trash right in the place that was just cleaned. Ms. Hughes said that it appears to her that the litter program is not working. She also said that Kingsbury is also a bad area for litter that people are constantly throwing trash on the road.
- Cassandra Lang stated that she is a resident of Tamplico Road and the residents on this road really need assistance. Ms. Lang also stated that over the years, residents have spent money out of their pockets to fix the road. Also, some of the residents on the road are having conflicts amongst themselves because the road is so bad that some people are riding on other residents' property to try to travel up and down the road. However, that is causing another problem in the community. Ms. Lang also informed Council about the litter in the area.
- Councilman Washington also informed the group that he has scheduled the following meetings with the S. C. Department of Transportation:
 1. February 8, 2023, Catchall Community Center
 2. February 15, 2023, Delaine Community Center
 3. February 22, 2023, Pinewood Community Center
 4. February TBA, 2023, Pisgah Crossroad at Union Baptist Church

He also stated that once the State roads have been addressed; he will have meetings with the Community and Mr. Mixon and Ms. Hyatt concerning the County Roads.

- Councilman Baten thanked the public for coming to speak on this matter; however, he stated that this is not just District 1, Councilman Washington’s problem, it is the problem of all of Sumter County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m. after a motion by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council

Approved: February 14, 2022

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: Agendas posted on Television on first floor of the Administration Building.
- Date Posted: January 20, 2023
- 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 Spectrum Cable.
- Date Notified: January 20, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk To County Council

ADA Information: In compliance with ADA/Section 504, Sumter County Is Prepared To Make Accommodations For Individuals Needing Assistance To Participate In Our Programs, Services, Or Activities.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 13 East Canal Street, Sumter, SC, and the Sumter County website -- [www.sumtercountysc.org] under Our Council *Agendas/Minutes*. In addition, the agenda was electronically sent to newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and concerned citizens.