



MINUTES
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 27, 2021 – Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building
Third Floor, County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjjqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

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, Karen Hyatt, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, Les Vandevander, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Gary Hawkins, Valerie Brunson, The Honorable Lauretha McCants; The Honorable Anthony Dennis, Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner, Deputy Patrina Wiley, Major Randall Steward, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 12 members of the public attended the meeting.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

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

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Veteran Retired US Army Mary Glass. She earned the rank of **E8 Master Sergeant** after serving a total of **27 years** of Reserves and Active-Duty service to our Country. The hardest of those years was spent away from her family in Baghdad, Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. She worked locally at Bosch Braking Systems for 24 years until the plant closed. Much of her time now is spent helping her husband Steven with his home improvement business and serving the Sumter community as a member and Area Coordinator for the **Sumter, SC Combat Veterans Group**. Veteran Glass is married to Steven Glass and they have three beautiful children. She and her family currently lives in County Council District 6. Thank you for your Service!

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 27, 2021
Chairman McCain stated that he would entertained a motion on the agenda of July 27, 2021.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the agenda as recommended by the Clerk to Council to add the Public Safety Committee Meeting Report of June 29, 2021, at 12:00 noon to the agenda under "Committee Reports".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Chairman of County Council, James T. McCain, asked for a motion concerning the approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting of Sumter County Council held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. The following motion and action were taken.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Vivian McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of July 13, 2021, as presented by the Clerk to Council.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests – None

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.*

OTHER PUBLIC HEARING:

- (1) Ordinance #21-957 – An Ordinance To Authorize The Sale Of .24 Acres On South Guignard Parkway To St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for public hearing and second reading. He stated that The Officers of St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church recently purchased property that is located adjacent to the property owned by the Church. Once they purchased this property at 48 and 50 Callen Drive, they realized that there was a .24-acre tract of land adjacent to 50 Callen Drive, on South Guignard Parkway owned by the County. Therefore, the members would like to own this piece of real estate to square off its property.



After review of the aerial map and the presentation by the County Attorney, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this ordinance. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to this proposed ordinance. No one spoke to this matter; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading as listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Recognition Of Senior Corporal Gary Beaver – S. C. Deputy Of The Year Award.

After the Chairman introduced this item, Major Randall Steward stated that he would speak to this matter after a video is placed concerning Senior Corporal Gary Beaver’s bravery and strong commitment to being a member of a Sheriff’s Staff. Sheriff Dennis was also present on behalf of this agenda item.

Major Steward also mentioned that the Sheriff recommended Sr. Cpl. Beaver for Officer of the Year for the State of South Carolina. The narrative that was sent in by the Sheriff explaining why Senior Corporal Beaver needed to be considered and to receive such honor is listed below. After all comments, Chairman McCain presented Sr. Corporal Beaver, on behalf of Council, a gift for his accomplishment.

Thank you for this opportunity to nominate Senior Corporal Gary Beaver as South Carolina’s Deputy of the Year. Sr. Cpl. Beaver began his career with the Sumter County Sheriff’s Office in 1994 as a Reserve Deputy while serving as a member of the United States Air Force by Sheriff Thomas R. Mims. In 1996, he was hired as a Class 1 Officer and assigned to the Civil Process Division.

Sr. Cpl. Beaver has been an exemplary member of this division since that time. It is quite uncommon for someone to serve their entire career within this, or any division, but he has remained committed to serving the citizens of Sumter County within this division. He has numerous times been awarded our

Deputy of the Year award because of his professionalism and work ethic. At last glance, he has served in excess of 57,000 civil documents. He believes in and is dedicated to training and currently has over 1,300 hours of training. His stats continue to set the bar high within the Sumter County Sheriff's Office and the profession of law enforcement as a whole.

Sr. Cpl. Beaver understands that his role is first and foremost that of a Deputy Sheriff. You will never hear him say: "That's not my job. I serve papers." He is always quick to respond to any situation that he is made aware of and I can tell you with no hesitation that any member of my Office is relieved to know he is "10-8" to any situation. It is not uncommon for him to pass on information after serving papers as he is always aware of pending investigations that are ongoing.

All of the above things and many more that set him apart became evident on February 25, 2020, while he was serving papers in Sumter County. As he and two fellow officers were performing their duties, they were met with gunfire from the resident of the home they were at. While this suspect's actions resulted in the death of Cpl. Andrew Gillette, Sr. Cpl. Beaver met the situation and relied on his training and experience to remove the threat of the suspect by returning fire and fatally injuring him.

I just this week had the privilege to award Sr. Cpl. Beaver, Cpl. Gillette, and Ssgt. Craft with the Medal of Valor for their bravery during this incident. I believe, however, that Sr. Cpl. Beaver should be recognized for not only this one incident, but for a career that allowed him to be prepared for through his training, work ethic, and job performance.

Sr. Cpl. Beaver models the values of not only a Sumter County Deputy but a consummate law enforcement professional on a daily basis. He is respectful to all those he has contact with and treats all citizens with dignity and compassion. As all of us in this profession continue to deal with the public's perception of "bad cops" through incidents portrayed through the media, I stand proud of Sr. Cpl. Beaver for his actions day in and day out in every type of situation he is faced with.

(2) **PROGRESS: 2020 Annual Report, Sumter, SC.** (Mr. Joe Perry)

Mr. Mixon stated that 2020 was a crazy year with things going on with the Pandemic; yet, the County still had to operate as efficiently and effectively as it could. The County previously had an Annual Report, which was a hard copy; however, this report will be placed online for review by all. Mr. Mixon thanked Mr. Perry for

- Most recent Budget information.
- The project started last fall; it was decided to develop the Annual Report through the thoughts of how Sumter County progressed through the Pandemic.
- Penny for Progress Projects were highlighted.
- New EMS and Coroner's Office were highlighted.
- Council Members were also highlighted including their addresses.
- Voter Registration and its work as well as a grant that the office received. Polling locations were highlighted too.
- Elected Officials were highlighted and the purpose of their offices.
- Liberty Center and the Project of Demolishing Old Homes.
- Sumter's New Brewer was noted that presently it is the largest brewery in South Carolina.
- Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Also, the Courthouse was light-up in Blue for this event.
- Public Safety Award Winners.

- Sumter Airport and a student that hopes to become an aviator.
- Corporal Gillette – how he gave the ultimate in service for Sumter County.
- Chairman McCain, Vision In Progress.
- Emergency Meetings due to the President and the Governor shutting down services due to the Pandemic. Parks were closes, protocol of cleaning and protection were put in place.
- Shaw AFB provided a fly-over of Prisma Health Tuomey for the service the Healthcare workers were providing during the pandemic.
- Sumter County Civic Center became a Testing Site for COVID-19; other sites were used such as Rafting Creek, Mayesville, etc.
- A mask was placed on Thomas Sumter.
- Crystal Lakes Golf Center was very busy during the Pandemic, all social distancing.
- Recreation held some softball and baseball camps as well as soccer scrimmaging.
- Council held its meetings at Patriot Hall to allow for social distancing for the public, members of Council, and the staff.
- The first County Administrator for Sumter County, Mr. DuBose, was recognized in the annual report and for him reaching the age of 100 years old.
- A ribbon cutting was held for the new Veterans Flag Park.
- The Administration building had a make-over and received a new County Seal for the new building.
- Christmas Tree Lighting was held without the singing of the elementary school choirs; however, the tree was lit.
- Mrs. Lorraine Dennis and Mrs. Keysa Rogers delivered care packages to the residential and nursing facilities through donations of the County’s staff members.
- The Workforce was Showed Off in the report; Write-ups concerning different members of the County’s staff and comments from each of the members.
- Litter Advisory Board and other information concerning combatting litter in Sumter City and County.
- Updated History of Sumter County was completed with the help of Dr. Sammy Way, Ann King Gregory, and Cassie Nickols.
- Historical Postcards at the Sumter County Museums; Annie Rivers also provided historical information.

Councilman Edens did ask if Council members can receive a hard copy of this document. Mr. Mixon stated that he will look into it.

ACTION: Received as information.

- (3) 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:

- (1) Ordinance #21-954 – Third Reading -- An Ordinance To Abandon And Convey Martino Avenue On Property Of Fred Lee Hatfield, III And Misty F. Hatfield On West Foxworth Mill Road.

The County Attorney, Mr. Johnathan Bryan, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for third reading consideration. He stated that this ordinance, if approved, would allow for Martino Avenue, a paper street, to be abandon so that the Hatfield Family would be able to use the property. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval of this ordinance as presented.

- (2) **Ordinance #21-955 – Third Reading -- An Ordinance To Approve A Water And Sewer Utility Easement On Property Adjacent To Race Track Road.**

Mr. Bryan stated that this proposed ordinance will allow for a Water and Sewer Utility Easement to be provided to the City of Sumter for an Economic Development Project. There have been no changes to this ordinance since second reading.

After all comments, Chairman James T. McCain called for a motion on third reading of this Ordinance as presented.

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

- (3) **Ordinance #21-956 – Third Reading – An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of Ordinances, Sumter County, South Carolina Relating To Standing Committees To Add Litter Removal And Disposal To The Public Works/Solid Waste Committee.**

Mr. Bryan also presented this ordinance to Council for third reading consideration. Mr. Bryan stated that this ordinance would allow for Council’s Standing Committee Public Works/Solid Waste Committee to add the verbiage of Litter Removal and Disposal in its description. After all comments, the Chairman of Sumter County Council, called for a motion on third reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman McGhaney, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval of this ordinance as presented.

- (4) **Ordinance #21-957 – Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Authorize The Sale Of .24 Acres On South Guignard Parkway To St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church.**

This ordinance was presented by the County Attorney, Mr. Bryan, during public hearing. After the public hearing, Council took action on second reading.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) **Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney)**

Committee Chairman McCain stated that all members were present at the meeting. He also said that the Committee received the following updates:

- Update on Capital Sales Project 2008
- Update on current Capital Sales Project 2014
- Projection on considering Capital Sales Project 2022

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

Councilman Edens stated that the initial meeting of the Litter Advisory Board was held on last evening, July 26, 2021, at Patriot Park. No action was taken; however, all members of the Committee were present at the meeting as well as the Ex-Officio Members, Karen Hyatt, John Macloskie, the Clerk to Council, Joe Perry, and the Item Newspaper. Councilman Edens stated that the Committee decided that it would be on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Patriot Park.

Councilman Washington said that he was glad to know that the Litter Advisory Board has finally met; however, he requested that Council members are made aware of when the meetings are to be held so that if a Council member would like to attend; he/she can do so.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- Sheriff's Office June Monthly Report
- Annual SCAC Conference
- Avionic Annual Week – August 18, 2021
- Nova Molecular Groundbreaking
- Animal Shelter Ribbon Cutting – August 6, 2021
- Building Department Report
- Planning Commission Report

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – No Comments

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.

- **Michael Miller** stated that he lives in Horatio. He thanked Councilman Washington for listening to his concern. Mr. Miller said that he talked about the roads and will talk with Mrs. Riley on Thursday. He also talked to someone about spraying for mosquitoes and said that the person has not returned his called. He asked Council to have the person to spray for mosquitoes in the Horatio area.
- **Timmy Singletary** said that he has talked to Council before and he has some old concerns, but wants to talk to Council this night about new concerns. He stated that he is the Chairman of the Crosswell Improvement Committee. There were some old apartments that burned; now they have been torn down. He said that Council is talking about Penny Taxes; he hopes Council will construct a park in the Crosswell Improvement Committee.

DRUG PROBLEM:

Councilman Baten stated that he read an article in SCAC's Focus Magazine concerning how Lancaster County collaboratively worked to address the drug problem in the Lancaster area. Councilman Baten asked Chairman McCain to talk to leaders in the Sumter Community about combating the drug problem in the

Sumter Community. He suggested that the Chairman could include people and agencies such as the Sheriff's Office, City Police Office, Behavioral Health Services, Other Law Enforcement groups, EMS, the Coroner, and others.

ADJOURNMENT

After all business of Sumter County Council and comments, motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 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: August 10, 2021

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 first floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: Thursday, July 23, 2021

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: Thursday, July 23, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding

Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council