



**Minutes**  
**Sumter County Council Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2022 -- 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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**Council Members, Staff, And The Public Will Be Asked To Wear A Facemask At The Meeting. Social Distancing Is Required At All Of County Council's Meetings. Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James R. Byrd, 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, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Lorraine Dennis, Helen Roodman, Uvette Rogers, Greg Hawkins, Valerie Brunson, and Two Sheriff Deputies.

**MEDIA PRESENT:** The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** Eight members of the public were in attendance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Or Vice Chairman Of Sumter County Council called the meeting to order.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led By Veteran Christopher Hilditch Christopher "Chris" Hilditch has been a resident of Sumter County since 1998. He served our nation in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserves. He became interested in serving in the Air Force while in high school in Delaware while attending and being a member of Air Force Junior ROTC. Chris served as a Security Police/Security Forces member with the 569<sup>th</sup> US Forces Police Flight in the Kaiserslautern Military Community in Germany at the beginning of his military career before completing his active duty career at Shaw Air Force Base. He continued his military career in the Air Force Reserves as an IMA Reservist while also working as a deputy sheriff with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office. During his tenure with the Sheriff's Office, Chris returned to active duty service following the events of 9/11 to augment the 20<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron on Shaw AFB. Chris has also worked over the years as a staff investigator and paralegal in two law firms in Sumter and has owned and operated a private investigative office prior to returning to working for Sumter County Government. Chris has been the Property Manager for Sumter County Government since January 2017 and has been the ADA Coordinator for the County since 2021. Chris is a graduate of Leadership Sumter Class XXIII and is a Tuomey Fellow. He currently serves on the Crimestoppers Board and has been active in the Sumter Community in



other civic organizations such as the Knights of Columbus. Chris and his wife Susan have been married for over 21 years and has a son, Aidan, and daughter, Mary Grace. His wife is a Register Respiratory Therapist that works for Prisma Health Tuomey and has worked there for over 20 years. Chris and his family live in County Council District 4.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman James T. McCain, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk to Council if there were any changes to the agenda; Mrs. Blanding said there were no changes to the agenda. Then Chairman McCain called for a motion on approving the agenda as presented.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Budget Workshop And Special Meeting Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Chairman McCain called for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes and the Budget Workshop and Special Meeting minutes of Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of Council Regular Meeting and Council's Budget Workshop and Special Meeting held on April 26, 2022.

#### **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-22-04, 2550 Highway 261 South -- First Reading -- (County) -- A Request To Rezone +/- 5.92-Acres From Agricultural Conservation (AC) To General Residential (GR). The Property Is Located At 2550 Highway 261 South And Is Represented By Tax Map # 100-00-03-108.**

Mrs. Roodman, the Planning Director, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for first reading consideration. She stated that the property owner, Alphonso Golden, has requested that approximately 5.92 acres of land be rezoned from Agricultural Conservation to General Residential which is located on Highway 261. She stated that this is a request to rezone +/- 5.92 acres of land located south of the intersection of Gullede Rd. and Highway 261 South from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to General Residential (GR). The property is shown on the location map to the right. The property is proposed for rezoning in order to accommodate development as a residential subdivision. Moving forward with the applicant's future subdivision plans require rezoning to a residential zoning district that will accommodate the proposed lot sizes. The subject property is the result of a combination of two lots (#10 and #11) which were originally part of a large lot subdivision known as "Fieldcrest, Section #2" platted in 1993. "Fieldcrest, Section #2" included 9 individual lots ranging in size from 2.11 to 14.51 acres along

Gulledge Rd. and Highway 261 South. Based on research of records available via the Sumter County Register of Deeds, there do not appear to be any restrictive covenants that would preclude rezoning or further subdivision of the property. With the exception of +/- 0.70 acre lots in a grandfathered nonconforming subdivision known as "Westgate" on the east side of Highway 261 South located approximately 1,200 ft. south of the subject property, lots in the general area of the site are 1.0 acre or larger. Staff recommends **denial** of this request. The applicant's request to rezone from Agricultural Conservation (AC) to General Residential (GR) is generally incompatible with the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which designates the area for conservation protection to discourage development of dense residential and commercial uses. The current AC zoning district classification would allow the applicant to divide the subject parcel into as many as 5 individual lots by right, based on the current plat and AC district development standards.



After all comments by Mrs. Roodman's and Council Members, the Chairman called for a motion concerning the third reading

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and carried by Council to grant first reading approval to this proposed rezoning request. Councilman Baten voted in opposition

- (2) RZ-22-02-- 2675 Warehouse Blvd. - Third Reading -- (County) -- A Request To Rezone A +/- 17.25 Acre Tract From Heavy Industrial (HI) To Limited Commercial (LC). The Property Is Located At 2675 Warehouse Road And Is Represented By Tax Map # 223-00-01-008 (Part).

Mrs. Roodman stated that there have been no changes to the rezoning request since first and second reading. After her comments, the Chairman called for a motion concerning the third reading

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval to this rezoning request as presented.

(3) OA-22-07 -- Updates To Article 8 (Sign Ordinance Standards) To Allow Transit-Related Signage – Third Reading -- (County) -- Amend Article 8, Section I To Allow Transit-Related Signage And Marketing Panels On Private Property And Public Property Or Within Public Right-Of-Way.

Mrs. Roodman also presented this proposed ordinance amendment for third reading consideration. She stated that there have been no changes to the ordinance amendment since first and second reading. After her comments, the Chairman called for a motion concerning the third reading

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

**OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

(1) A Proclamation Recognizing Sumter County EMS For 25 Years Of Service In Sumter County, SC.

Mr. Robert Hingst spoke to Council about the upcoming events for EMS Week which is a national event. He stated that the health care services experience much stress on a daily basis; however, the Pandemic has added a heavy burden on this career field. However, he and his department thought it was fitting to celebrate EMS as well as Sumter County's EMS for being in service for 25 years. Previously, the ambulatory service was handled by Tuomey Hospital. Prior to that, the ambulatory services were handled by local funeral homes.

Mr. Hingst thanked Council for the added help with EMS through the Guardian EMS Service which helps Sumter County from Pinewood to Shiloh and the Rembert areas and all other areas of Sumter. He also thanked the Clerk for preparing the two Proclamations and invited Council members to participate in the festivities on Friday, May 20, 2022 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Hingst also stated that there will be an awards program and a building dedication at 3:00 p.m.

After all comments, Chairman McCain called for a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented.

*WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service for all cities, counties, states, and regions throughout this world; and*

*WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and*

*WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and*

*WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and*

*WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and*

*WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and*

*WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now*

*NOW THEREFORE, I, James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman of Sumter County Council, in Sumter, South Carolina in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 2022, as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK. With the EMS Strong theme, EMS WEEK: Rising to the Challenge, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.*

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading to this rezoning request as presented.

**NOTE:** Council also adopted the EMS Children’s Day Proclamation.

- (2) **Ordinance #22-973 -- First Reading -- An Ordinance To Provide For A Levy Of Taxes For County Purposes Of Sumter County, S. C., (Known As The Budget Ordinance) For The Fiscal Year Of Said County Beginning July 1, 2022, To Direct The Expenditures Of Said Taxes And Other Funds Of Said County, And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. (Title Only)**

The County Administrator, Gary Mixon, presented information concerning the proposed 2022-2023 County Budget Ordinance to Council by Title Only. He informed the citizens that attended the meeting that Council members had a budget workshop prior to this meeting and received detailed information about the impending budget.

Mr. Mixon stated that currently, the budget has projections as following: Revenue \$54,672,936 and Expenditures of \$55,775,454, with a deficit of \$1,125,527. Council will have a special workshop next Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at time will be determined; but it is expected to be around 5:00 p.m.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading to the budget ordinance as presented at first reading.

- (3) **Ordinance #22-974 -- First Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2022, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$3,500,000; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bonds; Authorizing The County Administrator To Prescribe Certain Details Relating To The Bonds; Providing For The Payment Of The Bonds And The Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

Mr. Mixon also presented the General Fund Capital Bond Ordinance to Council for first reading. He stated that Council members received details on this proposed ordinance which will not exceed \$3,500,000. More details about this ordinance will be provided to Council at second and third readings. The Public hearing for this ordinance and the Budget ordinance will be at Council’s next meeting.

The Chairman called for a motion on first reading as presented. (A copy of the proposed ordinance was provided to Council by the Bond Attorney.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading to the Capital Bond Ordinance as presented at first reading.

- (4) 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) Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting To Be Held On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. In The County Administration Conference Room 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC.

- a) Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Clarification On What Items Fall Under Council's Agenda Item: Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.

**FYI: FISCAL, TAX, AND PROPERTY** Shall review and report on matters involving property assessment, taxation, appropriations, and expenditures, collection, receipt, and disbursement of County funds, budgeting and accounting methods and procedures, capital improvements and programming, bonds and indebtedness, purchasing and establishment and supervision of purchasing procedures, County-owned property and funding proposals not included in the budget previously approved by the County Council, direction and coordination of administrative activities; County governmental organization and structure; County Council rules and regulations; This Committee is usually chaired by the Council Chairman.

No action was taken on this agenda Item.

- b) Executive Session: The Committee had two executive session legal briefings; however, no action was taken.

- (2) Budget Workshop/Special Meeting Of Sumter County Council To Be Held On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, At 4:30 p.m. In The County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (This Meeting Will Begin At 4:00 P.M. Or Immediately After The Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting.)

Mr. Mixon stated that the Budget Ordinance and the Bond Ordinance were discussed during New Business. Both ordinances will be listed on the May 24, 2022, agenda for public hearing and second reading. Also, both ordinances will be listed on the June 14, 2022, agenda for third and final reading.

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

No reports from Council Members

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) BOA Meeting
- 2) Emerging Leaders Graduation Program
- 3) Catchall-Shaw Community Center Unity/Appreciation Lunch
- 4) EMS Week

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

**County Employees Litter Pick-Up** - Mr. Mixon stated that the County employees had another litter pick-up on Highway 76. The statistics of how much litter and debris was picked up has not yet been provided. The litter picker was not used during this pick-up based on the narrow parts of the road.

**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.

There were no comments from the public.

**ADJOURNMENT: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. after a motion by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, 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: May 24, 2022

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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: Agendas posted on bulletin board on third floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: May 6, 2022

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: May 6, 2022

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary W. Blanding*