



**Minutes**  
**Sumter County Council Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 11, 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

**COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:** Gary Mixon, Mary Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Helen Roodman, Greg Hawkins, Joe Perry, Valerie Brunson, and two Sheriff Deputies.

**MEDIA PRESENT:** The Item Newspaper, Shelbie Goulding.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** Approximately 15 members of the public were present.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Or Vice Chairman Of Sumter County Council  
Chairman McCain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Veteran Thomas Winstead, Council District 6, who is a retired U.S. Air Force Veteran. Mr. Thomas Winstead served our Country from June 1948 to July 1968. He is a Vietnam War Veteran that has written two books and he is currently writing his third. He currently lives in County Council District Six. Thank you for your service.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman McCain asked the Clerk to Council, if there were any changes to the agenda. Mrs. Blanding stated that there were no changes to the agenda; then Chairman McCain called for a motion on the approval of the agenda for Council's meeting of October 11, 2022.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by County Council to approve the agenda for Council's October 11, 2022, meeting as presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman McCain called for a motion on approving the minutes of Council's Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.



**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously approved by Council to approve the minutes of Sumter County Council’s meeting held on September 27, 2022, as presented by the Clerk to Council.

**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) OA-22-09 -- County Flood Damage Prevention (22-980) (County) – Third Reading -- Amend Relevant Portions Of The Sumter County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance To Adopt The Black River Watershed Maps And Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Revisions That Become Effective October 27, 2022; And, To Update The Ordinance To Make Corrections And Clarifications Required For Compliance With The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) And Community Rating System (CRS) Program.

Mrs. Helen Roodman, Planning Director, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for three reading consideration. She stated that this amendment would allow for relevant portions of the Sumter County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to be adopted with the Black River Watershed Maps and Flood Insurance Study Revisions, that will become effective on October 27, 2022. Additionally, if approved, this ordinance will also allow for updates, corrections, and clarifications for compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System Program.

Mrs. Roodman also mentioned that there have been no changes to the ordinance since first reading, and the Planning staff as well as the Planning Commission recommends approval of the ordinance.

After Mrs. Roodman comments, Chairman McCain called for a motion on third reading of this proposed ordinance amendment.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously approved by Council to approve the ordinance as presented by Mrs. Roodman.

**OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- (1) None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- (1) Request For Approval: A Proclamation Proclaiming Respiratory Care Week In Sumter County, South Carolina During The Week Of October 23-29, 2022. (Susan Hilditch)

Chairman stated that County Council has perceived a request for this proclamation was requested last year as well as this year. Mrs. Susan Hilditch, a Respiratory Practitioner at Prisma Health Tuomey, was present on behalf of the resolution as well as several other representatives from the hospital. Prior to the Chairman presenting the proclamation to Mrs. Hilditch and took pictures with the group, the Chairman called for a motion on the approval of the proclamation.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to adopt the proclamation, and as presented.

*WHEREAS, Members of Sumter County Council are concerned for the health and safety of all citizens of this County, and Council members recognize that the health care professionals in Sumter are essential to the well-being of this community; and*

*WHEREAS, Council has been informed that respiratory diseases are among the most common medical conditions in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, respiratory care professionals (RCP) have been and continue to rise to the challenge of putting their health at risk to take care of all patients and those patients who have contracted COVID-19, and the RCP's have been on the frontlines of the pandemic from its beginning; and*

*WHEREAS, respiratory care practitioners are involved in some of the most at-risk procedures, including intubation, noninvasive ventilation, and delivering nebulized medication; and*

*WHEREAS, since 1982, the American Association of Respiratory Care has been the sponsor of National Respiratory Care Week; and during this week, respiratory care practitioners are recognized for their work that includes specialized treatment to patients diagnosed with respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, acute respiratory distress syndrome, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, asthma, and many other diseases; and*

*WHEREAS, services provided by respiratory care practitioners help their patients experience a healthier quality of life; and respiratory care practitioners are dedicated health care professionals committed to reducing the suffering and recovery times of patients experiencing respiratory illnesses.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, James T. McCain, Jr., on behalf of Members of Sumter County Council, do hereby Proclaim **October 23-29, 2022, as RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK** in Sumter County, South Carolina, and laude all respiratory care practitioners for their dedication in treating and preventing all types of illnesses; especially during the fight against COVID-19.**

*In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Sumter County to be affixed this **11th** Day of **October** 2022.*

(2) Request For Action By Sumter County Council On The Approval Of The 2023 Sumter County Employee Calendar.

The Clerk to Council presented the proposed Employee Calendar for 2023 to Council for action. Council members asked if there were any additional holidays on the proposed calendar. Mrs. Blanding informed Council that there were no additional holidays. However, Mrs. Blanding has noted in these minutes that

Election Day Holiday is not listed on the 2023 calendar but will be on the 2024 employee calendar like it is listed on the 2022 calendar – this holiday is only granted during the election year.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to adopt the 2023 calendar as presented.

**The 2023 Holiday Calendar – Sumter County Employees:**

- Monday, January 2 New Year’s Day (Observed)
- Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 20 Presidents’ Day
- Friday, April 7 Good Friday
- Monday, May 29 Memorial Day
- Tuesday, July 4 Independence Day
- Monday, September 4 Labor Day
- Friday, November 10 Veterans Day (Observed)
- Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24 Thanksgiving
- Friday, Monday, Tuesday, December 22, 25 & 26 Christmas
- Varied Employee Birthday

(3) Request For Action By Sumter County Council On The Approval Of The 2023 County Council Meeting Calendar.

Mrs. Blanding also presented the proposed meeting Calendar for County Council’s 2023 meeting dates. She stated that there are no changes to this calendar; each meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month except for December. Council will meet only one time in December. After Mrs. Blanding’s presentation, the Chairman called for a motion on the approval of the Calendar as presented.

	<b>First Meeting Date</b>	<b>Second Meeting Date</b>
<b>January</b>	10	24
<b>February</b>	14	28
<b>March</b>	14	28
<b>April</b>	11	25
<b>May</b>	9	23
<b>June</b>	13	27
<b>July</b>	11	25
<b>August</b>	8	22
<b>September</b>	12	26
<b>October</b>	10	24
<b>November</b>	14	28
<b>December</b>	12	<b>None</b>

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to adopt the 2023 Meeting Calendar as presented.

- (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 at this meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- (1) **Ordinance #21-965 -- Third Reading -- An Ordinance Authorizing (1) Pursuant To Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement, By And Between Sumter County, South Carolina And Runnymede Solar, LLC A Company Formerly Known To The County As Project Honey, As Sponsor, And One Or More Sponsor Affiliates To Provide For A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive And Certain Special Source Revenue Credits For The Benefit Of A Project In The County; (2) The Enlargement Of The Boundaries Of A Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park Previously Created By Sumter County And Lee County To Include Certain Property Located In Sumter County, South Carolina Now Or To Be Hereafter Owned And/Or Operated By Project Honey, Or One Or More Companies Related Thereto; And (3) Other Related Matters.**

Johnathan Bryan, the County’s Attorney, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for third reading consideration. He stated that the ordinance formerly known as Project Honey, is Runnymede Solar, LLC. The only change to the ordinance is the exposure of the name of the company, Runnymede Solar, LLC. The jest of the ordinance for the Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive, is in section 3.2 of the agreement (see information below).

*As an inducement for the Investment and in accordance with Section 12-44-70 of the Act, the County grants to the Company and any Sponsor Affiliate an annual Special Source Revenue Credit (“SSRC”) equal to an amount that would result in a total annualized property tax liability for all real and personal property comprising the Project of \$2,000 per megawatt of alternating current (collectively, the "Net FILOT Payment"), for a term of thirty (30) years for each Phase, unless the Project has otherwise not commenced, is terminated, or extended at set forth in this Fee Agreement.*

*The County shall automatically reflect the applicable SSRC against the FILOT Payment on those FILOT invoices provided by the County to the Company and any Sponsor Affiliate such that the FILOT Payment due each year is equal to the Net FILOT Payment. The Company and any Sponsor Affiliate shall be permitted to utilize the SSRC to offset any qualifying expenditures as provided under the Code, including under the Act and the Infrastructure Credit Act.*

*If for any reason the FILOT Payment in any year, as calculated pursuant to Section 3.1 is less than the Net FILOT Payment, thus resulting in an SSRC that is a negative number, and if a court of competent jurisdiction holds or determines that a negative SSRC is not permitted under the MCIP Act and the Infrastructure Credit Act, the Sponsor and any Sponsor Affiliates shall not be entitled to receive the SSRC with respect to such year and shall make an additional payment to the County that is equal to the difference between the Net FILOT Payment and the FILOT Payment of that given year. Any payment made under the foregoing sentence shall be due at the time the corresponding FILOT Payment is due, shall be treated as a FILOT Payment under this Fee Agreement and shall be subject to statutory interest*

*if not paid when due pursuant to Section 12-54-25, Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, as allowed under the Act.*

*In the event the Net FILOT Payment is declared invalid or unenforceable this Fee Agreement shall automatically reform to reflect the terms that would otherwise result in an annual payment arrangement equivalent to that set forth in this Fee Agreement.*

After Mr. Bryan’s presentation, the Chairman of Council called for a motion on third reading of this proposed ordinance.

**ACTION:** MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adopt the ordinance as presented at third reading and directed the Chairman, the Clerk, and other staff members to execute and deliver this ordinance as presented.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Councilman Washington reported on the following:

- **Meeting With New Superintendent:** Council District 1 will be hosting the new Superintendent on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at Rafting Creek Elementary School’s Cafeteria. Councilman Washington will provide a hot dog/chili dog supper. This will give the citizens in Council District 1 a chance to meet the new superintendent, Dr. William Walker, so that he can familiarize himself with the residents in this Council District. Also, Councilman Washington invited the Chairman to attend this meeting so that he can hear first-hand information from the new Superintendent.
- **Nine Candidates Forums (School Board Trustees’ Election):** Councilman Washington stated that other organizations that he is a member of will be sponsoring nine forums to provide an avenue for the public to meet all nine candidates. The forums are to educate and inform the community members. None of the organizations that he is a part of have endorsed any of the candidates. The forums will be strictly, meet, greet, and inform the public about their platform. The information has been posted with the County or anyone can contact him (Councilman Washington) about the forums. Also, one forum will be held in each of the nine areas, allowing all candidates running in each area to meet with the candidates for that area. All Council members were invited to attend.

Councilman Baten reported on the number of deaths of Veterans in Sumter County since his last report of July 26, 2022 (source of reference is the Sumter Item Obituary):

Veterans Died: 32, a total of 335 deaths since the previous 671 days, December 2020.

- ✓ Every 48 hours a veteran in Sumter County pass away.
- ✓ Demographics: Average age 74, age ranges from 27 to 100 years old.
- ✓ Race: Caucasians – 236; African American - 98, others - 1
- ✓ Gender: Males – 326, Females – 9
- ✓ Branch of Service – Air Force – 152; Army – 105; Navy – 28; Marine – 14; National Guard – 15; unknown – 18.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) SCAC Coalition Meeting and Institute Classes
- 2) Board Of Zoning And Appeals Meeting

- 3) Stash The Trash
- 4) SCDOT - Bridge Work
- 5) Sumter County Museum Oyster Roast
- 6) Mary McLeod Bethune Golf Tournament

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

**Capital Projects Sales Tax Category #3:** Mr. Mixon informed Council that he would have several things to show Council tonight as it relates to the Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum on the ballot for November 8, 2022. He also stated that the Chamber of Commerce is the group that will be campaigning on behalf of the 2022 Referendum. Mr. Mixon showed a video from WLTX Spotlight where Chris Hardy, Chamber Director, and Bob Smith, 2022 Capital Project Sales Tax Chairman, were guests on the show and they spotlighted Sumter’s upcoming referendum. Also, Mr. Mixon informed Council that there will be approximately four Billboards to advertise the Penny-For-Progress. One billboard will be on Broad Street, two electronic Billboards will be placed in strategic locations to advertise to the greatest number of people, and approximately 200 yard-markers will be provided for advertisement of the Penny using the slogan – *Keep The Penny Rolling*. Additionally, Joe Perry prepared a video presentation for the website that will inform the public about items that have been on the 2014 Penny and prior Penny referendums. This video emphasizes the number of projects that have been completed through the passage of former Capital Projects Penny Referendums.

Then Mr. Mixon provided Council with a PowerPoint showing the 13 different Quality of Life Projects in this third Category; Mr. Mixon highlighted each project.

- ✓ Bobby Richardson Park Improvements
- ✓ Rural Gymnatoriums
- ✓ Delaine and Dubose Community Centers
- ✓ South Sumter Gym
- ✓ Patriot Park Expansion
- ✓ Museum Complex
- ✓ Swan Lake Trailhead/ Accessible Playground
- ✓ Accessible Playgrounds Improvements (County-wide)
- ✓ Accessible Playgrounds Improvements (City-wide)
- ✓ Pinewood Sports Complex
- ✓ Shot Pouch Park and Trailhead
- ✓ Community-wide Acquisition of Distressed Structures
- ✓ Pinewood Area Blight Removal

After Mr. Mixon’s presentation, Councilman Washington informed Mr. Mixon and Council that it would be short-sited if no billboards were in the rural community. Councilman Washington volunteered to work with the Chamber to ensure that the billboard that is in the rural community would have pictures of those persons that look like the “community members.”

**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.*

- Ella Reed Sharrod spoke to Council about the need for sidewalks in the Crosswell area including some of the roads need to be paved - Rodney Drive, Carol Drive, and other streets. She also talked to Council about the illegal dumping of trash on some of the streets. Ms. Sharrod asked for the contact information for Palmetto Pride that may be able to help them clean up the trash in her community including the Morris

College area. It was also noted by Ms. Sharrod that the Dollar General Store is not keeping its area clean, and something needs to be done about it.

- Tasha Gardner asked if County Council could consider erecting directional signs for the restaurants in Sumter once the traffic comes off 76/378, Pike Road and Highway 521, etc.
- George Bates thanked Council for having someone fix the holes in the State Roads. He applauded Council members for all the good work they are doing. The Sheriff’s Department is short on manpower. He needs people in cars and out in the community to help those in the community. Codes enforcement needs more help too.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 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: October 25, 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 Television on first floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: October 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 Spectrum Cable.

Date Notified: October 6, 2022

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary W. Blanding*