



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Courthouse, Third Floor, Room 308
County Council's Chambers - 141 North Main Street, Sumter, SC

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COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain; Chairman; James R. Byrd, Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Chris Sumpter.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Johnathan Bryan, Mary Blanding, Joe Perry, Helen Roodman, Allan Dailey, and approximately 32 Sheriff's Deputies, the wife of Corporal Andrew Gillette.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper

CITIZENS PRESENT: Approximately sixteen members of the public attended the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Or Vice Chairman Of Sumter County Council.

Chairman McCain called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Council Member, Staff Member, Or Local Citizen.

Councilman Vivian McGhaney gave the invocation and gave a plead that the Sheriff and his staff as well as all those involved in all the aspects of the shooting and death of Corporal Andrew Gillette will be healed from the tragedy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone in attendance repeated the Pledge of Allegiance To The American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Chairman McCain asked the Clerk to Council if there were any changes or deletions to the agenda for this meeting. The Clerk indicated that there were no changes or deletions. Then the Chairman called for a motion to approve the agenda as printed.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the agenda for Tuesday March 10, 2020, as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Chairman McCain asked for a motion from Council members on the minutes of February 25, 2020

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the minutes for Council's February 25, 2020, meeting as presented by the Clerk to Council.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests

NOTE: PD = Planned Development Relating To Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards
RZ = Rezoning Of Property As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards

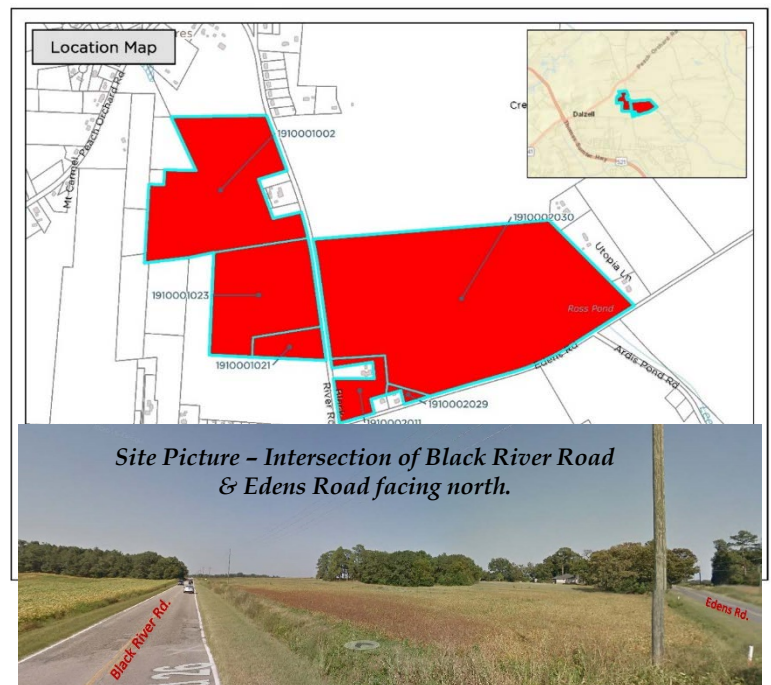
1. **RZ-20-01 -- Black River Road And Edens Road (County) - First Reading -- A Request To Rezone 6 Separate Tax Parcels Totaling +/- 313.6 Acres Of Land From R-15 To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Located Near The Intersection Of Black River Road And Edens Road And Represented By Tax Map #'S 191-00-02-011, 191-00-02-029, 191-00-01-021, 191-00-01-002, 191-00-01-023 And 191-00-02-030.**

Baker -Sumpter first reading for rezoning.

Mrs. Helen Roodman, Interim Planning Director stated that this request is to rezone six (6) separate tax parcels totaling +/- 313.6 acres from Residential-15 (R-15) to Agricultural Conservation (AC). This request was initiated by County Council members during their January 14, 2020, meeting unanimously voted to forward rezoning action to the Planning Commission for formal recommendation as required under state law. Discussion of these R-15 zoned parcels originated from County Council adoption proceedings for the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Roodman stated that the subject parcels are located near the intersection of Black River Road and Edens Road. The area is generally located northeast of Dalzell and south of Peach Orchard Road.

The subject properties are rural in character with agricultural land uses. The largest parcel of the grouping, TMS# 191-00-02-030, is subject to a 2010 conservation easement agreement between the current property owner, Sumter Soil & Water Conservation District, and the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Per conditions of the agreement, only limited agricultural uses can occur on the property. This parcel is 174.45 acres in size and comprises 56% of the combined area related to this action.



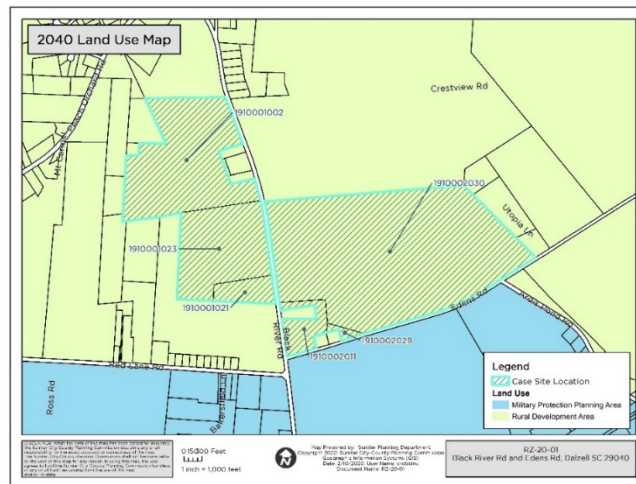
The zoning designation for these properties was changed to R-15 in 2007 in order to accommodate potential future residential development. The previous zoning designation prior to 2007 was AC. No new development has occurred on these properties since 2007. Since this time, the County has adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, as well as the Sumter-Shaw A.F.B. Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). Land use policies within these adopted plans conflict with residential density above one unit per acre

in this location. The County wishes to zones these properties to an appropriate zoning district that is consistent adopted plans.

Zoning:

R-15 zoning allows for the largest lot sizes of the designated residential districts within, and is intended to create development patterns that are suburban in nature.

AC zoning is designed to protect and preserve areas of the County, which are presently rural or agricultural in character and use. AC parcels are required to be at least one (1) acre in size, and primarily permit single-family residential and agricultural uses, with select nonresidential uses permitted with additional conditional and special exception use review. Below is a non-exhaustive listing of permitted and conditional uses in the AC district.



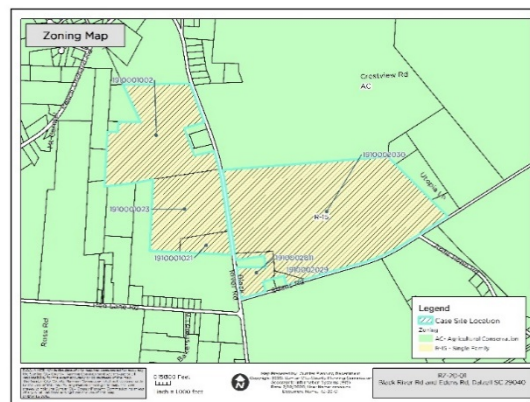
Permitted Uses	Conditional Uses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single Family Residential Uses 2. Agricultural Uses 3. Manufactured Homes 4. Parks and Playgrounds 5. Residential Accessory Uses 6. Public Utilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mining of Non-Metallic Minerals 2. Mini-Warehouse Uses 3. Retail Nurseries 4. Churches 5. Cemeteries 6. Auto Service

The general character of the area subject to this request is rural. The properties are being used for agricultural purposes, and more half of the combined acreage subject to this request is protected via conservation easement. Surrounding properties are all zoned AC and are similar in character, as shown in the zoning map to the right.

As shown in the 2040 Land Use Map, the property is located within the Rural Development planning area. Additionally, the site is located in close proximity and is influenced by the Military Protection planning area located directly to the south.

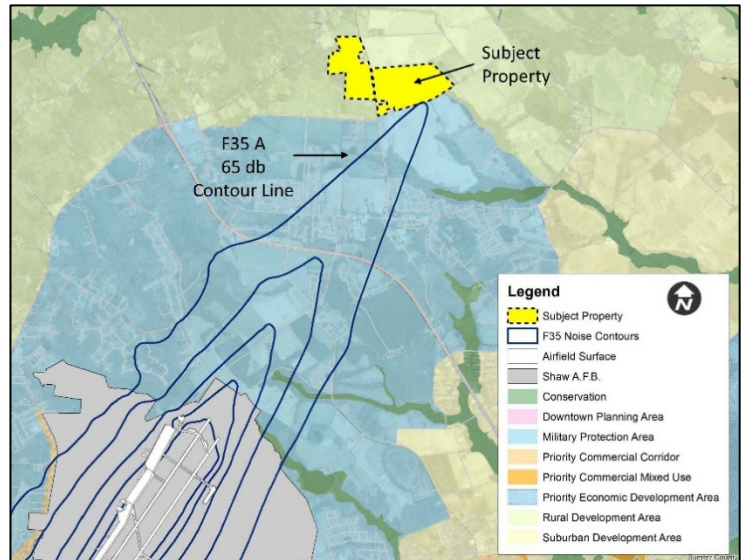
The Rural Development planning area is intended to support low-density residential development (one unit per acre at minimum) and selected non-residential and agricultural uses in a relaxed regulatory climate.

The Military Protection planning area is intended to protect Shaw A.F.B. and Poinsett Electronic Combat Range from encroachment of incompatible land uses and to reduce the accident and noise potential to citizens in areas adjacent to these two critical military



installations. Only very low-density residential uses of one acre or more on private well and septic tank are supported in this planning area.

Ms. Roodman stated that while the properties subject to this request are located just outside of the Military Protection planning area, they are directly in the flight line for base operations and are subject to noise impacts. Noise impacts will be increased if Shaw A.F.B. receives the F-35A fighter jets. Noise impacts of at least 65db or greater will reach farther north with the F-35A fighter jet as compared to the F-16 fighter jet. These impacts are shown on Map to the right.



The Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan policies support this property being rezoned to AC. Additionally, this rezoning action is supported by the 2016 Sumter-Shaw A.F.B JLUS, which supports expansion of the current Military Protection planning area boundaries.

Mrs. Roodman stated that the Planning staff recommends approval of this request to rezone +/- 313.6 acres of property from R-15 to AC. The property is within the Rural Development planning area and is influenced by the Military Protection planning area, per the recently adopted Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Both future land use designations do not support residential densities permitted by the R-15 zoning district. Additionally, the area is subject to increased noise impacts from Shaw A.F.B. if F-35A fighter jets are assigned as a part of the bases ongoing mission. The area is rural in character and public infrastructure that would enable R-15 densities is not available. Expansion of such infrastructure is not supported by Comprehensive Plan policies. Additionally, a significant portion of the property subject to this request is protected from development via conservation easement.

It was also noted by Mrs. Roodman that the Sumter City -County Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, recommended approval for the rezoning of the six separate tax parcels totaling +/- 313.6 acres of land from R-15 to Agricultural Conservation (AC).

After all discussions, the Chairman called for a motion on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading as presented by Mrs. Roodman.

2. PD-05-01 (REV 1) -- 3760 & 3770 Peach Orchard Road (County) -- Third Reading -- (20-919) -- Amend Ordinance PD-05-01 To Amend The Site Development Plan, To Permit Deer/Meat Processing As Commercial Activity And To Revise/Codify Applicable Development Standards. The Property Is Located At 3760 And 3770 Peach Orchard Road And Represented By Tax Map #136-00-02-058.

Mrs. Roodman presented this proposed Planned Development to Council for third reading consideration. She stated that there has been no change to this request since first reading. After comments from Mrs. Roodman, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading approval as presented.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. There were no other public hearings at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A Proclamation Proclaiming March 2020, As Women History Month And Recognition of The League Of Women.

The Clerk to Council informed Council members that March is Women History and Ms. Dee Woodward, Chairman of the League of Women Voters would like the County to provide the League with a Proclamation during Women History Month. The proclamation would also recognize the League of Women Voters nationwide for its 100th year Anniversary. The Clerk stated that she would prepare the proclamation and have it ready on March 21, 2020, to be presented at the League's March meeting and a Tea at 3:00 p.m. at Covenant Place in Sumter, SC. The League will recognize all past presidents and other dignitaries during this meeting. All Council members are invited to attend.

Council members took the following action.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman McGhaney, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant the Clerk to Council the authority to write a proclamation on behalf of Women History Month and Recognition of the League of Women Voters celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

2. 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:

1. There was no old business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Technology/Personnel Committee and Public Safety Committee Meeting March 10, 2020, 5:00 p.m. In County Council's Conference Room, Sumter County Courthouse 141 N. Main Street, Room 301. (Sumpter, McGhaney, Byrd, and Baten) (This meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. or immediately after the 4:30 p.m., meeting of the County's Forfeited Land Commission).

Councilwoman McGhaney stated that there was a joint committee meeting of the Technology/Personnel Committee and Public Safety Committee. As Chairman of the Technology/Personnel Committee, she gave the following report for a portion of the meeting.

1. COVID-19 - The Committee received a briefing from Erik Hayes.

Public Safety Committee Chairman, Chris Sumpter, stated that all members of the Committee attended the meeting. The agenda item was centered around the Sheriff's staff salary adjustments. Councilman Sumpter further stated that all Council members are in support of the salary adjustments for the Sheriff's staff. However, the County is currently conducting a salary study countywide. The Council members would like to wait until the study is completed, and then take action from that point. Councilman Sumpter stated that with as many Sheriff Deputies present at the meeting, he encouraged them by stating that their best interest is at the top of Council's priority. Council members understand the importance and the value of each of the Deputies.

Councilman McGhaney also stated that because all Council members are interested in salary increases for Sheriff's Deputies, it was discussed that the next time the discussions take place, it will be in a Special Call Meeting of Sumter County Council. Therefore, all Council members will be able to have a full vote on any matters coming out of the meeting.

Councilman Baten stated that, he extend condolences to the men and women who are here (Sheriff's Deputies) because of the loss of one of their fellow officers. He also stated that he is a retired Veteran and a retired State Constable; therefore, he understands the weight of what they are going through. In addition, Councilman Baten stated Council members would be helping the Deputies at the Sheriff's Office and the men and women at the Detention Center.

Chairman McCain stated that Council is in support of the pay increases for the Sheriff's Office, and it was decided months ago to support the Sheriff in his request. However, it must be handled in the proper way and with salaries being an ongoing expense; it must be budgeted for during the budget process. Chairman McCain said he gives his word that increases will happen. He also stated that he along with the Administrator, the Finance Director, and other staff meet with the Sheriff this morning (March 10, 2020).

2. Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting March 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m. In County Council's Conference Room, Sumter County Courthouse 141 N. Main Street, Room 301. (McCain, Edens, McGhaney)

Chairman McCain, who is also the Chairman of the Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee, stated that this Committee received a detailed presentation from Santee Lynches Regional Council on Governments (Director, Chris McKinney) and Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (Director, Lottie Jones) concerning a Transportation Needs Assessment. The full report was attached to Council's agenda packet and members of each of the agencies presented the report.

No action was taken.

3. Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences. (For Information Only - Sumter County's Forfeited Land Commission Members Will Meet On March 10, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. In Room 301, Of The Sumter County Courthouse.)

Councilman Baker introduced Chris Sorrell, a Boy Scout, who is working on his Eagle Scout Badge.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala - April 2, 2020
2. League of Women Voters and Women History - March 21, 2020
3. Groundbreaking for the Penny For Progress - Recreation Renovation and Gymnasium Construction - March 17, 2020.
4. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, May 4, 2020
5. Farm To Table - March 19, 2020
6. Joyful Noise - Event At Patriot Hall
7. Census Awareness Day, April 1, 2020.
8. Education Liaison Committee - March 11, 2020

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Animal Shelter: Mr. Gary Mixon, the County Administrator, stated that another one of the Penny for Progress Projects would be coming to the forefront for construction very soon. The Project is the Animal Shelter. The grounds are being cleared and prepared for the construction. I hope that the groundbreaking will be held during the last week of March or early April.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Sgt. Brian Rulong** - acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Louise Gillette, wife of fallen officer, Andrew Gillette. He further stated that Ms. Gillette is in support of the requests from the officers of the Sheriff's Department.
 - o The Sheriff's Deputies are in support of the Sheriff's Office Salary Increase, but not being lumped into the overall County's salary increases. Otherwise, with a 3% increase for everyone would place the deputies' right back where they are now.
 - o A copy of the recommendations for the Pay Scale as prepared by the Deputies was given to Councilman Sumpter and Mr. Gary Mixon so that each Council member would have it to review. This would allow for there to be a comparison with the County's pay increase and the Sheriff Deputy's increases.
 - o He gave a thorough report of the Pay Scale recommendation.
2. **Investigator Randle Stewart** stated that the financial numbers associated with the Pay Scale Recommendations presented by Sgt. Brian Rulong are real numbers and can help the Sheriff Deputies if the pay ranges, finances, and longevity are implemented in this pay increase process. Mr. Stewart further stated that these financial numbers were retrieved from different counties, agencies, etc., of similar sizes and staffing. Sumter County's 25%-32% disparity in the Sheriff's Office is documented and affects the Staff Sergeants.

3. **Lt. Lee Monahan** stated that when a person looks at a Business Program, they need to look at three main goals – are you going to be a: Leader, Match the competitors, or Lag behind the competitors. In addition to this information, Lt. Monahan gave the following statements as to why the Sheriff’s office should be considered different from any other group of employees in Sumter County.
 - a) Required local, state, and federal requirements and certifications.
 - b) Educational and physical requirements
 - c) Level of authority that has been entrusted to the officers.
 - d) The dangers
 - e) Skill levels – counseling, mental health knowledge
 - f) Working with attorneys and the ever-changing laws
 - g) No matter how dangerous, we are still willing to lay down our lives for the citizens of Sumter County.

4. **Sargent Tasson** stated that we are not looking for a short-term fix; we want it to be a long-term fix. He also stated that it is true that all employees need to receive raises if it is feasible for them; however, what separates the Sheriff Office from the guy that cuts the grass is that guy is not answering a call from a citizen that his/her neighbor is running down the street shooting a gun. Sgt. Tasson said the example he gave is the type of work that makes the Sheriff Deputies’ work different. He also asked Council whether the County’s morgue is being renovated. He added that the County’s morgue is the most decrepted building and he would not want to take a family there to see their loved one.

NOTE: The County Administrator stated that a new morgue is currently being built.

ADJOURNMENT

After all discussion and all comments from the public, a motion was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Sumpter to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 6:56 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: March 24, 2020

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 first floor of the County Courthouse.

Date Posted: March 9, 2020

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: March 5, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Mary W. Blanding

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.