

CITY OF SIMPSONVILLE: CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
— MINUTES —

Council Chambers, Simpsonville City Hall | Feb. 10, 2026 | 6 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Officer: Paul Shewmaker, Mayor

2. ROLL CALL

Councilmember _____	Present	Absent
Ward 1 – Chad O’Rear	✓	
Ward 2 – Aaron Rupe	✓	
Ward 3 – Shannon Williams	✓	
Ward 4 – Sherry Roche	✓	
Ward 5 – Tim Pinkerton	✓	
Ward 6 – Jerry Tusso	✓	
Mayor Paul Shewmaker	✓	



3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the business meeting on Jan. 13, 2026 were approved as written.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Debbie Smith, Dee Conits, and Barry Smith expressed concerns about traffic congestion. Stephanie Kelley, Donna Moon, Pete Calhoun, Janet Moore, Sandra Wilson, Brian Curtis, and Rebecca Jenkins expressed concerns about reopening of Hunter Street.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. First Reading of Ordinance O-2026-01, Proposed ordinance for the issuance and sale of City Simpsonville, South Carolina Sewer System Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2026 not exceeding six-million seven-hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$6,750,000.00) and other matters relating thereto

Motion by Councilmember Pinkerton, with a second by Councilmember Rupe to approve First Reading of Ordinance O-2026-01, Proposed ordinance for the issuance and sale of City of Simpsonville, South Carolina Sewer System Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2026 not exceeding six-million seven-hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$6,750,000.00) and other matters relating thereto to the next business meeting.

Y-7 N-0. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Welcome Center Budget

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Williams to approve the Welcome Center Budget.

Y-7 N-0. Motion carried.

C. Approval of Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Rupe to approve the updated Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations.

Y-7 N-0. Motion carried.

D. Resolution R-2026-01, Heritage Park Amphitheatre Management Contract

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Pinkerton to approve Resolution R-2026-01, Heritage Park Amphitheatre Management Contract.
Y-7 N-0. Motion carried.

E. Resolution R-2026-02, to Form a New Park and Budget for Development

Motion by Mayor Shewmaker with a second by Councilmember Roche to approve Resolution R-2026-02, to Form a New Park and Budget for Development.
Y-7 N-0. Motion carried.

F. Resolution R-2026-03, for Parks Acquisition and Funding Structure Exploration

Motion by Mayor Shewmaker with a second by Councilmember Williams to approve Resolution R-2026-03, for Parks Acquisition and Funding Structure Exploration.
Y-6 N-1. Councilmember Pinkerton voting no. Motion Carried.

G. Resolution R-2026-04, Citizens Academy

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Rupe to approve Resolution R-2026-04, Citizens Academy.
Y-7 N-0. Motion carried.

H. Resolution R-2026-05, Reopening of Hunter Street to Through Traffic

Motion by Councilmember O’Rear with a second by Councilmember Rupe to approve Resolution R-2026-05, Reopening of Hunter Street to Through Traffic.

Motion by Councilmember O’Rear with a second by Councilmember Pinkerton to amend Resolution R-2026-05, Reopening of Hunter Street to Through Traffic by Aug. 8, 2026, and in the intervening time for staff to perform a study finding mitigation steps in advance of reopening.
Y-4 N-3. Councilmembers Roche and Williams, Mayor Shewmaker voting no. Motion to amend carried.

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Williams to amend Resolution R-2026-05 by striking the third whereas: the closure of Hunter Street reduced access and slowed down response time for police, fire, first responders, EMS, the postal service, and other service vehicles to the neighborhood adjacent to Hunter Street.
Y-3 N-4. Councilmembers O’Rear, Rupe, Pinkerton, and Tusso voting no. Motion failed.

Main motion as amended Resolution R-2026-05, reopening of Hunter Street to Through Traffic by Aug. 8, 2026, and in the intervening time for staff to perform a study to find mitigation steps in advance of reopening. Main Motion as amended Y-4 N-3. Councilmembers Roche and Williams, Mayor Shewmaker voting no. Motion to approve Resolution R-2026-05 as amended carried.

7. ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 p.m.