CITY OF SIMPSONVILLE: CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, Simpsonville City Hall | September 8, 2026 | 6 p.m.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor pro tem Aaron Rupe called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Justin Campbell called the roll:

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 Tuso	✓	
Mayor Paul Shewmaker		✓

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor pro tem Rupe led Council Chambers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the Business Meeting on August 11, 2026 were approved as submitted.

5. PROCLAMATIONS

A. Veterans of Legacy Reserve at Fairview Park and Quilts of Valor

Mayor pro tem Rupe announced that the proclamation would be presented at a separate ceremony.

B. Hispanic Heritage Month

- *Lt. Yojan Barrero and Paulina Hartney, Simpsonville Police Department*

Lt. Barrero spoke about the histories, cultures, and contributions celebrated during Hispanic Heritage Month and the importance of Hispanic-owned businesses, educators, and community leaders to Simpsonville. He highlighted plans to partner with the Hispanic Alliance and NASCAR driver Daniel Suarez at National Night Out and emphasized ensuring that every resident feels seen, welcomed, safe, and valued.

- Paulina Hartney read the Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation.

C. Constitution Week

Mayor pro tem Rupe read the Constitution Week proclamation. Representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution joined Council for a photograph.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Kimberly Dix gave comments expressing concerns about what Ms. Dix described as political-party involvement in municipal elections and the transparency and accountability of Ward 6 representation. Ms. Dix said Council seats should remain accountable to Simpsonville residents.

7. **BUSINESS**

A. **Second Reading of Ordinance O-2026-10, proposed ordinance to establish requirements for naming city-owned and city-controlled properties and infrastructure**
Chad O'Rear, Councilmember

- Motion by Councilmember O'Rear with a second by Councilmember Pinkerton to approve second reading of Ordinance O-2026-10.
- Motion by Councilmember O'Rear with a second by Councilmember Tuso to amend Section 2, Existing Names and Prospective Application, to read: "Nothing in this ordinance, standing alone, changes, invalidates or requires the removal of any name, formally approved before the effective date of this ordinance if it is in compliance with the requirements of this ordinance. This ordinance shall be retroactively applied to any name approved after January 1, 2023 that is not in compliance with the terms of this ordinance, except that no street or roadway shall be renamed to limit the impact and inconvenience on residents. Any naming or renaming action taken on or after the effective date shall comply with the requirements established here."
- Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Williams to table Ordinance O-2026-10 until the next Business Meeting [October 13, 2026].
- Roll call vote on motion to table requested by Councilmember O'Rear: Councilmembers Williams and Roche - Yes; Councilmembers O'Rear, Rupe, Pinkerton, and Tuso - No. Yes - 2. No - 4. Motion failed.
- Roll call vote on motion to amend requested by Councilmember O'Rear: Councilmembers O'Rear, Rupe, Pinkerton, and Tuso - Yes; Councilmembers Williams and Roche - No. Yes - 4. No - 2. Amendment carried.
- Roll call vote on the main motion as amended requested by Councilmember O'Rear: Councilmembers O'Rear, Rupe, Pinkerton, and Tuso - Yes; Councilmembers Williams and Roche - No. Yes - 4. No - 2. Main motion as amended carried to adopt Ordinance O-2026-10 upon second reading.

B. **First Reading of Ordinance O-2026-09, proposed ordinance to issue a fiber franchise agreement to applicant South Carolina Telecommunications Group Holdings, LLC d/b/a Segra**
Jon Derby, Planning Director
Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Pinkerton to refer Ordinance O-2026-09 to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on September 22, 2026. Yes - 6. No - 0. Motion carried.

C. **First Reading of Ordinance O-2026-11, Code of Ordinances Public Participation at Meetings, to amend Simpsonville, S.C. Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2, Section 2-69(b) to clarify and define eligibility requirements for public participation at Council meetings**
Tim Pinkerton, Councilmember
Motion by Councilmember Pinkerton with a second by Councilmember Roche to approve First Reading of Ordinance O-2026-11. Yes - 6. No - 0. Motion carried.

D. Resolution R-2026-19, a proposed resolution to authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with CivicPlus for recodification of the Simpsonville, S.C. Code of Ordinances

Tim Pinkerton, Councilmember

Motion by Councilmember Pinkerton with a second by Councilmember O'Rear to approve Resolution R-2026-19.

City Attorney Daniel Hughes identified a necessary correction to the second whereas clause to replace "council-manager" with "council" form of government, citing S.C. Code § Section 5-11-30. City Clerk Campbell agreed to make the correction. Yes - 6. No - 0. Motion carried.

E. Resolution R-2026-20, a proposed resolution to authorize an agreement for City banking services with Pinnacle Bank d/b/a Synovus Bank

Maria Tooley, Finance Director

Finance Director Tooley reported that the City's selection committee interviewed four banks and determined that Pinnacle Bank d/b/a Synovus Bank was the best fit for the City, citing interest rates, security, and fraud protection.

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember O'Rear to approve Resolution R-2026-20. Yes - 6. No - 0. Motion carried.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor pro tem Rupe adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Approved as submitted by Simpsonville City Council on 2026-10-13

Justin Campbell, City Clerk | 2026-10-14