CITY OF SIMPSONVILLE: CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
— MINUTES —
Council Chambers, Simpsonville City Hall | October 27, 2026 | 6 p.m.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Shewmaker called the meeting to order at 5:59 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 Shewmaker led Council Chambers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the Committee of the Whole Meeting on September 22, 2026 were approved as submitted.

5. PROCLAMATION

A. Red Ribbon Week | Upstate Young Marines
Paul Shewmaker, Mayor
Mayor Shewmaker read the Red Ribbon Week proclamation.

6. PRESENTATION

A. Downtown Project: Update | CoTransCo
CoTransCo Director of Operations Clay Baldwin reported that Thrift Development's approximately $11.6 million construction contract was 14 percent complete. The update addressed work involving eight drainage systems before more visible curb, gutter, sidewalk, and roadway work; activity on College Street, Jonesville Road, Poinsettia Drive, and S.C. 14; proposed additions involving Hedge Street and North Main Street pending pricing; and an anticipated eastbound College Street closure before year-end.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Geneva Lawrence asked the City to share information from the impact-fees workshop with residents and make it available promptly.
- Mike Barker supported retaining the Flock automatic license plate reader system, described its public-safety value based on his law-enforcement experience, and urged Council to study safeguards before acting.
- James Dye questioned reliance on a 2022 downtown traffic study in light of subsequent growth and requested an updated corridor-wide traffic-impact study using current traffic counts and development information.
- Perry Eichor supported retaining the camera system as a useful public-safety and manpower-saving tool for law enforcement.
- Morgan Rittrick thanked Councilmember Roche for introducing Ordinance O-2026-14 and supported an ALPR ban based on privacy, data-sharing, data-retention, and constitutional concerns.
- Cassie Bentley opposed ALPR cameras and said that movement data could reveal private medical, religious, and personal activity and that public safety did not justify surrendering individual freedoms.
- Kimberly Dix requested improvements to Council Chambers audio and discussed transparency, accountability, public trust, ALPR technology, and the purpose, cost, and evaluation of the proposed City Prosecutor position.

8. STAFF REPORTS

Department heads were available to answer questions concerning the Unified Departments Report.

A. Financial Report

Maria Tooley, Finance Director

Finance Director Maria Tooley gave the monthly Financial Report, including General Fund revenues and expenditures, capital-project spending, and Hospitality and Sewer Fund revenues. Council discussed the report and expressed appreciation for its new format.

B. City Administrator Report

Tee Coker, City Administrator

City Administrator Tee Coker gave the monthly City Administrator Report and discussed municipal-complex park work, potential acoustic treatments for Council Chambers, the impact-fee model, and the Municipal Tax Relief Act ballot question. Mr. Coker said an impact-fee presentation could reasonably be ready around the first of the year, with January being the next regular Committee of the Whole opportunity.

10. BUSINESS

Mayor Shewmaker moved item 10.C ahead of item 9 under the presiding officer's authority to maintain good order because members of the public and Police Department staff were present for the item.

C. Ordinance O-2026-14, a proposed ordinance to prohibit the use of automatic license plate reader camera technology in city limits and direct termination of the ALPR contracts in accordance with their terms

Sherry Roche, Councilmember

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember O'Rear to adopt proposed Ordinance O-2026-14 to prohibit the use of automatic license plate reader camera technology by the City of Simpsonville in city limits, direct termination of the City's ALPR contracts in accordance with their terms, and arrange for deactivation and removal of the technology, with exceptions for contract wind-down, contract termination, and actions required by law, thereby moving the ordinance for first reading to the Business Meeting on November 10, 2026. Yes – 5. No – 2. Dissenting – Mayor Shewmaker and Councilmember Pinkerton. Motion carried.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember Rupe to enter executive session pursuant to S.C. Code § 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss negotiations incident to the proposed Segra Fiber franchise agreement and to receive legal advice regarding the matter. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried. Council entered executive session at 7:18 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:41 p.m. No action was taken in executive session.

10. BUSINESS – CONTINUED

A. Ordinance O-2026-09, a proposed ordinance to issue a fiber franchise agreement to South Carolina Telecommunications Group Holdings, LLC d/b/a Segra Fiber

John Thibodoux, Market Vice President for Segra Fiber

Motion by Mayor Shewmaker with a second by Councilmember Pinkerton to adopt proposed Ordinance O-2026-09 to issue a fiber franchise agreement to South Carolina Telecommunications Group Holdings, LLC d/b/a Segra Fiber, with amendments recommended by the City Attorney, and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

B. Ordinance O-2026-13, a proposed ordinance to add the position of City Prosecutor to the Code of Ordinances

Tim Pinkerton, Councilmember

Motion by Councilmember Pinkerton with a second by Councilmember Rupe to approve Ordinance O-2026-13 and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

D. Ordinance O-2026-15, a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 16 of the Code of Ordinances to comply with new election laws made effective January 1, 2027

Paul Shewmaker, Mayor

Motion by Mayor Shewmaker with a second by Councilmember Williams to adopt proposed Ordinance O-2026-15 to amend Chapter 16 of the Code of Ordinances to comply with new election laws, including Act

(item 10.D. continued on Page 3)

(item 10.D. continued from Page 2)

No. 213 of 2026, effective January 1, 2027 and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

E. Ordinance O-2026-16, a proposed ordinance to establish rules for individual Councilmember access to the City Attorney
Paul Shewmaker, Mayor

- Motion by Mayor Shewmaker with a second by Councilmember Roche to approve proposed Ordinance O-2026-16.
- While the main motion was pending, motion by Mayor Shewmaker with a second by Councilmember Pinkerton to amend Ordinance O-2026-16 by changing the section reference from 2-224 to 2-225. Yes – 7. No – 0. Amendment carried.
- Motion by Mayor Shewmaker with a second by Councilmember Roche to postpone the item indefinitely. Yes – 6. No – 1. Dissenting – Councilmember O'Rear. Motion carried. The amended main motion was not voted on.

F. TX-2026-01, a proposed ordinance to adopt text amendments to Land Development Regulations
Jon Derby, Planning Director
Motion by Councilmember Williams with a second by Councilmember Rupe to approve proposed Ordinance TX-2026-01 to adopt staff-recommended text amendments to the Land Development Regulations and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

G. TX-2026-02, a proposed ordinance to adopt miscellaneous refinements to the Zoning Ordinance
Jon Derby, Planning Director
Motion by Councilmember Pinkerton with a second by Councilmember Roche to approve TX-2026-02 and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

H. TX-2026-03, a proposed ordinance to adopt miscellaneous refinements to the Zoning Ordinance
Jon Derby, Planning Director
Motion by Councilmember Pinkerton with a second by Councilmember Roche to approve TX-2026-03 and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

I. Resolution R-2026-21, a proposed resolution to approve the annual fair operating agreement with Event Coordinators, Inc.
Tee Coker, City Administrator
Motion by Councilmember Williams with a second by Councilmember Rupe to adopt proposed Resolution R-2026-21 to approve the annual fair operating agreement with Event Coordinators, Inc. and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

J. Resolution R-2026-22, a proposed resolution to authorize First Amendment to the Amphitheatre Management Agreement with Simpsonville Amphitheatre, LLC d/b/a Opry Entertainment Group
Tee Coker, City Administrator
Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember O'Rear to adopt proposed Resolution R-2026-22 to authorize the First Amendment to the Amphitheatre Management Agreement with Simpsonville Amphitheatre, LLC d/b/a Opry Entertainment Group and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

K. Resolution R-2026-23, a proposed resolution to adopt an Emergency Operations Plan
Tee Coker, City Administrator
Motion by Councilmember Roche with a second by Councilmember O'Rear to adopt proposed Resolution R-2026-23 and approve the Emergency Operations Plan as presented and place the item on the agenda of the next Business Meeting. Yes – 7. No – 0. Motion carried.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Shewmaker adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Approved as submitted by Simpsonville City Council on 2026-11-10

Justin Campbell, City Clerk | 2026-11-12