

CITY OF SIMPSONVILLE
CITY MEETING MINUTES
CITY MEETING ROOM
AUGUST 18 , 2026
6 PM

Present: Mayor Sowder, Commissioners Dupré, Garland, Hesse & McDowell, City Attorney Brammell, City Administrator Eden, City Clerk Miller.

Mayor Sowder called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge

Mayor Sowder presented, for approval, the minutes from August 4, 2026, city meeting and August 11, 2026 special called city meeting that confirms completion of the personnel investigation. After review, **Commissioner Hesse made the motion to accept both sets of minutes as presented. Commissioner Garland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Sowder presented the ceremonial oath of office to Police Chief David Aikins.

Mayor Sowder recognized PW / Park Director Truelock who recognized Cintas' representatives Camron and Kendall who shared with the Commission Cintas' AED lease to own program. After questions and answers, PW / Park Director Truelock shared with the Commission, if approved, the AED lease agreement would be included in the 2027/2028 budget year since the equipment has already been serviced for the current year.

Mayor Sowder recognized the Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner McDowell (Road) – No Report

Commissioner Dupré (Sewer) –

Commissioner Dupré acknowledged the retirement of Sewer Department employee, Tony Ellis.

Commissioner Garland (Police/Parks) – No Report

Commissioner Hesse (Finance) –

Commissioner Hesse presented to the Commission, for approval, the July Expenditure Reports. No discussion. **Commissioner Hesse made the motion to approve the July expenditure reports as presented. Commissioner McDowell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Hesse presented to the Commission, for approval, the July Financial Reports. No discussion. **Commissioner Hesse made the motion to accept July financial reports as presented. Commissioner Dupré seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Sowder recommended for the Commission to approve the Simpsonville Comprehensive Plan text amendments as presented at the August 4, 2026 meeting by Ryan Libke, Triple S Planning & Zoning Director. **Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the text amendments as were presented at the August 4 city meeting and for Triple S to proceed with the process. Commissioner Garland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Sowder acknowledged Tony Ellis' retirement with over 34 years of service to the Simpsonville Sewer Department. Mayor Sowder will deliver and present to Tony his retirement gift Wednesday morning.

Mayor Sowder recognized the City Attorney's Report:

City Attorney Brammell presented to the Commission, for approval, Resolution #2026-002 regarding a data center moratorium. After review, **Commissioner Dupré made the motion to approve Resolution #2026-002 as presented. Commissioner McDowell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

City Attorney Brammell shared with the Commission she is working on the parking ordinance. Mayor Sowder suggested the parking ordinance wait until the beginning of the year. All were in agreement.

Mayor Sowder recognized the City Clerk's Report:

City Clerk Miller reminded the Commission of the Ad Valorem Public Hearing September 1 at 5:45 pm.

Mayor Sowder recognized the City Administrator's Report:

City Administrator Eden shared with the Commission he will get a second quote for two mini split units and installation at the sewer plant and will present at the next meeting for approval.

City Administrator Eden, on behalf of City Clerk Miller, presented to the Commission, for approval, the recommendation to hire Emily Aikins as the next Billing Clerk / Admin. Asst. to begin August 24, 2026 at the hourly rate of \$18.50/hour with a \$.50/hour increase after six months, if progressing accordingly, and with next pay increase to be at the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027. **Commissioner Hesse made the motion to approve the hiring of Emily Aikins as presented. Commissioner McDowell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

City Administrator Eden, on behalf of Police Chief Aikins, presented to the Commission, for approval, a request to title impounded vehicles 2001 Gold GMC Yukon, effective 08/12/26 and 2007 Silver Buick Lacross, effective 08/19/26. **Commissioner Dupré made the motion to approve to title and authorize the Mayor to sign documents for the vehicles as presented. Commissioner McDowell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

City Administrator Eden, on behalf of Police Chief Aikins, presented to the Commission, to accept the resignation of Police Recruit Manning, due to not completing the academy, effective immediately. **Commissioner Garland made the motion to accept the resignation of Police Recruit Manning effective immediately. Commissioner McDowell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

City Administrator Eden, on behalf of Police Chief Aikins, presented to the Commission, for approval, the recommendation to surplus three (3) police department vehicles, due to age and mileage, and upon receipt of the new budgeted trucks. **Commissioner Hesse made the motion to approve the surplus of the 3 police vehicles, as presented, for disposal or donation. Commissioner Garland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner McDowell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Dupré seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned 6:51 pm.

ATTEST:


Denise Miller/City Clerk

APPROVED:


Ronnie Sowder/Mayor