



CITY OF SPARTANBURG
SOUTH CAROLINA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

City Council Meeting
County Council Chambers
366 N. Church Street
Monday, March 23, 2026
5:30 PM

- I. **Moment of Silence**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 9, 2026 Meeting**
- IV. **Approval of the Agenda of the March 23, 2026 Meeting**
- V. **Public Comment**
- VI. **Appointment of Councilmembers for the Hospitality Tax Committee**
Presenter: Christie Lindsey, City Clerk
- VII. **Ordinance**
 - A. **An Ordinance to Amend Various Sections of the Code of the City of Spartanburg to Improve Neighborhood Code Enforcement (First Reading) Ordinance #2026-003**
Presenter: Robert P. Coler, City Attorney
- VIII. **Presentation on Barnet Park Venue Improvements and Programming Enhancements**
Presenters: Chris Story, City Manager
Mitch Kennedy, Deputy City Manager
- IX. **Presentation on Clock Tower**
Presenter: Chris Story, City Manager
- X. **Staff Updates**
- XI. **City Council Updates**
- XII. **Executive Session**
 - A. **An Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws to Discuss a Personnel Matter**

As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Spartanburg will provide interpretive services for the City Council Meetings. Requests must be made to the Communications & Marketing Office (596-2020) 24 hours in advance of the meeting. This is a Public Meeting and notice of the meeting was posted with the Media 24 hours in advance according to the Freedom of Information

- B. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(5) of the South Carolina Code to Discuss Matters Relating to Economic Development “Project New Vision” a Potential Mixed-Income Residential Development near the Downtown Area.**

XIII. Adjournment.

City Code Sec. 2-57. Citizen Appearance. Any citizen of the City of Spartanburg may speak at a regular meeting on any matter pertaining to City Services and operations germane to items within the purview and authority of City Council, except personnel matters, by signing a Citizen’s Appearance form prior to the meeting stating the subject and purpose for speaking. No item considered by Council within the past twelve (12) months may be added as an agenda item other than by decision of City Council. The forms may be obtained from the Clerk and maintained by the same. Each person who gives notice may speak at the designated time and will be limited to a two (2) minute presentation.



**City Council Meeting
County Council Chambers
366 N. Church Street
Monday, March 9, 2026
5:30p.m.**

(These minutes to be approved at the March 23, 2026 Council Meeting)

City Council met this date with the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Jerome Rice, Mayor Pro Tem J. Ruth Littlejohn, Councilmembers Jamie Fulmer, Janie Salley, Meghan Smith, Erica Brown and Leslie Rodgers. City Manager Chris Story, Deputy Assistant City Manager Mitch Kennedy, Assistant City Manager Kevin Limehouse, City Attorney Robert Coler and City Clerk Christie Lindsey were in attendance. Notice of the meeting was posted with the Media 24 hours in advance according to the Freedom of Information Act. All City Council meetings are live streamed/recorded. To view the video for a complete transcript, please visit <https://www.cityofspartanburg.org/city-council>

- I. Moment of Silence – observed**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - recited**
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2026 City Council Meeting**
*Mayor Pro Tem Littlejohn made a motion to approve the minutes as received.
Councilmember Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*
- IV. Approval of the Agenda for the March 9, 2026, City Council Meeting**
*Councilmember Brown made a motion to approve the agenda.
Mayor Pro Tem Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*
- V. Public Comment –**
 - 1. Javar Juarez**-Presented Council with a Resolution regarding a story covered on 9/22/2025 took second place in featured news writing.
 - 2. Christopher Jefferson**-Update on affordable housing in the City. Highlighting Oak and Ave Property Group being a recipient of Made it Home Program.
 - 3. Chris Mathis**-Advocate for the Dog Park on the Rail Trail being cleaned up and maintained.
- VI. A Proclamation Declaring March 2, 2026 through March 9, 2026 as Xi Theta Lambda Charter Week in the City of Spartanburg**
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor
Mayor Rice presented several members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Xi Theta Lambda Chapter with the proclamation.

VII. Declaration of Vacancies for the City of Spartanburg Board and Commissions.

Presenter: Christie Lindsey, City Clerk

The complete listing of vacancies declared by the clerk are attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

Council received as information only.

VIII. FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Presenters: Dennis Locke, Finance Director

David Phillips, CPA, Greene Finney Cauley, LLP

David Phillips presented Council with an overview of the FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Council received as information only.

IX. Staff Update

Mr. Story advised Council that City staff is in the process of preparing to make a recommendation for a new location of the clock tower. He also advised Council that Police Chief Alonzo Thompson will be retiring this year and he will be assisting staff in making a smooth transition during this process.

XII. City Council Updates

Each Councilmember gave updates on their activities since the previous council meeting.

Councilmember Fulmer made a motion to adjourn to executive session.

Mayor Pro Tem Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Council adjourned to executive session at 6:24p.m.

XIII. Executive Session

A. An Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws to Discuss a Personnel Matter.

B. An Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70-(a)(2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws in Regards to a Potential Real Estate Transaction.

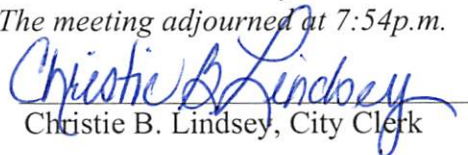
Council convened to regular session at 7:53p.m. Mayor Rice stated that discussions were held with no decisions made.

XIV. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Littlejohn made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilmember Salley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54p.m.


Christie B. Lindsey, City Clerk

Airport Advisory Board

4 Openings

3 Year Term

Residency Not Required

3 of the 4 can be reappointed for an additional term
(2 County seats up next year)

HARB

2 Openings

3 Year Term

Residency Required

1 of 2 can be reappointed for an additional term

Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee

2 Openings

3 Year Term

Residency/Significant Business Interest Required

1 of 2 eligible for an additional term.

Construction Board of Appeals

2 Openings

3 Year Term

Residency Not Required

2 of 2 eligible for an additional term.

Design Review Board

1 Opening

3 Year Term

Residency/Significant Business Interest Required.

0 of 1 eligible for an additional term.

Hospitality Tax Committee

1 Open Unexpired Term (2027)

3 Year Term

Residency/Significant Business Interest Required.

Need 2 Councilmembers

Housing Board of Adjustment and Appeals

2 Openings

3 Year Term

Residency Required

Planning Commission

2 Openings

4 Year Term

Residency Required

2 of 2 eligible for reappointment

Public Safety Committee

4 Vacancies

3 Year Term

Residency Required

4 of 4 eligible for an additional term

Storm Water Appeals

2 Openings

3 Year Term

Residency Required

Zoning Board of Appeals

2 Openings

3 Year Term

Residency Required

(1 unexpired term and 1 vacancy)



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Chris Story, City Manager

FROM: Martin Livingston, Neighborhood Services Director
Kevin Limehouse, Assistant City Manager
Robert Coler, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Code Enforcement Ordinance Update

DATE: March 24, 2025

BACKGROUND:

To improve our code enforcement services, we are presenting the proposed ordinance to update our city code.

This ordinance allows for the clarification of language to provide clear and expanded guidance on rules, clearly defined definitions of concepts, and .

Changes for the following sections include

- Sec. 20-29 – Removal requirements now include fallen tress, tree limbs
Additional definitions of trash to include: refuse, rubbish, tires, construction materials
- Sec. 1-2. – Addition of the definition of the term “structure”
- Sec. 20-33. – Clarification on timeline of communication between City and offenders for various sections.
- Sec. 34-3. – removed language to better clarify restrictions on trailer coach placement
- Sec 30-12. – removed language allowing sound amplification

The City staff supports these changes and anticipates it will clarify rules for citizens and help with enforcement

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of ordinance allowing for updates to the City code.

AN ORDINANCE

**TO AMEND THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF
THE CITY OF SPARTANBURG**

WHEREAS, from time to time, a review of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Spartanburg reveals a need to clarify, supplement, or generally improve its language in order to achieve its general goal of protecting and preserving the safety, health, and general welfare of the City's residents, visitors, and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 attached hereto and incorporated herein reflect changes to the City Code that Council desires; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to make the following amendments as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. The language set forth in Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, attached to this Ordinance and incorporated herein, is hereby adopted and shall become the official version of the City Code upon passage of this Ordinance.

For reference, any underlined word is to be added to the previous version of the City Code and any word stricken through shall be deleted from the previous version of the Code.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon 2nd reading.

DONE AND RATIFIED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Jerome Rice

ATTEST:

Christie Lindsey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert P. Coler, City Attorney

___/___/___ 1st Reading

___/___/___ 2nd Reading

Sec. 1-2. Definitions and rules of construction.

In the construction of this Code and of all ordinances of the city, the following definitions and rules of construction shall be observed, unless inconsistent with the manifest intent of the city council or the context clearly requires otherwise:

And, or. The term "and" may be read as "or" and the term "or" may be read as "and," where the sense requires it.

Bond. When a bond is required, an undertaking in writing shall be sufficient.

City. The term "the city" means the City of Spartanburg in the County of Spartanburg and the State of South Carolina, except as otherwise noted.

Code. Whenever the term "Code" or "this Code" is used, it means the Code of Ordinances, City of Spartanburg, South Carolina, as designated in section 1-1.

Computation of time. In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this Code, the day of the act, event, or default after which the designated period of time begins to run is not to be included. The last day of the period so computed is to be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or a state or federal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday nor such holiday. When the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and holidays shall be excluded in the computation. A half-holiday shall be considered as other days and not as a holiday.

Council or city council. The term "council" or "city council" means the city council of the City of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

County. The term "county" means the County of Spartanburg in the State of South Carolina.

Joint authority. All words giving a joint authority to three or more persons or officers shall be construed as giving such authority to a majority of such persons or officers.

Month. The term "month" means a calendar month.

Number. Words used in the singular include the plural and the plural includes the singular number.

Oath. The term "oath" shall be construed to include an affirmation in all cases in which, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in such cases, the terms "swear" and "sworn" shall be equivalent to the terms "affirm" and "affirmed."

Owner. The term "owner," applied to building or land, includes any part owner, joint owner, tenant in common, joint tenant or tenant by the entirety of the whole or a part of such building or land.

Person. The term "person" includes a corporation, firm, partnership, association, organization and any other group acting as a unit, as well as an individual.

Personal property. The term "personal property" includes every species of property, except real property, as defined in this section.

Preceding, following. The terms "preceding" and "following" mean next before and next after, respectively.

Property. The term "property" includes real and personal property.

Public notice. The term "public notice" means a notice published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in Spartanburg County.

Real property and real estate. The terms "real property" and "real estate" include lands, tenements and hereditaments.

Roadway. The term "roadway" means that portion of a street improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

S.C. Code 1976. The term "S.C. Code 1976" refers to the South Carolina Code of Laws.

S.C. Code Reg. The term "S.C. Code Reg." refers to the South Carolina Code of Regulations.

Sidewalk. The term "sidewalk" means any portion of a street between the curb line and the adjacent property line intended for the use of pedestrians.

Signature or subscription. The term "signature" or "subscription" includes a mark when the person cannot write.

State. The term "the state" or "this state" means the State of South Carolina.

Statute references. Whenever reference is made to state law or to the state statutes, it shall be construed to refer to the latest edition of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

Street. The term "street" means and includes any public way, road, highway, street, avenue, boulevard, parkway, alley, lane, viaduct, bridge and the approaches thereto within the city.

Structure. The term "structure" means that which is built or constructed or a portion thereof.

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Tenant or occupant. The term "tenant" or "occupant," applied to a building or land, includes any person who occupies the whole or part of such building or land, whether alone or with others.

Tense. Words used in the past or present tense include the future as well as the past and present.

Writing, written. The terms "writing" and "written" include printing and any other mode of representing words and letters.

Year. The term "year" means a calendar year.

(Code 1988, § 1-2)

Sec. 20-29. - Removal required.

The owner, agent, occupant, lessee, or person in charge of any property in the city shall, upon notification by the city manager or other designated officer of the city, remove from such property the following conditions which are declared to be a menace to the public health and a nuisance:

- (1) Any weeds, brush, undergrowth or debris on any real property located within the city that grows to a height of 12 inches or more;
- (2) Undergrowth or vines grown to such density as to constitute a haven for rats, snakes or other vermin, fallen trees, or fallen tree limbs;
- (3) The conditions described in sections 20-2 and 20-3; or
- (4) Any accumulation of trash, refuse, rubbish, tires, construction material, litter, debris, bottles, cans, bricks, concrete, scrap lumber or other building debris which is found on any real property.

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Sec. 20-33. - Notification to remove.

Whenever it is made to appear to the city manager or any other designated officer of the city that the conditions set forth in sections 20-2, 20-3, 20-28, section 20-29, 20-31, 20-32 exist on any real property within the city and are a menace to public health, or a nuisance, the owner, agent, occupant, lessee, or person in charge of the property shall be notified of the offending condition and ordered to abate the condition provided one notice by regular mail within any 12-month period, at the last-known address, setting forth the provisions of section 20-28. Said notice, when given, shall be construed to satisfy this section's notice requirement for any and all similar violations that arise or occur on the subject real property during the following 12 month period and therefore the City shall be entitled to abate the violation without giving subsequent notices.

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Sec. 34-3. - Location or parking of trailer coaches.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to park, ~~for use or occupancy~~, any trailer coach of any kind overnight on any street, alley, highway or other public place.
- (b) No trailer coach shall be parked or located for use or occupancy on any tract of land except as provided in this chapter.
- (c) No trailer coach shall be parked or located and used or occupied on any tract of land other than within an authorized trailer coach park except those trailer coaches for which building permits have been issued prior to the date of adoption of the ordinance from which this chapter is derived. Such permit shall become void upon the moving of the trailer coach from the site or upon violation of any of the applicable ordinances.
- (d) All trailer coaches parked within the confines of the state fairgrounds during the holding of the Piedmont Interstate Fair are excepted from the terms and conditions of this chapter so long as they comply with the sanitary laws of the city.
- (e) A trailer or trailer coach may be used on a temporary basis for office, business or storage purposes during the construction or reconstruction of a building or structure for which a building permit has been issued and is outstanding in the city for such period of time not to exceed 12 months as may be authorized by the building official. The trailer or trailer coach permit may not be issued at the time of obtaining a footing permit but may be issued after a building permit for the construction or reconstruction of the permanent structure has been issued. The permit will become void if construction or reconstruction on the principal structure is not begun within 60 days after issuance of the permit. Where construction has been continuously and diligently proceeding during the entire 12 months and additional time is needed in order to complete construction or reconstruction of the permanent structure, the building official is authorized to grant a trailer coach permit for such additional reasonable time as may be necessary.
- (f) No trailer or trailer coach may be used for office, business or storage purposes on a permanent basis. Use for such purposes on a temporary basis shall be permitted only as specifically set forth in this section.
- (g) A trailer or trailer coach may be used on a lot or tract of land on a temporary test basis for office or business purposes for a period not to exceed six months. The purpose for which a permit may be issued shall be to test a physical location to determine whether or not such location is suitable for the office or business purpose of the applicant. The trailer permit shall be issued after written application is made to the city manager, through the appropriate department, setting forth the name and address of the owner of the property, the name and address of the proposed owner of the business, type, size and cost of the permanent structure to be erected in the event the test permit proves successful. The city manager is authorized to issue a permit only after a favorable recommendation for the issuance of same

is approved by city council. If the test proves successful, the applicant must comply with the provisions of subsection (e) of this section. A trailer or trailer coach permitted under this subsection may be granted a three-month extension to remain on the lot or tract where located on the favorable vote of city council.

Sec. 30-12. - Picketing or patrolling.

(a) *Conduct of picketing; penalty.* For purposes of this section, the term "picketing" means an organized effort to express publicly a point of view at a given place with signs, oral statements, or the like in a systematic manner, which involves walking or standing in the same area for a prolonged period of time. Peaceful picketing in the furtherance of a lawful purpose shall be allowed in the city, provided the picketing is done under the following conditions:

(1) Picketing may be conducted only on the sidewalks, on the grounds of a city-controlled park or plaza, or in other city-owned areas or rights-of-way normally used or reserved for pedestrian movement, and may not be conducted on the portion of a street used primarily for vehicular traffic.

(2) Such picketers must have applied for and been issued a permit as required under subsection (b) of this section.

(3) Such picketers may carry written or printed signs (which such term shall be interpreted to include flags), provided the signs do not interfere with the free use of the sidewalk or rights-of-way by other pedestrians. Such signs, with reasonable use, shall be deemed to comply if they are composed of paper, cardboard, poster board, cloth, vinyl, or similarly non-rigid material; do not exceed 1/32 inch in thickness; do not exceed 20 inches by 30 inches or 600 square inches in the case of signs composed of paper, cardboard, poster board, or similar material; and do not exceed four feet by six feet in the case of signs composed of cloth, vinyl, or a similar material. Signs exceeding these dimensions are presumed threats to safety.

(4) Such picketers on sidewalks or on rights-of-way normally used or reserved for pedestrian movement must march or stand single file and not congregate so as to block any sidewalk, driveway, or business entrance. All laws pertaining to the orderly flow of pedestrians must be obeyed.

(5) For public safety reasons, the following are prohibited in the immediate proximity of pickets, and due notice shall be included in every picketing permit that these restrictions apply:

a. Open flames and combustible solids;

b. Sticks, poles, selfie sticks, or other similar elongated solid objects capable of inflicting bodily harm as a striking or stabbing object, excluding commercially available corrugated cardboard tubing as the supporting article for signs, flags, and the like;

- c. Backpacks, satchels, bags, coolers, or similar personally carried containers exceeding six inches by eight inches by three inches, except when said container is completely clear and see through;
- d. Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 23-31-520 the open carry of any firearm or ammunition except as permitted by the South Carolina Code of Laws;
- e. Any mechanical or handmade contrivance that launches any projectile of solid, liquid, or gaseous composition, including aerosols/pressurized canisters;
- f. Any stabbing, cutting, slicing, or striking blade, whether of metal or other solid composition;
- g. Any striking object, such as a bat, stick, brass knuckles, martial arts weapons, implement handles and the like, which would inflict bodily injury;
- h. Any facial mask, headgear, or cloth worn over any portion of the face which prevents facial identification of a person;
- i. Any carried object that resembles or serves the purpose of a shield;
- j. Any armor or defensive covering that resembles or serves the purpose of defensive body armor;
- k. Carried signage exceeding the size restrictions set forth in subsection (a)(3) of this section;
- l. Bicycles, automobiles, and mopeds; and
- m. Any device, ~~electronic or mechanical~~, used to amplify sound.

This subsection shall not apply to law enforcement officers while in the discharge of their duties.

(6) The organizer of a picket, or the person designated in the permit as the one who will carry the permit, shall be responsible for posting conspicuous signage at the picketing location informing participants that the open carry of firearms is prohibited for the duration of the picket.

(7) Picketing done contrary to this section shall be unlawful. Police or city personnel may confiscate any of the items listed in subsection (5) above if a picket participant refuses to remove the prohibited item from the picketing site, with the exception of firearms in accordance with S.C. Code 1976, § 23-31-520. A firearm or ammunition may be seized or confiscated pursuant to lawful arrest.

(b)

Picketing permit.

(1) A picketing permit application to picket must be submitted to the city manager or his designee in a form approved by the city manager and in accordance with the time limits and guidelines established in table 30-12.1 set forth in subsection (f) of this section. The city manager shall make the application form available online, and at multiple locations throughout the city, including city hall and the police department. The application shall include the following information:

- a. The name, address, and contact telephone number of the organizer of the picket;
- b. The name, address, and contact telephone number of the person who will carry the permit if different from the organizer;
- c. The location where the picket is to take place;
- d. The date and time the picket will begin and end; and
- e. The anticipated number of participants and the basis on which this estimate is made.

(2) Upon application in accordance with subsection (b)(1) of this section, the city manager or his designee shall immediately issue a permit. If application is submitted for the same date, time, and location for which a permit has already been issued, the permit shall be issued for a location as close as reasonably possible to the location set forth in the application. The permit shall contain all information stated in the application. The organizer of a picket, or the person designated in the application as the one who will carry the permit, shall be responsible for maintaining the permit and shall present it when so requested by a law enforcement officer or other city official.

(3) Spontaneous pickets which are occasioned by news or affairs coming into public knowledge less than 48 hours prior to such picket may be conducted on the sidewalk in front of city hall without the organizer first having to apply for a permit under this subsection. In the event the sidewalk area cannot safely accommodate the number of persons assembled, a shift commander or supervisor of the police department of the city shall direct the picketers to a suitable alternate location.

(c) *Interference with pickets.* It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere physically with such pickets in the use of the sidewalk or address profane, indecent, abusive or threatening language to or at such pickets or others to breach the peace.

(d) *Crowd dispersal.* A shift commander or supervisor of the police department may, in the event of the assemblage of persons in such numbers as to tend to intimidate picketers pursuing their lawful objective through numbers alone or through use of inflammatory words

or threatening gestures that are ordinarily used to intimidate people, direct the dispersal of persons so assembled, and any police officer may arrest any person who fails to leave the place of assemblage when so directed by the police.

(e) *Restrictions.* Persons engaging in picketing activity cannot do so inside an area designated as an event area for which a permit has been granted to another individual or group under this chapter, if the picketing behavior has the effect of interfering with, hampering, hindering, or getting in the way of those participating in the permitted event in accordance with its purposes or with the general public making use of the space for its ordinary and customary purposes. Whenever any police officer or municipal employee charged with monitoring or supervising event activity determines the picketing behavior is interfering with, hampering, hindering, or getting the way of others as provided in this section, then the officer or employee may direct the picketers to relocate to other public space in reasonable proximity where such conduct can continue, if lawful, so long as the picketing does not interfere with, hamper, hinder, or get in the way of persons participating in the event for its intended purposes or of members of the general public making use of the public space for its ordinary and customary purposes.

(f) *Picketing table.* An organizer of a picket that the organizer knows or should reasonably know will be by a group of a size set forth in the table shall give at least the corresponding minimum advance notice of intent to picket set forth in the table to the city manager or his designee.

Table 30-12.1 Picketing Table

<i>Group Size</i>	<i>Minimum Advance Notice Required</i>
1—10	24 hours None
10—50	48 hours
51—100	72 hours
101—200	96 hours
201—400	5 calendar days
Greater than 400	7 calendar days