



CITY OF SPARTANBURG
SOUTH CAROLINA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

City Council Meeting
County Council Chambers
366 N. Church Street
Monday, September 22, 2025
5:30 PM

- I. Moment of Silence**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the September 8, 2025 Meeting**
- IV. Approval of the Agenda of the September 22, 2025 Meeting**
- V. Public Comment**
Public Comment Forms are available inside Council Chambers on the front podium. Please turn in completed form to the City Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.
- VI. Proclamation Declaring October 7, 2025 as National Night Out in the City of Spartanburg**
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor
- VII. Recognition of City of Spartanburg Retiree Brad Hall, Assistant Fire Chief, Spartanburg Fire Department**
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor
- VIII. Discussion on Clock Tower Options**
Presenter: Chris Story, City Manager
- IX. Ordinance**
 - A. To Amend Chapter 22, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Spartanburg to Add a New Section Providing that a Person Who Violates Another Section of the City's Code of Ordinances with the Intent to Harm, Injure or Intimidate Another Person or Persons in Whole or in Part Because of Ethnicity, Race, Color, Creed, National Origin, Religion, Ancestry, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity or Physical or Mental Disability of the Victim is Guilty of the Separate Offense of Hate Intimidation. Ordinance# 2025-006**
Presenter: Robert Coler, City Attorney

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

X. Resolution

- A. A Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Quitclaim Deed for a Portion of Branch Street.
Resolution# 2025-018
Presenter: Robert Coler, City Attorney**

XI. Staff Updates

XII. City Council Updates

XIII. Executive Session

- A. An Executive Session to Discuss a Contractual Agreement Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws**

XIV. 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, September 8, 2025
5:30p.m.**

(These minutes to be approved at the September 22, 2025 Council Meeting)

City Council met this date with the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Jerome Rice, Mayor Pro Tem Erica Brown, Councilmembers Jamie Fulmer and Ruth Littlejohn. City Manager Chris Story, Deputy City Manager Mitch Kennedy, City Attorney Robert Coler and City Clerk Christie Lindsey were in attendance. Councilmembers Janie Salley, Meghan Smith and Assistant City Manager Kevin Limehouse were absent. 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 August 25, 2025 City Council Meeting
Councilmember Fulmer made a motion to approve the minutes as received.
Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 4 to 0.

IV. Approval of the Agenda for the September 8, 2025 City Council Meeting -
Councilmember Littlejohn made a motion to approve the agenda as received.
Mayor Pro Tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 4 to 0.

V. Public Comment –

*Citizen Appearance forms are available at the door and should be submitted to the City Clerk

1. **Kimberly Branch**-Spoke in favor of the clock tower staying in current location.
(Provided 14 exhibits-made part of the clerk agenda packet)
2. **Karen Lawson**-yielded time to Kimberly Branch
3. **John Lawson**-yielded time to Kimberly Branch
4. **Tina Smith**-yielded time to Kimberly Branch
5. **Martha Hayden**-Spoke in favor of the clock tower staying in current location.
6. **Ann Rogers**-yielded time to Kimberly Branch
7. **Alice Sutton**-Spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
8. **Liv Hawkins**-Spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
9. **Don Bramblett**- Spoke in favor of removing the clock tower.
10. **Elke Schoellkopf**-Spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location.
11. **Al Schneider**-Spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location.
12. **Bailee Wren**-Spoke in favor of removing the clock tower and in favor of hate crimes ordinance.
13. **George Hayden**-Spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location.
14. **Alina Tillman**-Spoke regarding lending practices and discrimination at local car dealership.
15. **Jamie Bishop**-Spoke about former buildings being demolished and in favor of clock tower staying in the Current location.
16. **Sam Bacurin**- Spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
17. **Rev. Larry Bateman**-Spoke in favor of the Constitution Week proclamation, displayed Betsy Ross flag, and spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location.

(Public Comment Continued)

18. **Mark Monaghan**-Spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
19. **Madhav Kumar**-Spoke in favor of removing the clock tower and in favor of hate crimes ordinance.
20. **James Jones**-Spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
21. **Tiffany Bailey**-Spoke regarding rental management issues at Highland Crossing.
22. **Kayla Orr**-Member of SIREN, spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
23. **Dr. Rosalyn Henderson Meyers**-Spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
24. **Dr. Phillip Stone**-Spoke to recognize the City Fire Department and their great work on putting out a fire near his home on S. Spring Street.

**VI. Proclamation Declaring September 17, 2025 through September 23, 2025
Constitution Week in the City of Spartanburg
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor**

**VII. Update on Micro-Transit Pilot Program
Presenter: Chris Story, City Manager
*Council received as information only.***

VIII. Staff Updates

City Manager Chris Story highlighted that the Hub City Spartanburgers baseball season is extended as they have made it into the playoffs. Mr. Story also advised staff is preparing for the upcoming surface parking to go offline in the coming months for the new construction of joint City/County Building.

IX. City Council Updates

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

X. Adjournment

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

Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 4 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05p.m.


Christie B. Lindsey, City Clerk



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Chris Story, City Manager
FROM: Robert Coler, City Attorney
SUBJECT: Hate Intimidation Ordinance
DATE: September 17, 2025

BACKGROUND:

The City of Spartanburg's residents and visitors are a diverse collection of individuals representing a multitude of ethnicities, races, colors, creeds, national origins, religions, ancestries, sexual orientations, and gender identities. The City is also home to many with physical and mental disabilities.

The City values and wishes to protect its residents and visitors irrespective of their ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical and mental disability.

The crimes that are motivated by bias or hate toward an individual because of their actual or perceived ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical and mental disability are an affront to the values held by the City.

The attached ordinance would provide for a separate offense with separate penalties for anyone charged with violating another one of our ordinances or state crimes triable in our municipal court if the underlying offense is committed with the intent to harm, injure, or cause damage to someone based upon their ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical or mental disability .

ACTION REQUESTED:

City Council to pass the Ordinance.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL DATA:

No expected or discernable increase in law enforcement costs.

AN ORDINANCE

TO AMEND CHAPTER 22, OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPARTANBURG TO ADD A NEW SECTION PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANOTHER SECTION OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES WITH THE INTENT TO HARM, INJURE OR INTIMIDATE ANOTHER PERSON OR PERSONS IN WHOLE OR IN PART BECAUSE OF THE ETHNICITY, RACE, COLOR, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, ANCESTRY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY OF THE VICTIM IS GUILTY OF THE SEPARATE OFFENSE OF HATE INTIMIDATION .

WHEREAS, The City of Spartanburg's residents are a richly diverse collection of individuals representing a multitude of ethnicities, races, colors, creeds, national origins, religions, ancestries, sexual orientations, and gender identities. The City is also home to many with physical and mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City is a popular visitor destination and draws individuals who also represent a great variety of ethnicities, races, colors, creeds, national origins, religions, ancestries, sexual orientations, gender identities, and physical and mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City values and wishes to protect its residents and visitors irrespective of their ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical and mental disability; and

WHEREAS, crimes that are motivated by bias or hate toward an individual because of their actual or perceived ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical and mental disability are an affront to the values held by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to deter crimes motivated by bias or hate toward any individual because of their actual or perceived ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity and physical and mental disability, and provide separate and appropriate penalties in addition to the punishment for the underlying violation of the criminal ordinances of the City and State laws within the City's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, City Council, having the authority to adopt and provide for the enactment of such ordinances that are not inconsistent with its own Code of Ordinances, the Constitution and the laws of the State of South Carolina and further having the authority to promote and protect the

security and general welfare of all of its residents and to preserve the peace and maintain order within its borders, hereby desires to create the separate offense of hate based intimidation and to provide for appropriate penalties for same;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Members of Council of the City of Spartanburg, South Carolina, in Council assembled:

Section 1. To amend the City of Spartanburg Code 2020 to include an offense of Hate Intimidation with the language in the attached Exhibit A.

Section 2. The Municipal Code Corporation as codifier of the Code of Ordinances shall be authorized to make adjustments in code section numbers and terminology as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Ordinance. This Ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption by the City Council of the City of Spartanburg, South Carolina. This Ordinance supersedes any other inconsistent ordinances.

DONE AND RATIFIED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Christie Lindsey
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert P. Coler
City Attorney

_____/_____/_____ (First Reading)

____ / ____ / ____ (Second Reading)

Exhibit A

Chapter 22-Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Spartanburg is hereby amended by adding Section_____, to provide for a separate offense of hate intimidation and will read as follows:

Hate Intimidation

A. Offense Defined

A person who commits a crime in violation of another section of this Chapter, or in violation of any State statute, within the City of Spartanburg and with the intent, in whole or in part, to cause harm, injury or damage to the person or property of the victim or to cause the victim to fear harm, injury or damage to their person or property, because of the actual or perceived ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or physical or mental disability of the victim is guilty of the separate offense of hate intimidation.

B. Penalties

A violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 and/or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days. The sentence imposed must be consecutive to the sentence for the underlying criminal offense unless the court articulates on the record the reasons why the sentences should run concurrently. Any sentence may be suspended upon completion by the defendant of the appropriate education, counseling or community service employment as ordered by the court.



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Chris Story, City Manager
FROM: Robert Coler, City Attorney
SUBJECT: Quitclaim Deed
DATE: September 17, 2025

BACKGROUND:

There exists a portion of Branch Street that has been closed to traffic for many, many years. It runs through Wakefield Buick's dealership operations and has had parking lots and buildings constructed on it for decades. The attached Resolution will authorize the City Manager to execute a quitclaim deed to Wakefield Buick who owns all parcels abutting said unused street. Please see Exhibit 1 and the survey of Exhibit 2, both attached to the Resolution for a visual depiction of the unused street.

ACTION REQUESTED:

City Council to authorize the City Manager to execute a quitclaim deed for an unused alleyway.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL DATA:

\$0.00

A RESOLUTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE
A QUITCLAIM DEED FOR A PORTION OF BRANCH
STREET

WHEREAS, there currently exists an unused portion of Branch Street in which the City wishes to disavow any ownership interest; and

WHEREAS, Wakefield Holding Company, Inc. (hereinafter “Wakefield Buick”), has for many years occupied said portion of Branch Street with its automotive dealership buildings and parking lots; and

WHEREAS, Exhibit 1 to this Resolution, attached hereto, more fully depicts the portion of Broad Street which is the subject of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, a Quit Claim Deed and Survey is attached hereto and labeled as Exhibit 2 to this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, City Council deems it appropriate for the City Manager to execute a quit claim deed, in substantially the same form, as the one attached hereto and identified as Exhibit 2 to this Resolution; and

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 City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a quit claim in favor of Wakefield Holding Company, Inc. for a portion of Branch Steet; said quit claim deed shall be in substantially similar form as that quit claim deed attached hereto and identified as Exhibit 2. The City Manager is authorized to make minor modifications to the quit claim deed so long as they do not conflict with the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon the date of enactment.

DONE AND RATIFIED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

MAYOR.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY.

This is a black and white aerial photograph of a commercial district in downtown Spartanburg, South Carolina. The image is oriented with North at the top. Several streets are visible and labeled: N Walker St runs horizontally across the upper portion; St John St runs vertically through the center; W Main St runs horizontally across the lower portion; and Branch St runs diagonally from the upper left towards the center. Other streets shown include N Forest St, Blount St, and E Main St. Various commercial buildings and parking lots are visible. Specific locations are labeled with text and circular markers: 'Family Dollar Dollar store' is in the upper left; 'Clayton Construction' is in the center-left; 'Wakefield Collision Center' is in the center; 'Wakefield Automotive Auto Service Center' is in the lower center; 'Advance Auto Parts Auto parts store' is in the lower right; and 'Cribbs Kite Downtown Spartanburg' is at the bottom. A large, dark, lattice-like structure, possibly a bridge or overpass, is visible in the center-right. In the bottom right corner, there are several parking spots marked with 'P' and labels: 'P for Spartanburg's', 'P Q5/1 Parking lot', and 'Kennedy & Brannon'. The bottom left corner features a Google Maps interface with a compass, a location pin, and a search bar. The top left corner has a small logo that says 'Lynx'. The overall scene depicts a busy urban area with a mix of retail, automotive, and construction businesses.

= Former portion of Branch St



Johnson, Smith, Hibbard & Wildman
220 N. Church Street, Suite 4, Spartanburg, SC 29306
P.O. Drawer 5587, Spartanburg, SC 29304
864.582.8121 File# *786724

BLOCK MAP REFERENCE NO.

**N/A- portion of former right of way
Of Branch Street (see attached)**

ADDRESS OF GRANTEE:

**300 W. St. John Street
Spartanburg, SC 29301**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

QUITCLAIM DEED

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the **City of Spartanburg, a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina**, in consideration of **Ten (\$10.00) Dollars**, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, quitclaimed, sold and released and by these presents do grant, bargain, quitclaim, sell and release unto **Wakefield Holding Company, Inc., a South Carolina corporation**, the following described real property:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land in the City of Spartanburg, State of South Carolina, being shown and described as containing 0.29 acres, more or less and is described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the right-of-way of Branch Street; thence N 23°24'32" W a distance of 271.40 feet to a point; thence N 23°24'39" W a distance of 11.12 feet to a point; thence N 23°24'39" W a distance of 32.71 feet to a point; thence S 81°36'09" W a distance of 59.00 feet to a point; thence N 23°54'19" W a distance of 6.06 feet to a point; thence along the right-of-way of West Saint John Street, along a curve to the right having an arc length of 141.10 feet, a radius of 661.20 feet, a chord bearing of N 76°18'07" E, and a chord length of 140.83 feet, to a point; thence S 67°53'17" W a distance of 45.22 feet to a point; thence S 23°24'39" E a distance of 103.93 feet to a point; thence S 23°24'39" E a distance of 164.97 feet to a point; thence S 23°34'31" E a distance of 44.54 feet to a point; thence S 65°57'35" W a distance of 36.71 feet to the point of beginning.

Said property is a portion of the former Branch Street and is also shown and described on "Exhibit A" attached to and incorporated herein by reference.

All referenced recordings are in the Register of Deeds Office for Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

Together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances to said premises belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD ALL and singular the premises before mentioned unto the grantee(s) and the grantee's(s') heirs (or

successors) and assigns forever.

WITNESS the grantor's(s') hand(s) and seal(s) this _____ day of August 2025 .

**SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED
IN THE PRESENCE OF:**

City of Spartanburg

Witness

By: _____ (SEAL)
Name: _____
Its: _____

Witness

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG

)

I, the undersigned Notary Public of the State aforesaid, certify that _____, as the _____ of the City of Spartanburg personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument. Witness my hand and official stamp or seal this _____ day of August 2025.

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires: _____

Printed Name of Notary

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

AFFIDAVIT FOR EXEMPT TRANSFERS

PERSONALLY appeared before me the undersigned, who being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I have read the information regarding the use of this affidavit and I understand such information.

2. The property being transferred is located at **portion of former right of way of Branch Street**, and was transferred by City of Spartanburg to Wakefield Holding Company, Inc. on August ____, 2025.

3. The deed is exempt from the deed recording fee because property is conveyed by quit claim deed and no consideration is being paid.

4. As required by Code Section 12-24-70, I state that I am a responsible person who was connected with the transaction as Attorney for Grantee

5. I understand that a person required to furnish this affidavit who willfully furnishes a false or fraudulent affidavit is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

Steven M. Querin, Esquire

SWORN to before me this
____ day of August 2025.

Notary Public for South Carolina
My commission expires: _____

Printed Name of Notary

EXHIBIT FOR
CITY OF SPARTANBURG
SPARTANBURG COUNTY, S.C.

SCALE 1"=40'

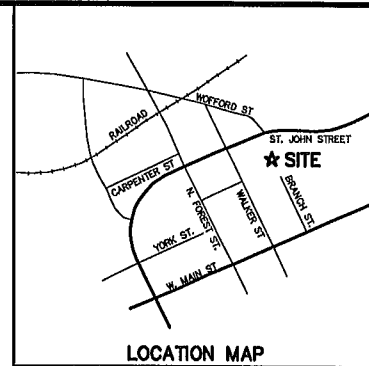
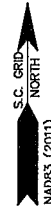
AUG. 5, 2025

GOOCH & ASSOCIATES, P.A. - SURVEYORS

P.O. BOX 587

SPARTANBURG, S.C. 29304

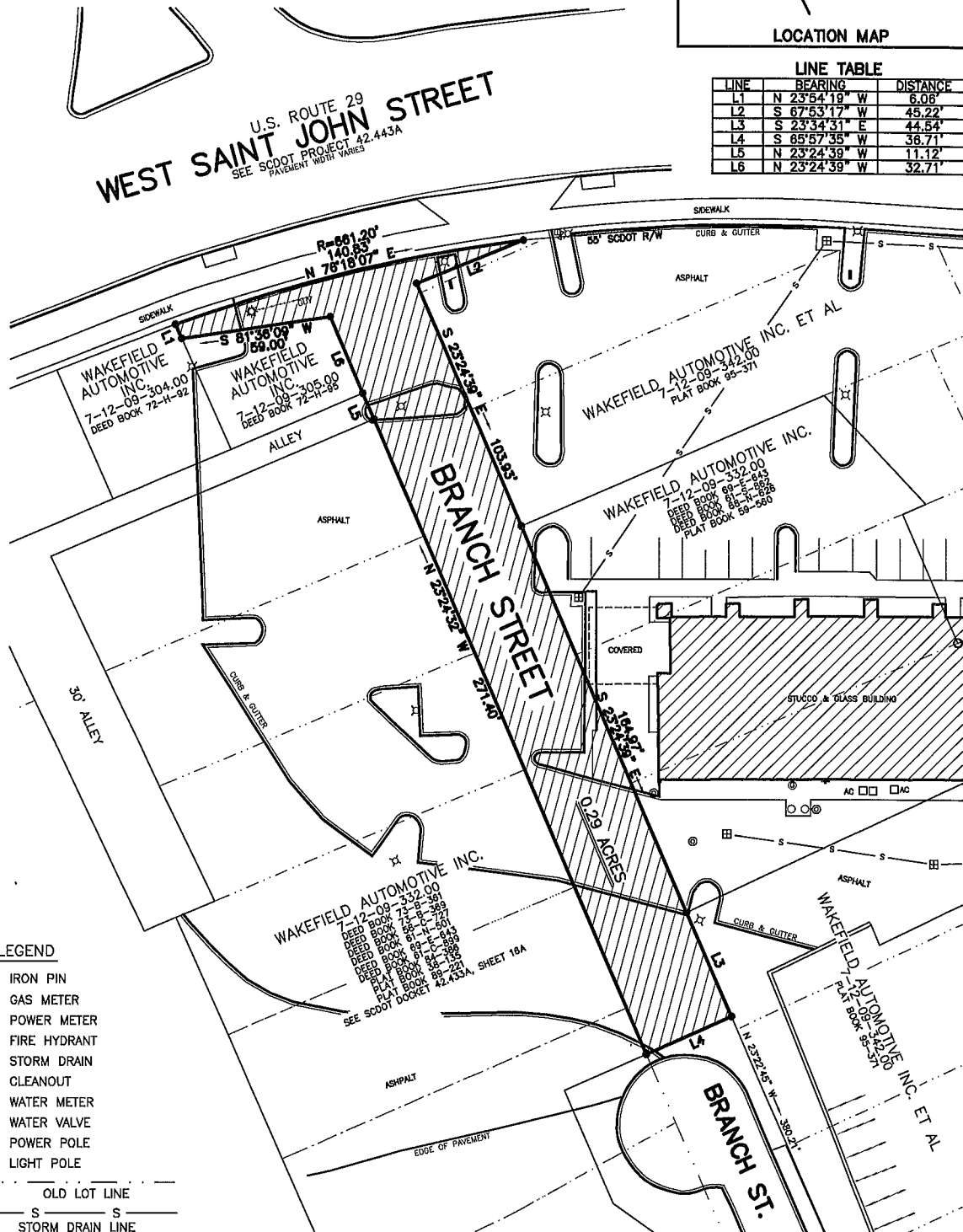
PHONE 864 - 582-1709



LOCATION MAP

LINE TABLE

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	N 23°54'18" W	6.06'
L2	S 67°53'17" W	45.22'
L3	S 23°34'31" E	44.54'
L4	S 65°57'35" W	36.71'
L5	N 23°24'39" W	11.12'
L6	N 23°24'39" W	32.71'



LEGEND

- IRON PIN
- ⊙ GAS METER
- ⊕ POWER METER
- ⚡ FIRE HYDRANT
- ⊕ STORM DRAIN
- ⊙ CLEANOUT
- ⊙ WATER METER
- ⊕ WATER VALVE
- ⚡ POWER POLE
- ⊕ LIGHT POLE

OLD LOT LINE

S S
STORM DRAIN LINE

NOTES

1. NO ABSTRACT OF TITLE, NOR TITLE COMMITMENT, OR RESULTS OF A TITLE SEARCH WERE FURNISHED TO THE SURVEYOR. ALL DOCUMENTS OF RECORD REVIEWED ARE NOTED HEREON. THERE MAY EXIST OTHER DOCUMENTS OF RECORD THAT MAY AFFECT THIS SURVEYED PARCEL.
2. COPYRIGHT © GOOCH & ASSOCIATES PA, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS DRAWING MAY BE REPRODUCED BY PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING OR BY ANY OTHER MEANS, OR STORED, PROCESSED OR TRANSMITTED IN OR BY ANY COMPUTER OR OTHER SYSTEMS WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE SURVEYOR. COPIES OF THIS PLAN WITHOUT AN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE COLORED BLUE AND IMPRESSION SEAL ARE NOT VALID.
3. ADJOINING PARCELS AND OWNERSHIP WERE DERIVED FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY GIS.
4. NO UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN.

I HEREBY STATE THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF, THE SURVEY SHOWN HEREIN WAS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS MANUAL FOR PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

JOHN S. GOOCH III
S.C. REG. NO. 39312