



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

**(These minutes to be approved at the October 13, 2025 Council Meeting)**

City Council met this date with the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Jerome Rice, Mayor Pro Tem Erica Brown, Councilmembers Jamie Fulmer, Janie Salley, Meghan Smith and Ruth Littlejohn. City Manager Chris Story, Deputy 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 September 8, 2025 City Council Meeting**  
*Councilmember Littlejohn made a motion to approve the minutes as received.*  
*Mayor Pro Tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.*
- IV. Approval of the Agenda for the September 22, 2025 City Council Meeting -**  
*Councilmember Smith made a motion to amend the agenda to move item VII ahead of public comment. Several firefighters were in attendance for item VII, Recognition of Retiree Brad Hall, Assistant Fire Chief, and would not be able to stay for the lengthy public comment portion of the agenda.*  
*Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.*  
*Councilmember Fulmer made a motion to approve the amended agenda.*  
*Mayor Pro Tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.*
- V. Recognition of City of Spartanburg Retiree Brad Hall, Assistant Fire Chief, Spartanburg Fire Department**  
**Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor**  
*Mayor Rice recognized Brad Hall and thanked him for his service and years of dedication to the City of Spartanburg.*
- VI. Public Comment –**  
*\*Citizen Appearance forms are available at the door and should be submitted to the City Clerk*
  - 1. Brenda Lee Pryce**-Gave a brief history of the bell in the clock tower.
  - 2. Tashma Glymph**-SIREN Member, in support of hate crimes ordinance.
  - 3. James Jones**-SIREN Member, in support of the hate crimes ordinance and the clock tower staying.
  - 4. Representative Sarita Edgerton**-spoke against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
  - 5. Colby King**-SIREN Member, in support of hate crimes ordinance being passed.

(Public Comment Continued)

6. Daphne Hughes-spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location.
7. Alice Sutton- in support of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
8. Dr. Claudette Coleman-frustration over fiber optic being installed in her yard/neighborhood.
9. Mark Monaghan- in support of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
10. Becky McLaughlin-against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
11. Joe Spigner-in support of clock tower staying in current location.
12. Bill Bledsoe-spoke about pros/cons of hate crimes ordinance.
13. Gwen Stenbridge-spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
14. Liv Hawkins-spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
15. Curtis Cutler-spoke against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
16. Faith Dowden-spoke against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
17. Joseph Pilato-spoke against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
18. Donna Jean Thomas-spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
19. Debbie Dollar-spoke against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
20. Jamie Bishop-spoke about developer paying to move clock tower if it has to be moved.
21. Robert Parris-yielded his time to Frank Tiller
22. Frank Tiller-spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location and against hate crimes ordinance.
23. Josiah Magnuson-spoke against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
24. Tony Eubanks-spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location.
25. Cheryl Tillotson-spoke against hate crimes ordinance being passed.
26. Rick Thompson-spoke in favor of clock tower staying in current location.
27. Bob Tillotson-spoke regarding the opportunity for the public forum for the clock tower to present options.
28. Al Schneider-spoke against the clock tower being torn down or moved.
29. Amareia Dawkins-SIREN Member, spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
30. Antonio Tanner-spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
31. Gia Araujo-SIREN Member, spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
32. George Haiden-spoke about the constitution and the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights.
33. Charmane Orr-spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
34. Neyda Mora-spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
35. Sevi Alvarez-spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
36. Phillip Ford- spoke in favor of hate crimes ordinance being passed.
37. Wesley Stoddard-spoke in favor of the clock tower staying in the current location and be maintained.
38. Robert Stoddard-suggested that the clock tower be a referendum on the ballot.
39. Elke Schoellkop-spoke in favor of the clock tower staying in the same location and about the hate crimes ordinance.
40. Jennie Gilbert-advised council and attendees of the upcoming Hampton Heights Porchfest event on Saturday, September 28.

## **VII. Proclamation Declaring October 7, 2025 as National Night Out in the City of Spartanburg**

### **Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor**

*Mayor Rice* presented the proclamation to Dr. Phillip Stone, member of the Neighborhood Advisory Board.

## **VIII. Discussion on Clock Tower Options**

### **Presenter: Chris Story, City Manager**

City Manager Chris Story gave a brief review of the information that he shared with Council during the September 8, 2025 meeting regarding the history of the clock tower and the future plans for the blocks around its current location. The recommendation is to return the clock tower to its historic position overlooking the seat of local government and to restore the bell and clockworks into publicly accessible elements in the new building.

Mr. Story also advised that he was asked to investigate the possibility of relocating the clock tower from the current location. He advised that it is possible to relocate the clock tower however it is not a simple undertaking and would cost anywhere from \$850,000 to \$900,000 depending on the location and work necessary to relocate. If it is Council's decision to relocate the tower, Mr. Story's recommendation for the necessary funding, would be to

(continued discussion on Clock Tower Options)

downscale the planned investment for the principal part of Morgan Square to accommodate the cost for relocation. He advised staff had looked at possible viable sites for relocation if that was Council's decision.

After discussion among Council, *Councilmember Salley made a motion to approve the recommendation presented.*

*Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, which carried 4-2. Councilmember Fulmer and Mayor Pro Tem Brown voted in opposition of the motion.*

## **IX. Ordinance**

**A. 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 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. (First Reading)**

**Ordinance # 2025-006**

**Presenter: Robert Coler, City Attorney**

*Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.*

## **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**

*Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the resolution as presented.*

*Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.*

## **XI. Staff Updates**

City Manager Chris Story advised Council that Fire Prevention Week is coming up on October 6, 2025 through October 10, 2025. He also told them that the Spartanburg Fire Department will have open house at the central fire station on October 12, 2025 at 2:00p.m. Mr. Story mentioned the upcoming 1 year anniversary of Hurricane Helene and he thanked the City team for their response and the work done after the storm to aid the community in cleanup.

Chief Alonzo Thompson of the Spartanburg Police Department also spoke about the recent shooting events and advised that the Police Department is working hard and using every resource available to solve these crimes. He reminded everyone that these events were not random acts of violence.

## **XII. City Council Updates**

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

## **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.**

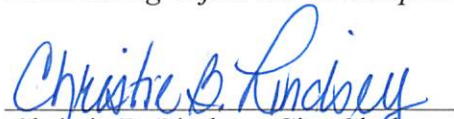
**Council convened to regular session at 8:49p.m.** Mayor Rice stated that discussion was held with no decisions made.

## **X. Adjournment**

*Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.*

*The meeting adjourned at 8:50p.m.*

  
Christie B. Lindsey, City Clerk