



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 2026,

5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers - City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Vincent Sheheen
Mayor Pro Tem Hamilton Boykin
Councilmember Delia J. Davis
Councilmember Phil Elliott
Councilmember William Wilkes
City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Matt DeWitt
Assistant City Manager Caitlin Young
Director of Communications Dawn-Marie Johnson
Attorney Lawrence Flynn (absent)
Chronicle-Independent Martin Cahn
and interested citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vincent Sheheen called the Camden City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Phil Elliott opened the council meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on motion by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 5, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Boykin was absent from the May 5th meeting.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted unanimously to approve the proposed agenda for May 19, 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- 2026 Historic Preservation Awards
 - Community Impact Award presented to Jame & Rita Trivett in recognition of the preservation of the historic Little Theater in Downtown Camden
 - Preservation Excellence Award for Non-Profit Organizations presented to Camden Junior Welfare League in recognition of the role of the Tour of Homes play in promoting historic properties in Camden.
 - Adaptive Re-Use of an Historic Property Award presented as a joint award to John & Mary Jane Martin and the staff of Greener Pastures Brewer, which operates inside the renovated property for the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of the Hazelwood Cleaners Building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Kanatzar of Polo Lane expressed concerns regarding resource management and smart growth, emphasizing the importance of preserving current water resources and encouraging Council and staff to remain mindful of future growth and its impact on water availability.



CONSENT ITEMS - none.

ORDINANCE #2026-010 2nd Reading

Council on motion, by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted (4-1) to approve an ordinance annexing property under 100% annexation method and assigning a zoning classification thereto; and other matters related thereto. Councilmember Elliott voted against the ordinance.

ORDINANCE #2026-011 1st Reading

Council on motion, by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Wilkes, followed by comments from City Manager Matt DeWitt and Council voted unanimously to approve the operating and capital budget for the City of Camden, South Carolina for fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2027; authorizing and implementing a schedule of rates and charges; and other matters related thereto.

COUNCIL/STAFF TOPICS

City Manager Matt DeWitt noted the following:

- Upcoming joint ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new playground improvements at Boykin and Hampton Park on May 11, as well as the ribbon cutting and unveiling of the newly developed Battle of Hobkirk's Hill site on May 18, 2026.

Councilmember Davis recognized the following:

- The Hickory Top Polo Classic, held on April 25, 2026, was a success.
- The Camden-Kershaw Branch NAACP was recognized for attending the council meeting and commended for recently hosting a successful 40th Freedom Fund Banquet.

Councilmember Elliott recognized the following:

- The success of the 24 Hours of Lemons event held in downtown Camden on April 24, 2026.

Mayor Pro Tem Boykin recognized the following:

- The organizers involved in Historic Camden's recent Evacuation Day Celebration were praised for a large community turnout and their interest in the City's Revolutionary War history.

Mayor Sheheen noted the following:

- Mayor Sheheen recently met with representatives of the South Carolina Philharmonic, who are interested in bringing a week-long musical initiative to Camden next spring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council, on motion by Councilmember Wilkes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 5:57 pm to discuss the following:

- Discussion on contractual matters for the manager's office.



REGULAR SESSION

Council, on motion by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Elliott, unanimously agreed to re-enter regular session at 6:05 p.m.

Action: Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute a non-binding letter of intent related to the potential sale and residential development of the Midtown property.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. in honor of Jacqueline Greene-Stuckey.

Mayor Vincent Sheheen

Attest:

City Clerk Brenda Davis