



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 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 (by phone)
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 meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 1, 2026.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Council, on a motion by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Elliott, voted unanimously to approve the proposed agenda for September 22, 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Council proclaimed September 17 through September 23 as Constitution Week. Kathryn Watkins, First Vice Regent of Hobkirk Hill Chapter, (NSDAR) National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, was in attendance to receive the proclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Lisa Moore of Fair Street requested temporary vehicle restrictions on certain downtown residential streets during Halloween trick-or-treating hours on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Speaking on behalf of downtown residents and citizens, she cited children's safety as the primary concern, particularly because a larger turnout is anticipated with Halloween falling on a Saturday. The requested closures were Fair Street from Laurens Street and Lyttleton Street from Laurens Street to Chestnut or Pine Street, or as far as the city determines can be safely and reasonably closed. Mrs. Moore also submitted a petition signed by residents who support the proposed closures.
- William Browning of Lyttleton Street shared with council the events and stats for The Camden Horse & Hound Weekend taking place September 25-26, 2026. A weekend of equestrian sport, canine exhibitions, outdoor traditions and family-friendly entertainment.



- Liz Gilland of Lugoff/Elmore Street discussed the recent removal of a willow oak on Gordon Street adjacent to the Police Department and a post oak on Mill Street near Court Inn Lane. She sought to acknowledge the loss of the two large trees, reiterate the public tree ordinance's criteria for removal, and recommend tree-management practices while the city lacks a full-time urban forester or certified arborist. She recommended: 1) providing arboriculture education and training for staff and the tree board; 2) seeking a second opinion from a more experienced arborist; and 3) reestablishing an annual tree-planting and watering program.
- Bob Williams of 2nd Avenue, chair of the Parks and Trees Commission, expressed concern about the Mill Street tree removal and the Commission's involvement in tree-removal decisions.

CONSENT ITEMS

Council unanimously approved the following consent items:

1. **Resolution #2026-011** authorizing consumption of alcoholic beverages at Hero Fest Motorcycle Ride After Party.
2. **Resolution #2026-012** authorizing consumption of alcoholic beverages at Southern Gothic Festival Downtown Concert.

ORDINANCE #2026-016 – 1st Reading

Council, on a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted to approve an ordinance approving the re-zoning request for property located at 1009 Rippondon Street. *The motion was approved with a 4-1 vote.* Mayor Sheheen, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Elliott and Councilmember Boykin were in favor. Councilmember Wilkes was opposed.

ORDINANCE #2026-017 – 1st Reading

Council, on a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, seconded by Councilmember Elliott, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance approving the Bailey Bill application for a Special Property Tax Assessment of a historic property *located at 1008 Broad Street*; and other matters related thereto.

ORDINANCE #2026-018 – 1st Reading

Council, on a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, seconded by Councilmember Elliott, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance authorizing the conveyance of property of the City of Camden SC and other matters related thereto. Portion of C284-12-00-165, to merge with C284-12-00-140, making room for drive through exit.

Proposed Public Art Installation – Revolutionary War Visitor Center

The Public Art Committee met on August 18, 2026, to review the Revolutionary War Visitor Center's proposed installation for the outdoor American Revolution Timeline exhibit. The committee recommended approval of the exhibit subject to several conditions. After discussing



the proposed artwork and design of the project, Council, on a motion by Mayor Sheheen and seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted unanimously to *defer* the matter until a budget covering the full project cost is submitted.

COUNCIL/STAFF TOPICS

- City Manager Matt DeWitt addressed the tree removals on Gordon and Mill Street, explaining that they were a public safety issue and that the Forestry Commission had been consulted for guidance.
- City of Camden residents are invited to sign-up to receive a free tree, courtesy of the Trees4SC! Program. The Tree Giveaway will be held on October 10, 2026, 11am – 1pm and Camden City Hall.
- Mayor Sheheen shared positive feedback he had received about staff's sidewalk repairs and increased code enforcement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm in honor of Christopher M. DeLong Jr.

Mayor Vincent Sheheen

Attest:

City Clerk Brenda Davis