



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 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 (via phone)

City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Matt DeWitt

Assistant City Manager Caitlin Young

Director of Communications Dawn-Marie Johnson

Attorney Lawrence Flynn

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 Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 7, 2026. Mayor Sheheen abstains from voting due to his absence at the April 7, 2026, meeting.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Council, on motion by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, voted unanimously to approve the April 21, 2026, proposed agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Council proclaimed May 2026 as Myositis Awareness Month. Chip Galloway was in attendance to receive the proclamation. “By declaring May 2026 as Myositis Awareness Month in Camden, you will help us raise awareness within our community.”- Chip.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Browning provided updates on recent equestrian events held in April, including the 116th Camden Horse Show and the Boykin Spring Fling, both of which attracted participants from across the region. He also noted plans to apply for the City’s A-Tax grant in support of the upcoming Horse and Hound event and presented metrics from last year’s campaign that demonstrated strong regional exposure through digital, broadcast, and on-site engagement—further strengthening Camden’s reputation as a premier equestrian destination.



**PRESENTATION ON POTENTIAL WORK FORCE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
(property located at 1108 Chestnut Ferry Road)**

Sarah K. Niemann of Niemann Consulting presented a report regarding a proposed workforce housing development at property located at 1108 Chestnut Ferry Road, which included a request to annex the parcels into the city and designate them as Commercial Mixed Use (CMU).

PRESENTATION UNTIED WAY – Molly Kornegay, United Way COO

Molly Kornegay, Chief Operating Officer of United Way, presented a request for increased City funding to support housing and food assistance initiatives, including the New Day on Mill transitional shelter program and the mobile nutrition center.

PRESENTATION CAMDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jack Rushing

Police Chief Jack Rushing provided a quarterly update, noting a safe and successful Carolina Cup event and \$63,000 in grant funding for new body-worn cameras. He shared plans to apply for a SRO grant to maintain the current position and add another, while also noting a decline in investigations and ongoing staffing shortages. Rushing highlighted the addition of a Spanish speaking victim advocate and outlined the department's five-year plan, emphasizing strong community support, low crime rates, and continued investment in training and technology.

CONSENT ITEMS

Council, voted unanimously to approve the following consent items:

- Council approved the appointment of Rachel Thomas to the Parks and Trees Commission to fill a vacant seat, with term expiring on May 31, 2029.
- Quarterly Reports January – March 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

Council entered into a public hearing at 6:17 pm to receive public comments regarding a second amendment to the City's annual budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, which proposed amendment appropriates general fund monies toward the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, installation, renovation, and equipping of city hall facilities and public safety facilities, including the development of a new city hall, and renovation and repurposing of the existing city hall into a new public safety complex, consisting of a new police headquarters, and upgraded fire headquarters.

After hearing no discussion, and a call for public comments, Council, voted unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:18 pm.



ORDINANCE #2026-008 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Boykin, followed by comments from council, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance authorizing the City of Camden, South Carolina to enter into an installment purchase transaction to provide for the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, installation, renovation, and equipping of City Hall facilities and public safety facilities, including all improvements and facilities related thereto; authorizing the execution and delivery of various documents relating to such transaction, including the base lease agreement and the installment purchase and use agreement; appropriating certain funds of the City and amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to effect the same; approving the issuance of bonds by the Camden Public Facilities Corporation; delegating authority to the Mayor and City Manager to effect such transactions and determine certain matters; and other matters relating thereto.

ORDINANCE #2026-009 1st Reading

After discussion, and lack of motion, council unanimously denied the proposed ordinance authorizing annexing property under 100% annexation method, and other matters related thereto. (Property is located at 1108 Chestnut Ferry Road).

COUNCIL/STAFF TOPICS - none

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council, on motion by Councilmember Davis, second by Councilmember Elliott, voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 6:25 pm to discuss the following:

- Discussion on contractual matters related to office of city administration.

REGULAR SESSION

Council, on motion by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Elliott, unanimously agreed to re-enter regular session at 6:49 pm. No action taken.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Mayor Vincent Sheheen

Attest:

City Clerk Brenda Davis