

**MINUTES
WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL
Special Called Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Westminster met in a special called meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:00 pm at the Westminster Depot with Mayor Brian Ramey presiding. Those in attendance were:

Brian Ramey
Jimmy Powell

Daby Snipes
Charles Morgan

Dale Glymph
Jamie Jones

Adam Dunn

City Administrator, Kevin Bronson
Assistant to the City Administrator,
Presley Morello
Finance Manager, Ashley Jones
Police Chief, Fred Miller
Utilities Director, Scott Parris
Members of the public and press

Notice of the meeting and the agenda was posted on a window at the Westminster Depot and at westminstersc.org twenty-four hours prior to the meeting and all persons, organizations and local media requesting notification and the agenda were notified by email.

Call to Order

Mayor Ramey called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Certification of a Quorum

Ashley Jones certified a quorum.

Invocation and pledge of allegiance

Mr. Glymph led the council in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment

Mayor Ramey made a motion to amend the agenda to move comments from the mayor and council to after the new business item since Lawrence Flynn is on the phone and would like to give him time to speak. Mr. Morgan made a second. All were in favor.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

New Business

- 1) **Consideration of First Reading of Ordinance 2026-08-11-02; AN ORDINANCE ENACTED PURSUANT TO THE MUNICIPAL TAX RELIEF ACT, TITLE 5, CHAPTER 41 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES AND TO FINANCE CERTAIN PROJECTS UPON REFERENDUM APPROVAL; THE FORM OF THE BALLOT TO BE USED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO**

On May 19, 2026, Gov. Henry McMaster signed the Municipal Tax Relief Act (S.866) into law. Previously only counties had the ability to request a local sales tax. Cities may only exercise this option if their county does not have a local sales tax in place. Oconee County is one of three counties in the state that does not have a local sales tax.

Under the Municipal Tax Relief Act, 20% of all anticipated sales tax collections must be dedicated to property-tax relief for owner-occupied residences, with the remaining 80% eligible municipal projects that meet the criteria established by the Act.

Currently, the South Carolina Department of Revenue reports net taxable sales within the city of Westminster range between \$ 2,294,298.65 and \$ 2,999,928.36 monthly for the period January 2025 to May 2026 with a monthly average of \$2,665,417.00, meaning a 1% tax could provide city homeowners with approximately \$63,970 in annual property tax relief and fund roughly \$255,880 in specific infrastructure projects, annually for eight years.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to consider first reading of Ordinance 2026-08-11-02. Mr. Glymph seconded that motion.

Mr. Bronson explained with PowerPoint. Lawrence Flynn was on the phone for additional information and to answer any questions the city council may have. Lawrence Flynn explained many things but stated that Oconee and Greenville County municipalities are authorized to pursue Ordinance 2026-08-11-02 in the November election. He also pointed out that Recreation projects do not qualify. There is no downside to going with the higher threshold amounts, that is what you want to go with. Twenty percent of this annually must go to property owners who vote in the community. The city must have approval for the bond and the project. August 15th is the deadline to finalize this on the ballot. There was discussion to authorize this for 8 years. Mr. Bronson gave the council ideas for many projects that could benefit from this.

Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Glymph, the **motion to consider First Reading of Ordinance 2026-08-11-02; AN ORDINANCE ENACTED PURSUANT TO THE MUNICIPAL TAX RELIEF ACT, TITLE 5, CHAPTER 41 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES AND TO FINANCE CERTAIN PROJECTS UPON REFERENDUM APPROVAL; THE FORM OF THE BALLOT TO BE USED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO** passed unanimously.

Member	Motion	Vote
Ramey		Yes
Glymph	Second	Yes
Powell		Yes
Jones		Yes
Dunn		Yes
Snipes		Yes
Morgan	Motion	Yes

Comments from Mayor and Council

Mayor Ramey commented on the influence of social media and that this is where most people get their information from. Therefore, Mayor Ramey would like Westminster to have a bigger presence on social media. Mr. Bronson stated that the staff would need to come up with a social media strategy. The City of Westminster would like to set the narrative, not other people on social media.

Mrs. Snipes stated that she would love to see a billboard with the City's information on it.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Glymph, the *motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 pm* passed unanimously.

(Minutes submitted by Kiley Carter)



Mayor Brian Ramey

08/11/2026
Date