



Georgetown City Council

Public Hearing & Regular Meeting

2222 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, November 16, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Courtroom

I. Call to Order

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws as amended.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Carol Jayroe
Council Member Jonathan Angner
Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Jimmy Morris
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Deputy Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mr. Peter Gaytan, Planning & Community Development
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

II. Announcement Concerning Electronic Devices

Mayor Carol Jayroe called the Regular Meeting of City Council to order at 5:30pm and requested all cell phones or electronic devices be turned off or placed on mute, with the exception of first responders, so as to not interrupt the meeting.

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Jayroe rendered the invocation and Mr. Peter Gaytan lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comments on Current Agenda Items

None

V. Introduction of New Employees

Mrs. Vermeland introduced Ms. Gillian Davis who has been promoted to Revenues Manager, Ms. Holly Poston, and Ms. Debra Rouse for the Finance department.

Deputy Chief Nelson Brown introduced Ms. Vernice Syndab, Ms. Haydee Sencion, and K9 Vicky for the Police department.

Ms. Natrona Simmons introduced Mr. Kewanee Dease and Mr. Thomas Smith for the Public Works department.

Mr. Scott Whittier introduced Mr. Erik Marquis for the Electric department.

VI. Planning and Community Development

A. Motion to amend the original motion to change the number to 150 short term rentals allowed in the city.

Council Member Angner moved to amend the original motion for agenda item VI. 1 to 150 short term rentals allowed in the city on the caveat that if we get close to that number, it is brought back to Council for approval to increase the number. Council Member Angner stated for the record "I believe in property rights, but I believe in not displacing the people who have been here generationally." Mayor Pro Tempore Clements seconded.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [2 TO 5]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Jonathan Angner, Jim Clements
NAYS:	Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls

B. Motion to Approve Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Angner. Mayor Jayroe requested the permit be added to the agenda packet next month so council can review it.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 12/21/2023 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore	
SECONDER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member	
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls	

VII. Finance

1. **Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 22 by adding Section 22-4 titled Equalized Monthly Utility Payment and ratify previous actions the City of Georgetown took regarding the Budget Billing program.**

Council Member Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tamika Williams Obeng, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls

2. **Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2023/2024 [FY 2024] budget for the city of Georgetown, South Carolina, to increase the General Fund budget by \$163,365.84 and prescribe purposes for which certain earmarked funds supplemental appropriation shall be expended.**

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Clements.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls

VIII. Engineering

1. **Motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$155,000 for the City Hall project management services and award contract to LCK, Inc.**

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Clements.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 3]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Jonathan Angner, Jim Clements, Jimmy Morris, Carol R. Jayroe
NAYS:	Tamika Williams Obeng, Hobson H. Milton, Clarence C. Smalls

IX. Administration

1. Motion to adopt a Resolution to Opt Out and/or file a request for Exclusion from the Nationwide Class Settlements related to PFAS Chemicals.

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Obeng.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Tamika Williams Obeng, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls

X. City Administrator Report

Mr. Whittier stated the city entered into a MOU with the Nature Conservancy a few years ago to restore the eroding shoreline at Morgan Park. He said the city agreed for them to do the project if it was no cost to the city. He stated the city is required to obtain the permits since the city owns the property. He said there will be a modified MOU on the agenda next month to address permit funding. Mr. Whittier stated the city had contracted with the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments to help revise the comprehensive plan. He said the last plan was completed in 2011. He stated the purpose of the plan is to effectively manage natural, cultural, and economic resources considering future growth and change. He said it was started in 2020 by the Planning Commission but with the pandemic and personnel changes in the Planning & Community Development department the progress slowed down. He said it is currently being worked on again and once the Planning Commission has agreed to the revised plan it will be brought to council for approval.

XI. Old Business

Council Member Angner asked Mrs. Crosby for an update on the transfer from SCDOT to the city for the end of Cannon Street. Mr. Whittier said we should hear something after the December 7th Planning Commission meeting. Council Member Obeng asked for an update on the dilapidated houses on the West End. Mr. Whittier said we are waiting to hear back from the state before we can move forward.

XII. New Business

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements announced the Christmas tree lighting is December 1st followed by a free movie in Joseph Rainey Park. He stated there will be a lighted boat parade and a skating rink that is free. He stated most of these events are sponsored by the GBA. Council Member Milton said Howard Alumni hands out free food on the 21st in the West End.

XIII. Monthly Reports

- 1. Electric Department Monthly Report**
- 2. Engineering Department Monthly Report**
- 3. Fleet Service Monthly Report**
- 4. Fire Department Monthly Report**
- 5. Human Resources Department Monthly Report**
- 6. Municipal Court Monthly Report**
- 7. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report**
- 8. Police Department Monthly Report**
- 9. Public Works Monthly Report**
- 10. Risk Management Monthly Report**
- 11. Water Utilities Monthly Report**
- 12. Finance and IT Department Monthly Report**

XIV. Public Comments on City Services, Business, or other City Matters Not on the Agenda

None

XV. Executive Session

1. **Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss potential utility claims and receive related legal advice.**

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Clements.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls

2. **Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.**

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Clements.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:40pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls

3. **NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
4. **City Council may take action on items discussed in Executive Session.**

XVI. Adjournment

1. **Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.**

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls