

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JULY 23, 2026 — 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
2222 HIGHMARKET STREET
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA
AND LIVESTREAM:**



<https://www.facebook.com/cityofgtown/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jay Doyle
Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie M. Walker
Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Sharon Melton
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Deputy City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Nick Ard, Network Administrator
Mr. Braxton Walton, IT Technician
Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utilities Director
Mrs. Pam Gaddy, Water Utilities Director
Mrs. Katie Badgett, Administration & Human Resources Director
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Pam Gaddy, Water Utilities Director
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Director
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Doyle 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.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jason Coakley rendered the invocation and Mayor Doyle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Walter Gibson. Mr. Gibson expressed concern regarding electric at his restaurant being shut off and being treated unfairly by the city.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Jack Scoville. Mr. Scoville spoke in support of honoring Mr. Smalls and for naming the new city hall building after him.

Mayor Doyle recognized Police Chief Nelson Brown. Chief Brown spoke in support of honoring Mr. Smalls and for naming the new city hall building after him.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Jeepy Ford. Mr. Ford spoke in support of honoring Mr. Smalls and about naming the new city hall building after him.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Donald Gilliard. Mr. Gilliard spoke in support of honoring Mr. Smalls and about naming the new city hall building after him.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Sheldon Butts. Mr. Butts spoke with concern regarding a need for cooling shelters in the community to provide relief from the extreme heat. He said the city needs to have a permanent solution for summer and winter. He said the city should seek assistance from the county to make this happen.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Simmons introduced Janaya Ede and Fred Sumpter for the Public Works department.

6. PROCLAMATION

A. Motion to approve a proclamation honoring the TWLUM Teens Project.

Mayor Doyle presented a proclamation to Mr. Tyron Wilson honoring the TWLUM Teens Project.

7. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance extending a temporary moratorium on rezoning of any parcel, subdivision of any parcel into more than three parcels, or consideration of zoning variances in the city of Georgetown.

Council Member Sharon Melton moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
SECONDER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
AYES:	Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker
NAYS:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng

8. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A.

Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Article II of Chapter 22 “Electric Service” of the Code of Ordinances for The City of Georgetown by amending Section 22-24(C) and adding Sections 22-29 And 22-38, previously reserved.

Council Member Sharon Melton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

9. ENGINEERING

- A. Motion to table agenda item "Motion to approve the engineering proposal with Ardurra for a lump-sum amount of \$737,550 to conduct an emerging contaminant (EC) pilot study at the City's Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The work includes project management, kickoff meeting and data review, bench-scale and pilot-scale testing by a third-party consultant, reporting, and recommendations. This study will lead to final recommendations for a new PFAS treatment system" until after the Executive Session.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker
NAYS:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng

10. POLICE

A.

Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 3 “Animals and Fowl”, Article I “In General”, Section 3-1 “Definitions” and Article II “Dogs, Cats and Pets”, Section 3-23 “Restraint” and adding Section 3-23(c) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown.

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Adopted
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

B. **Motion to approve mutual aid agreement between Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office and Georgetown City Police Department.**

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl
Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

C. **Motion to postpone a contract with St. Frances Animal Center in the amount of \$85,000 using fiscal year 2026/2027 budget until the research is complete.**

Council members requested research on costs of the city building their own facility with staff and the costs of utility and waste management services for St. Frances Animal Center.

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
AYES:	Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker
NAYS:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge

11. PUBLIC WORKS

- A. Motion to approve the Resolution appointing and commissioning a Litter Control Officer for the City of Georgetown, authorizing the officer to carry out the duties and responsibilities necessary for the proper enforcement of applicable litter control ordinances and regulations, and to promote the health, safety, cleanliness, and general welfare of the community.**

Council Member Sharon Melton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

- B. Motion to approve the annual contract agreement for janitorial services provided by Randolph Krazy Kleaning Services LLC for fiscal year 2027 in the amount of \$124,259.00.**

Council Member Sharon Melton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Jessie Walker
NAYS:	Hobson Milton

- C. Motion to approve payment for contract services to Wrangler Holdco Company DBA Waste Industries LLC, A GFL Environmental Company for the**

collection of commercial dumpsters, in the amount of \$78,663.64 for fiscal year 2027.

Council Member Sharon Melton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Motion to approve two quarterly payments to SCMIT in the amount of \$193,228.00 for Workers Compensation Insurance.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

B. Motion to Approve payment in the amount of \$877,244.00 to SCMIRF Semi Annual billing for liability Insurance.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

13. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve a resolution of council to seek funding for flood zone assistance.

Council Member Obeng stated for the record, "I would like to work with you on this because flooding issues are near and dear to my heart." Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

B. Motion to approve a resolution to name the new City Hall, The Clarence C. Smalls City Hall.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker presented a resolution to the Honorable Clarence C. Smalls and recognized his legacy to the City of Georgetown.
Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

C. Announcement of the Employee of the Quarter winner for second quarter in 2026.

Mrs. Badgett and Mr. Whittier presented the 2026 2nd quarter city employee award to Lt. Robert Ulrich. Mr. Ulrich works in the Fire department.

14. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated the county council approved a 1% local sales tax option to be placed on the ballot in November. He said if this tax is passed by the voters, the funds will be used for property tax relief and community projects. The tax would be effective mid 2027 if passed. The new city hall is almost complete and staff will begin moving in the week of August 17th. He said the first opening day to the public will be Monday, August 24th. He said after review, the city is able to offer the public a billing cycle option. He said it will help reduce late fees and shutoffs for residents.

15. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of June 18 and June 25, 2026 City Council meetings.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

17. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker requested the city make a proclamation to honor employees who are affected by recent businesses closing in the city. Mayor Doyle requested that we take a closer look at accounts and verify that utility usage and trash collection is being recorded and billed properly. He said staff should know how many trash containers have been bought and how many are distributed throughout the city. He requested we research and review ordinances on why a bill is no longer sent to residents who have moved out of a house and had services removed even though the services are still available. He said this passes the expense on to current homeowners.

18. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Doyle stated the department monthly reports are available for review in the agenda packet.

- A. Building Monthly Report**
- B. Electric Department Monthly Report**
- C. Engineering Department Monthly Report**
- D. Finance Department Monthly Report**
- E. Fire Department Monthly Report**
- F. Fleet Services Monthly Report**
- G. Human Resources Monthly Report**
- H. Municipal Court Monthly Report**

- I. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report**
- J. Police Department Monthly Report**
- K. Public Works Monthly Report**
- L. Risk Management Monthly Report**
- M. Water Utilities Monthly Report**

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1)(2) to discuss appointments/reappointments to the City Boards/Commissions; to receive quarterly legal update from the city attorney on pending cases and cases adjudicated since last update; to discuss and receive legal advice related to a pending appeal in case number 2026-CP-22-00419; to discuss negotiations relating to a proposed audit for the city; and to discuss payment arrangements for an engineering project at the wastewater plant.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

- B. Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

Executive Session adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:40pm.

- C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

D. City Council may take action on items discussed in Executive Session.

20. ENGINEERING

- A. Motion to approve the engineering proposal with Ardurra for a lump-sum amount of \$737,550 to conduct an emerging contaminant (EC) pilot study at the City's Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The work includes project management, kickoff meeting and data review, bench-scale and pilot-scale testing by a third-party consultant, reporting, and recommendations. This study will lead to final recommendations for a new PFAS treatment system.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

21. APPOINTMENT

- A. Motion to appoint Tomeika Sumpter Frazier for a 4-year term to the Georgetown Housing Authority Board of Directors.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

- B. Motion to reappoint David Rice to the Architectural Review Board.**

Council Member Erin Ethridge moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

C. Motion to reappoint Tim Chatman and Gwen Heusel to the Keep Georgetown Beautiful Board.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

D. Motion to reappoint Laura Hutto and Ginger Gray to the A-Tax/H-Tax Committee.

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

E. Motion to reappoint Raad Joseph to the Planning Commission.

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
SECONDER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jessie Walker
NAYS:	Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

F. Motion to reappoint Graham Osteen to the Planning Commission.

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Defeated
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jessie Walker

G. Motion to appoint Tressa Ray to the Planning Commission.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

H. Motion to reappoint Nathalie Humphrey to the Arts & Cultural Commission.

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

I. Motion to reappoint Peter Stevens to the Community Appearance Board.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

22. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Stephanie Buccione

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 08/20/2026