PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 15, 2020 – 5:30 PM
TELECONFERENCE

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 Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Tupelo Humes
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley

ALSO PRESENT
Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Interim Director of Finance
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Will Gunter, Water Utilities Director
Mrs. Gladys Rutledge-Livingston, Human Resources/Risk Manager
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Ms. Angela Rambeau, Director of Planning and Community Development
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. 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. ROLL CALL

4. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barber rendered the invocation. Council Member Joseph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Barber opened the Public Hearing and requested Ms. Buccione read citizen input that was received through email or by telephone message concerning an ordinance to amend the Residential and General Service Rate provisions contained in the City Clerk's Official Record of Utility Rates, Deposits, and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina to include an Interim Rate for Customer Renewable Generation. Ms. Buccione read an email from Miss Danielle Kvadas, a member of the Coastal Carolina University Solar Ambassador Group. Miss Kvadas thanked the City for meeting with their group to discuss the ordinance. She stated the CCU Solar Ambassador Group supports the proposed ordinance and stated if the ordinance passes it will give them the opportunity to assist a nonprofit business located in the City with solar energy. Ms. Buccione read an email from Dr. Pamela Martin, Director of the Solar Ambassador Program at Coastal Carolina University. Dr. Martin stated the program installs solar panels for free on nonprofits through a grant funded program with a nonprofit, Re-volv, in San Francisco. She said the program started work in the City three years ago with a discussion with the Mitney Foundation regarding the possibility of putting solar panels on their roof to lower their energy costs, provide clean renewable energy, and give a 21st Century energy option to the children of the West End of the City. Dr. Martin said they learned that the City did not have a solar ordinance that would allow such work. She said her group has installed solar panels on two VFW's in the community and all of the work is done by the students. She said she hopes the City will pass the ordinance so it can provide a 21st Century, clean, and affordable energy option to our citizens. Dr. Martin thanked Mr. Loveless and Dr. Yúdice for their open and transparent dialog and their constant support to work with her and her team to make the City of Georgetown a better place to live, work, and play. Ms. Buccione read an email from Mr. Dean Michael Wrobel, a Junior Honors Marine Science and Coastal Geology major at Coastal Carolina University and resident of Georgetown County. Mr. Wrobel thanked Council for taking the first step in creating the legislative infrastructure necessary to allow residents to access and install green solar energy. He stated he is in support of the ordinance and appreciates the efforts to allow solar energy to thrive in the region. Ms. Buccione read an email received from Mr. Jeep Ford, native of Georgetown. Mr. Ford stated he is in support of Dr. Martin and would like to see the City implement a strategic and effective solar plan for residents and business owners with the City. Mr. Ford said he would like to see the City put together a strategy to go 100% renewable by a specified year like many other cities in South Carolina. Mr. Ford offered his assistance to discuss how all parties involved can reap the benefits of renewable energy. Mayor Barber closed the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Barber opened up the public comments portion of the meeting and requested Ms. Buccione read public comments that was received through email or by telephone message. Ms. Buccione read a message from Mr. Sam Porcher. Mr. Porcher stated he would like to get a petition to forbid the City to put up Christmas lights this year especially due to the pandemic and money is tight but he doesn't feel they should ever be put up because the residents pay for them through their light bill. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Pam Toemmes asking Mayor and City Council to reconsider their decision to cancel the Christmas parade. Ms. Toemmes said our downtown merchants and citizens could use a happy event to boost their spirits. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Susan Lumpkin. Ms. Lumpkin stated we have all been abiding by the policies laid out in protection of our citizens, visitors, shop and restaurant owners, and now we need to show camaraderie with a parade, but with wearing a mask. Ms. Lumpkin requested the City to open for the sake of our community. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Ede Graves. Ms. Graves requested Mayor and Council Members to allow the December Holiday parade because families need normalcy in these times and it is an outdoor event. Ms. Graves said our small businesses need people to see there is still a vibrant downtown and small businesses are the backbone of Georgetown's economy. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Patricia Wimsatt. Ms. Wimsatt stated she is in support of a Christmas parade. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Erin Angner. Ms. Angner requested Mayor and Council Members to hold this year's City of Georgetown Christmas parade. Ms. Angner said the parade is an important part of this community and the spirit of Georgetown. Ms. Anger said the GBA is working to encourage businesses and City residents to fill the City with Christmas spirit by decorating yards, windows, and homes with fun and whimsical decorations. She said the theme is "Whoville Holiday Season" from the Grinch. Ms. Angner suggested if the City chose not to have a traditional parade that maybe the GBA and the City could work together to have a drive through to all parts of the City with fun holiday decorations and homeowners greeting everyone from their lawns. Ms. Angner thanked Mayor and Council for their consideration and serving our community. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Aleene Miller. Ms. Miller stated she is in favor of having an outdoor Christmas parade. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Mary Boyd. Ms. Boyd stated she is in support of having a Christmas parade. Ms. Buccione read an email from Mr. Jason Gause. Mr. Gause stated last year, the Georgetown City Council voted not to decorate Front Street, citing budget restrictions. He said the citizens would not sit back and allow that to happen. He said the people of Georgetown no matter what would have the town decorated and celebrate the holiday season. Mr. Gause requested Mayor and City Council to overturn the decision and allow the City to continue with the time-honored tradition of a parade. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Lindsay Moore. Ms. Moore stated she is in support of the Christmas parade. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Elise Tiller. Ms. Tiller stated she is in support of a Christmas parade. Ms. Buccione read an email from Mr. Michael Todd. Mr. Todd stated he is all for Georgetown having the Christmas parade. Ms. Buccione read an email from Mr. Scott Harper. Mr. Harper stated Georgetown needs to have a

Christmas parade more than ever. He said this has been a year that has been full of tragedy, fear, and bad news. Mr. Harper said we need to end the year with something happy and joyous for children who have had their world turned upside down. Mr. Harper said that Andrews, Conway, Surfside, and Mount Pleasant announced they will be having parades this year because they know it can happen safely. Mr. Harper stated Georgetown is a City full of Christian values and he requested not to take away this way of celebrating the birth of Christ. Ms. Buccione read an email from Ms. Jennifer Russ. Ms. Russ requested Mayor and City Council to reconsider and allow a Christmas Parade this year. Ms. Russ stated we understand the concern of the Coronavirus and we possess the ability and knowledge to follow CDC guidelines. Ms. Russ stated an outside Christmas parade is no more dangerous than a football game, a march, or a packed bar on Friday night. Ms. Buccione read a message from Mr. Wesley Gibson. Mr. Gibson stated Georgetown County Council has spent $3 million on a state of the art multi-purpose field at Beck Middle School. He said it has a competition track, football/soccer field, concession stands, basketball courts, and a picnic area. Mr. Gibson said he has spoken with Council Member Milton and Council Member Humes regarding this matter. Mr. Gibson requested City Council to purchase four fiberglass basketball goals for the children in the City. He said this will curb crime among youth, allow citizens to walk safely off the road, and will generate income from youth track meets. Mr. Gibson requested City Council resume open meetings at the Howard Center like County Council. Mayor Barber closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

7. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. Loveless introduced Mr. Coyt Haselden for the Electric Department. Mr. Chatman introduced Mr. John Lepore for the Public Works Department. Mr. Gunter introduced Mr. Antonio Cimmons, Mr. Bryan Cox, Mr. James McFalls, and Mr. Johnny Wilson for the Water Department.

8. PUBLIC WORKS

A. Motion to approve an amendment to the Jani-King contract, approved September 17, 2020 to correct a scrivener's error of payment amount to Synergy d/b/a Jani King from $23,052.51 to $93,744.12.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Smalls.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Bradley

9. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A. Motion to approve second reading of an Ordinance to Allow an Interim Rate for Customer Renewable Generation.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Milton.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
SECONDER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Bradley

10. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Dr. Yúdice stated the City won the GFOA award for Fiscal Year 2019and received a certificate of achievement for excellence in reporting for Fiscal Year 2019. Dr. Yúdice congratulated Mrs. Bivens and the Finance team for their hard work. Dr. Yúdice said City's firefighters have entered a competition called "Who wears it better" hosted by the Midway Professional Firefighters Association. She explained the competition involves who wears a mustache better. The purpose of the event is to raise funds for cancer awareness. The funds will be donated to the Carney Strong Initiative. She stated all fire departments in Georgetown County are participating in the competition. Dr. Yúdice stated HTC, Horry Telephone Company, purchased Southern Coastal Cable and purchased all their assets in September and they are in the process of transferring their customers. She said HTC is preparing upgrades to their internet speeds and should be completed by the end of the year. Dr. Yúdice stated they will be discussing a budget amendment for budget cuts that were made due to COVID-19 for this fiscal year at next week's workshop. Dr. Yúdice provided an update on the Tax Increment Financing District. She said the County Auditor shared preliminary figures on the increased assessed values within the TIF District for Fiscal Year 2020. She said the increased assessed value was $42,044 but it has not yet been certified. She said the increased assessed value would equate to approximately $700,000 in market value of the commercial properties that are assessed at six percent. She said the increased property taxes the City would collect within the TIF District would be approximately $11,467. Dr. Yúdice stated both the City and the County are participating at a hundred percent in the TIF District and the School District is participating at seventy five percent. She said the Financing Department is working with the County to setup the collection infrastructure for the TIF District revenue. She stated the County Auditor provided the reassessed property values and they are being reviewed to present at the workshop next week.

11. MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of September 17 and September 24, 2020 Council Meetings.

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Milton.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Bradley

12. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Joseph apologized for leaving out "under God" when he led the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting. Council Member Joseph explained it was an honest mistake and not done intentionally. Council Member Jayroe requested a discussion on having the Christmas parade. Mayor Barber stated with the Executive Order due to COVID-19, the City has not issued any permits. Council Member Joseph stated he is in favor of having a Christmas parade. He said we have heard from our residents and they are also in favor of having a Christmas parade. Council Member Joseph said he is in favor of having a discussion to give an exception to issue a permit for the Christmas parade and that it needs to be done quickly due to timing. Council Member Milton stated concern if a permit is issued for a Christmas parade, it is possible others will ask the City why they were not granted a permit for their events. Mayor Barber stated other communities in our area have a higher number of COVID-19 cases than Georgetown because the City has been following protocol. He said with the upcoming flu season and predicted third wave of the virus from medical professionals, it is uncertain where things will stand in the next couple months. Council Member Jayroe said it should be a choice to attend a parade or not. Council Member Humes said he would like to see the City have a Christmas parade and wishes we could have one, but he understands and sees it both ways. Mayor Barber suggested the churches have a drive up prayer day for Christmas so that everyone can come together and be lifted spiritually by praying for the pandemic to go away. Mayor Barber confirmed the City will put up Christmas lights and a Christmas tree as done in previous years. Council Member Humes said he was contacted by a concerned citizen in regards to obtaining an engineering report for buildings less than 5,000 square feet. Council Member Humes asked for clarification on a law that allows the City to require this report. Ms. Rambeau stated they have consulted with the state and the City Attorney regarding this matter. She said they can request drawings designed by a professional designer. Ms. Rambeau

said they are awaiting further clarification and information from the state. She said once they receive that information, she will share it with Council. Council Member Smalls suggested this topic be discussed at a workshop when further information is obtained. Council Member Milton stated concern that it cost the City $6,500 to demolish a house that has a land value of $5,000. Council Member Humes requested City Council get back to regular in person meetings using CDC guidelines with social distancing and wearing face masks.

14. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Barber announced the department monthly reports are included in the agenda for Council's review.

A. **September 2020 Electric Utility Department Report**
B. **Engineering Monthly Report_September 2020**
C. **September 2020 Fire Report**
D. **September 2020 Fleet service Report**
E. **GPD September 2020 Monthly Report**
F. **September 2020 Human Resources/Rick Management**
G. **September 2020 Municipal Court Report**
H. **September 2020 Planning & Community Development Report**
I. **September 2020 Public Works Department Report**
J. **September 2020 Water Utilities Report**
K. **September 2020 Finance and IT Monthly Reports**

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)(5) to discuss matters relating to the proposed location of and provision of services to the Hotel George project in the City; to discuss and receive legal advice on matters covered by attorney-client privilege, to include redevelopment district zoning and quarterly legal update on pending cases and cases adjudicated since the last update.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Bradley

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Bradley

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:29pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Barber adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:30pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 11/19/20