



**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 – 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 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
Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Deputy Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Robert Cox, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mr. Scott Whittier, Deputy City Administrator
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

MEDIA

Mr. Scott Harper, GAB News

2. 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.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements introduced Trail Life USA local troop SC #2021 based out of First Baptist Church to render the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to receive citizen input concerning the following items.

- A. An ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina to prescribe purposes for which certain earmarked funds from an Accommodations/Hospitality Tax Fund supplemental appropriation shall be expended and to correct a scrivener's error.**

Mayor Jayroe opened the Public Hearing and announced there was an error on the agenda referencing an incorrect ordinance for a Public Hearing, but the correct ordinance was advertised in the notice. She announced no one signed up to speak on this matter and closed the Public Hearing.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Deputy Chief Nelson Brown introduced Bailey Trahey and Geoffrey Kulzer for the Police Department. Mr. Chris Mullis introduced Dalton Hewitt for the Water Department.

7. PROCLAMATION

- A. City of Georgetown Purple Heart City Proclamation**

Mayor Jayroe presented a proclamation to Mr. Henry Geathers proclaiming the City of Georgetown, South Carolina as a "Purple Heart City."

8. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- A. Motion to approve revisions to the Architectural Review Board Design Standards Manual.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

9. FINANCE

- A. **Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, to amend the ARPA Special Revenue Fund.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

- B. **Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding three hundred thousand dollar (\$300,000) General Obligation bond, series 2023 of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended, to provide for the payment thereof, and other matters relating thereto.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

- C. **Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, to prescribe purposes for which certain earmarked funds from an Accommodations/Hospitality Tax Fund supplemental appropriation shall be expended and to correct a scrivener's error.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

D. Motion to approve the A/H Tax Committee disbursement recommendations in the amount of \$156,746 for FY 2024.

Council Member Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 2]
MOVER:	Tamika Williams Obeng, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe
NAYS:	Milton, Smalls

E. Motion to approve methodology for the second Santee Cooper settlement distribution to electric utility customers.

Council Member Smalls moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

10. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve the revised Employee Handbook as presented during the August 24, 2023, workshop.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Dr. Yúdice stated a letter of intent was sent requesting \$25,000 from South Carolina Opioid Recovery Funds and the board approved the request on September 7, 2023.

She said a meeting to discuss an action plan is scheduled with Chief Cribb, Chief Pierce, Scott Whittier, and Raphael Carr (Georgetown County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission). She said the Community Action Plan to utilize the funds will be presented to Council for approval and must be submitted to the Board by April 28, 2024. Dr. Yúdice stated SC Commerce approved an extension for the CDBG grant until July 31, 2024. She said bid solicitation ads were placed on September 6, 2023 and bid openings will be on October 9, 2023. She stated SC Commerce will review procurement documents in October. She said contracts and notice to proceed in November will be presented to Council. She stated demolition work will be between December and February and the grant will close out between March and July 2024. Dr. Yúdice stated the city applied for an SC BEST Grant with WRCOG to fund Phase II of the environmental site assessment at the new Front Street parking lot and we have been approved. She said the estimated cost is \$30,000 and there is not a match requirement.

12. MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of August 17, 2023 and August 24, 2023

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

13. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Angner asked for an update about a previous request regarding public docks at Cannon Street. Mayor Jayroe stated this project has been put on hold until Mr. Arteaga is given parameters for the city. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested a number of short-term rentals in the city. Mr. Robert Cox confirmed the city has forty plus short-term rentals currently and only one has a business license. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements stated in September 2019 a motion was approved for the city to sell a portion of the "City of Georgetown Operations Complex South" and is located by the fire station #2 in Maryville. He said part of the motion stated the developer intends and agrees to invest \$10M and create 70 jobs within five years. He said it has been four years and requested an update on the developer's commitment. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested an update on small projects listed on the Engineering Report. Mrs. Crosby stated she is working on the Cleland Street alley project and waiting for the required third notice to be advertised in the newspaper before she can file the paperwork. Council Member Milton requested an update on the Juneteenth Parade discussion. Mayor Jayroe stated it would be on the agenda for next week's workshop meeting.

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

15. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

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

- A. Electric Department Monthly Report**
- B. Engineering Department Monthly Report**
- C. Fire Department Monthly Report**
- D. Fleet Service Monthly Report**
- E. Human Resources Department Monthly Report**
- F. Municipal Court Monthly Report**
- G. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report**
- H. Police Department Monthly Report**
- I. Public Works Monthly Report**
- J. Risk Management Monthly Report**
- K. Water Utilities Monthly Report**
- L. Finance and IT Department Monthly Report**

16. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CITY SERVICES, BUSINESS, OR OTHER CITY MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Fred Williams. Mr. Williams stated none of the agendas involve the minority communities or anything west of N. Fraser Street. Mr. Williams asked for justification on the increased utility bills. Mr. Williams questioned what has been done for the West End community.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Sharon Melton. Ms. Melton stated \$80,000 of A-Tax money would be used for new sidewalks in front of the new hotel. She stated the hotel could have paid for that themselves and taxpayers should not have to pay for it because not everyone will be able to walk on it. She requested that city council members respect each other regardless of the topic.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Wesley Gibson. Mr. Gibson stated he has seen on social media that the high utility bills is being blamed on prior democratic administration and it is wrong. He said the current republican administration raised the utilities 17% this year and it has already been voted on to increase it every year by 4%. He stated the city sold the electric department building for \$800,000 and bought the Georgetown motors building for \$2.2M. He stated taxpayers are paying for the differences and it is not right.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1)(2) and (5) to discuss employment for the City Administrator position; to receive legal advice related to the position of City Council in a potentially adversary situation regarding Black River Road; to

receive legal advice relating to a pending, threatened, or potential utilities claims, or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; to discuss proposed development incentive agreement

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

The Regular meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.

Council Member Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Angner.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:15pm.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

18. APPOINTMENTS

Motion to appoint Burt Shell to the Community Appearance Board.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Obeng.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Angner.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Hobson H. Milton, Council Member

SECONDER: Jonathan Angner, Council Member

AYES: Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls

The Regular meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 10/19/23