



**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MAY 21, 2020 – 5:30 PM
TELECONFERENCE**

LIVESTREAM:

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

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.
Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley
Council Member Tupelo Humes
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

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, Director of Finance
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 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of City Council to order at 5:34p.m. due to a weather related power outage 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 Barber rendered the invocation. Council Member Joseph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to receive citizen input concerning an ordinance granting a non-exclusive right, privilege, and franchise to HTC Inc., to construct, operate, and maintain a telecommunications system in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**

Mayor Barber opened the Public Hearing and requested Ms. Buccione read citizen input that was received through email or by telephone message regarding an ordinance granting a non-exclusive right, privilege, and franchise to HTC Inc., to construct, operate, and maintain a telecommunications system in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina. Ms. Buccione stated no citizen input was received. 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 stated there was not any public comments received. Mayor Barber closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

7. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

No new employees.

8. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- A. Motion to approve second reading of an Ordinance Rezoning Approximately 0.2 Acres of Land, Owned by Oasis Residential Home, Inc., from General Commercial (GC) to Residential (R3).**

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Jayroe.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Carol R. Jayroe, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls
AWAY:	Milton

B. Motion to approve first reading of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Section 2-41, Ordinances Required for Certain Actions, of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown.

Council Member Smalls moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 0]	Next: 6/18/2020 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member	
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member	
AYES:	Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls	
AWAY:	Milton	

9. FINANCE

A. Motion to Approve first reading of an Ordinance to Adopt a Budget and Raise Revenue for The City of Georgetown, South Carolina, for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley moved, seconded by Council Member Smalls. Mrs. Bivens stated the budget is balanced and presented at \$32,176,918. She said the budget presented at the retreat in March was \$33, 975,064 but due to the uncertainty of the economy due to COVID-19, the budget was reduced by almost \$1.8 million or 5.3%. Mrs. Bivens stated the General Assembly announced the 1% rate increase in retirement costs for employers has been suspended for FY20-21. Mrs. Bivens explained the 1% rate increase started in FY18 and was scheduled to continue for five years. Mrs. Bivens confirmed the budget presented does not include a property tax increase. She said it may be warranted in FY21-22 because of the assessment year. She said the budget does not include any salary increases, new positions, or any new vehicles at this time but it may be revisited in January 2021. Mrs. Bivens said the budget does include a 5% rate increase for both Water and Wastewater Utilities. She explained for a customer that uses 3,000 gallons of water would see a \$2.25 monthly increase. The budget does not include any increases in Electric or Stormwater Enterprise Funds. Council Member Jayroe asked if the budget included replacing vacant positions and Mrs. Bivens confirmed that filling vacant positions is included in the budget.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 6/18/2020 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member
AYES:	Milton, Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

- B. Motion to Approve first reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Wastewater Rates Contained in the City Clerk's Official Record of Utility Rates, Deposits, and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, Effective July 1, 2020.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 6/18/2020 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
AYES:	Milton, Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

- C. Motion to Approve first reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Water Rates Contained in the City Clerk's Official Record of Utility Rates, Deposits, and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, Effective July 1, 2020.**

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 6/18/2020 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
AYES:	Milton, Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

- D. Motion to Approve first reading of an Ordinance Restricting the use of Certain Funds of the City to the Construction of a New City Hall Facility.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 6/18/2020 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
AYES:	Milton, Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

10. ENGINEERING

A. Motion to Approve first reading of an ordinance for Chapter 23-Drainage Ordinance.

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 6/18/2020 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
AYES:	Milton, Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

11. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance granting a non-exclusive right, privilege and franchise to HTC Inc., to construct, operate and maintain a telecommunications system in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Council Member Smalls moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Division III "Administrator" of Chapter 2, Article III of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown by Amending Sections 2.-85, "General Duties."

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Humes. Mrs. Crosby stated this change would put us in line with the State code.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [2 TO 4]
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Joseph
NAYS:	Milton, Jayroe, Humes, Smalls
AWAY:	Bradley

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Dr. Yúdice stated that she and Mrs. Bivens have been working with Moody's Rating Agency on the review of the credit rating for the City and the utility's system. She said the City maintained the A1 rating but the utility's system was downgraded from

A1 to A2. Dr. Yúdice said the ratings are based on the review of the FY2019 financial statements and additional information from other sources. She stated the reasons for maintaining the City's A1 rating include: the City's healthy financial position, the moderate reliance on economically sensitive business income taxes, and the low debt burden along with above average pension burden. Moody's also considered the City's small property tax base, below average resident incomes and above average poverty rate compared to other similar rated cities. She said Moody's also considered the financial measures we have put in place due to the COVID-19 outbreak such as delaying the business license payments and the decline from this revenue. Dr. Yúdice reviewed the reason for downgrading the combined utility's system include: gradual declines in net revenue, rising debt service requirements that have resulted in weaker debt service coverage, decline in liquidity which resulted from financing capital projects with cash, and a modest debt burden. She said Moody's will continue monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and if their view of the credit quality of the City changes, they will update the rating. Dr. Yúdice reviewed a press release that will go out tomorrow regarding Utilities billing. She referenced Governor McMaster's letter dated May 13, 2020 to the Office of Regulatory Staff regarding the suspension or disconnection of Utilities for non-payment. She said the City will continue to send notices to Utility customers that have been unable to pay their bills due to the COVID-19 Public Health crisis and encourage customers with outstanding balances to contact local agencies for financial assistance or to make payment arrangements with the City. She stated customers may arrange a payment plan for up to three months and will be available for bills received through May 29, 2020. She said customers interested in a payment plan can contact the Finance Department. Dr. Yúdice stated utility bills received in June will be due by the date noted on the bill and penalties will be assessed for non-payment. She said delinquent notices will be mailed and disconnections for non-payment will resume after July 1, 2020. She confirmed the City will continue to absorb the convenience fee for debit/credit card usage through July 31, 2020 since City Hall is still closed to the public. Council Member Milton asked how many utility customers are three or more months behind in payment. Mrs. Bivens stated 6-8% of utility customers are delinquent by three or more months.

13. MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of April 16, April 23, and April 30, 2020 City Council Meetings.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Hobson H. Milton, Council Member

SECONDER: Tupelo Humes, Council Member

AYES: Milton, Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

14. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

15. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Jayroe asked if it was possible to reconvene Council Meetings in person and suggested conducting the meetings at the Howard Center. Mayor Barber said safety and health are the main concerns for everyone we will remain having virtual meetings and re-evaluate everything in July when the extension of the State of Emergency is set to expire.

16. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

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

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

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70 a(1)(2) to discuss appointments and reappointments for the Community Appearance Board, the Architectural Review Board, and the Assistant Municipal Court Judge position and to receive a quarterly legal update from the City Attorney on pending and adjudicated cases since last update.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Jayroe.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting was adjourned 6:38pm.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Milton.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:01pm.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

18. APPOINTMENTS

A. Motion to appoint Set Frederick as Assistant Municipal Court Judge.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to appoint Sallie Parker and reappoint Ronald McInnis to the Community Appearance Board; and reappoint sally Gillespie to the Architectural Review Board.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Jayroe.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Milton.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 06/18/20