



Georgetown City Council

Public Hearing & Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

2222 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

Thursday, March 21, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Courtroom

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
Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
Council Member Jonathan Angner
Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Jimmy Morris
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
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
Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mr. Peter Gaytan, Planning & Community Development
Ms. Kara Hamilton, Human Resources Manager
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

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

Council Member Ethridge introduced Dr. Ted Sherrill to render the invocation and Commander Peter Klimek to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

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

- A. An ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2023/2024 [FY 2024] budget for the city of Georgetown, South Carolina, to increase the budget by \$1,533,095.48 and prescribe purposes for which certain earmarked funds supplemental appropriation shall be expended.**

Mayor Jayroe opened the Public Hearing and stated no one from the public signed up to speak. Mayor Jayroe closed the Public Hearing.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Ed Benton. Mr. Benton stated caution should be considered when appointing vacancies on the Georgetown Housing Authority Board of Directors. He said the current board did not accept a proposal for affordable housing in the city in the past and he is concerned if new people do not fill the upcoming vacancies on this board, any future affordable housing opportunities may not evolve.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Sheldon Butts. Mr. Butts stated he is concerned with the upcoming Fair Housing Month in the city when we don't have fair housing for many residents in the city. He requested reconsideration to approve a resolution that would designate April to be Fair Housing Month in the city.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Nolan Lundy. Mr. Lundy stated he is still in favor of the widening project on Black River Road.

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

None

7. PROCLAMATION

- A. Motion to approve a Proclamation proclaiming March 2024 as American Red Cross Month in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve a proclamation declaring April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in the City of Georgetown.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

8. RESOLUTION

A. Motion to approve a Resolution designating April 2024 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Erin Ethridge, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

B. Motion to approve a Resolution to place a historical plaque in Rainey Park to honor Joseph Hayne Rainey.

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Clements.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bruce Carl, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

9. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- A. **Motion to approve second reading of the ordinance for the Short Term Vacation Rental Text Amendment for Article III: Definitions, Article IV: general Provisions, and Article VII: Provisions Governing Use District.**

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

10. ENGINEERING

- A. **Motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$656,082.25 for the Maryville Water Distribution Improvements Project Phase I and award contract to King Construction Services Inc.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

- B. **Motion to amend 10. C. "Motion to approve a change order no. 2 in the amount of \$151,510.78 for the Bobby Alford Pavilion project and to make payment to Pyramid Contracting, LLC" " to add "contingent on finding a source of payment."**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

C. Motion to approve a change order no. 2 in the amount of \$151,510.78 for the Bobby Alford Pavilion project and to make payment to Pyramid Contracting, LLC contingent on finding a source for payment.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements moved to add "contingent on finding a source for payment" to the original motion, Council Member Morris seconded.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

11. FINANCE

A. 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 budget by \$1,533,095.48 and prescribe purposes for which certain earmarked funds supplemental appropriation shall be expended.

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Clements. Mrs. Vermeland confirmed this budget amendment is required by the bond. Council Member Obeng questioned if this will negatively impact our bond rating. Mrs. Vermeland confirmed that it would not impact our bond rating negatively.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

12. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve projects for submission to the Georgetown County Capital Project Sale Tax Commission.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Ethridge. As it relates to the foot bridge request to be installed on Highmarket Street, Council Member Carl stated for the record "as important as this project is to protect our children, I could not support it in its current form" Mayor Jayroe confirmed that project is not included on the list of Capital Sales Tax Projects proposed by the city.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Erin Ethridge, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

13. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated at last month's Council meeting the selection of the design-build services for the new city hall construction services was approved. He stated per the City's procurement policy, section 2-187, any interested parties had 15 days to submit any written comments to the City Administrator and would be brought to Council at this month's meeting. Mr. Whittier confirmed no comments were received. He stated we have received 8 submittals of qualifications through the RFQ process. He confirmed the committee of 5 staff members has reviewed and identified the top three firms. Mr. Whittier said the top ranked firms are MB Kahn Construction, Coastal Structures, and FBI Construction. He said the next step is to request a proposal from the selected firms. Mr. Whittier stated the city had engaged with an Architect last fall to assist in designing the renovation for the Electric and Public Works Municipal Complex on Highmarket Street. He stated conceptual plans have been drafted and staff currently has an RFP out for pre-construction services. He confirmed the selected contractor will work with the Architect to finalize the design plans. Mr. Whittier said once completed, the contractor will provide a guaranteed maximum price proposal to complete the renovation. He stated if the city accepts the proposal, the city can move forward with them to complete the project. Mr. Whittier stated the Electric department has been moving their inventory over to the new location and the City's fiber network is now in the building. He confirmed the Electric department plans to be moved into the new building by mid-April. Mr. Whittier confirmed we are switching over to a new ERP system called BS&A. He stated we need a new online payment software that would be integrated into the new system. He said there are only two preferred vendors that can integrate with the new system and after evaluating both options, city staff has selected Invoice Cloud. He said Invoice Cloud is a reputable product and will be able to provide additional features the city does not currently have. He confirmed there will not be any cost to the city for the integration and they will be providing free credit card readers. Mr. Whittier stated their system will provide customers with the ability to pay by e-check, which is something we don't currently offer. He said there will be a convenient charge of \$1.50 per credit card transaction, which is the same cost now. He said the only cost to the city will be for any electronic invoices they send out on our behalf and that will be a cost savings from what the city pays to mail out invoices.

14. MINUTES

- A. **Motion to table the approval of minutes of January 18, January 25, February 15, and February 22, 2024 Council Meetings to the Regular Meeting in May.**

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

15. OLD BUSINESS

None

16. NEW BUSINESS

None

17. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

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

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

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

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Tracey Miller. Ms. Miller shared a handout of ideas to help residents regarding their utility bills. She requested using the blank space on the utility bill to provide more data that would be useful. She said the data could help determine if there is a water leak, compare consumption from this year to last year, and provide a fingerprint sample of utility costs for that property to help buyers and sellers.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1) to discuss appointments/reappointments to the City Boards/Commissions and the Georgetown Housing Authority Board of Directors and to discuss employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of employees in the Police department.**

Council Member Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tamika Williams Obeng, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

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

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Carl.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

Executive Session adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:00pm

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Bruce Carl, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

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

20. APPOINTMENTS

- A. Motion to reappoint Mr. Jerry Pope to the Construction Board of Appeals, appoint Mr. James Cobb to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and appoint Ms. Anne Hartis to the Community Appearance Board.**

Council Member Ethridge moved, seconded by Council Member Angner.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Erin Ethridge, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

21. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

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