PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 21, 2021 – 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
Mayor Pro Tempore 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
Mr. John Barfield, Director of Finance
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Interim 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
Mrs. Cindy Owens, Clerk of Court
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

Council Member Jayroe rendered the invocation. Mayor Pro Tempore Smalls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive citizens input concerning an ordinance amending the Stormwater Utility billing structure and adjust rates in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Mayor Barber opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting and announced no public input was received. The Public Comments portion was closed.

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 to the extent of any individual that has public comments and whom sits on a board or commission with the City has not been authorized by vote to speak on behalf of the board or commission and they are appearing as individual citizens of Georgetown.

Ms. Buccione read a message from Mr. John Kester. Mr. Kester stated he has served on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) in the City of Georgetown for the last 7 ½ years and as Chairman for the last 3 years. Mr. Kester stated he is opposing item 9.B.3197 on the agenda which is the proposed Text Amendment 909 Zoning ordinance. He stated Text Amendment 909 would create an exception to the City's zoning ordinance that would allow the Zoning Administrator to essentially grant variances to the setback regulations set forth in Article VIII of the City of Georgetown Zoning ordinances. Mr. Kester stated under the proposed Text Amendment 909, the decision would be made with only the Zoning Administrator and the property owner having knowledge that an exception to the City's Zoning ordinance had been granted and all other interested parties would be left out of the process. He stated there have only been three cases that would qualify for the proposed changes in Text Amendment 909. Ms. Buccione read a message from Ms. Ede Graves regarding agenda item 9.B.3197, proposed zoning ordinance Text Amendment 909. Ms. Graves referred to Title 6, Chapter 29, Article 5 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina and stated ordinances are not meant to be changed without thoughtful deliberation and substantiated, well founded reasons. She said the proposed amendment adds a completely new section to the ordinance. Ms. Graves stated the Board of Zoning Appeals eased restrictions on setbacks and lot sizes last year. She stated the Planning Commission was split 3 to 3 on this amendment. She said this topic needs more thought and asks to vote against this amendment. Ms. Buccione read a message from Ms. Joan Schmid. Ms. Schmid stated zoning laws establishing building setbacks and side yards have a history in city planning going back to 1666 and the great fire in London. She said the setbacks in the City's zoning ordinances were approved by the community as an investment in values that are held dear with a built-in process for flexibility in the request for variance process as well as the appeal process to City Council. Ms. Schmid stated a parallel process that

reinvents the wheel will sow confusion into that process and provide no gain to the community and the exception to the City of Georgetown Zoning ordinance, Article IX should not be passed.

7. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Dr. Yúdice introduced Mr. John Barfield as the new Finance Director. Mrs. Owens introduced Ms. Terra China for Municipal Court. Chief Waites introduced Ms. Taneya Chandler, the new Victim's Advocate for the Police Department.

8. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance rezoning approximately .5 acres of land, owned by Thomas & Stephanie McCall, located at 1012 Front Street, from Core Commercial (CC) to Residential (R4).

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

B. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article IX, Section 909, Exceptions for Existing Residential Footprints.

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [5 TO 1] Next: 2/18/2021 5:30 PM**
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Barber Sr., Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls
NAYS:	Jayroe

C. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article VIII, Footnote #12.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 2/18/2021 5:30 PM**
MOVER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

D. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article III (Definitions), IV (General Provisions), & VII (Use Districts) to add Solar Energy Systems

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 2/18/2021 5:30 PM**
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

E. Motion to approve an Administration Contract with Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments (WRCOG) to administer the West End Neighborhood Demolition CDBG Grant.

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

9. FINANCE

A. Motion to Approve Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2022.

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

B. Motion to Approve Methodology for Santee Cooper Settlement Distribution to Electric Utility Customers.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Milton. Mr. Loveless stated the City received a check on December 9, 2020 for $1,145,649.27 for

distribution of the Santee Cooper settlement. He stated Santee Cooper ratepayers from January 1, 2007 to January 31, 2020 would be eligible for a refund. Mr. Loveless reviewed the calculations used for refund distributions included in the briefing document in the agenda packet. Mrs. Bivens stated the Finance department gathered customer information from the utility system from January 2007 to January 2020. Mrs. Bivens said during this timeframe there were approximately 4,780 active customers. She said the refunds range from one cent to $69,575. The total refund for all active customers is $748,063. Mrs. Bivens stated there are over 11,000 inactive customers and the total refund to be distributed to them is $264,200. Mrs. Bivens said $65,700 is the refunded portion for the City's account that is used by City Hall and other department buildings. Mrs. Bivens explained there are miscellaneous items such as security lighting that the City provides but it is not billable that is part of the settlement amount. Discussions followed. Mr. Humes stated for the record "I would like the funds to be issued to the City's residents ASAP, as soon as possible. With the formula that Mrs. Bivens has given for the 4,000 customers and the amount of time that it would take to issue all of these checks. The time is the biggest thing for me. The time it would take to issue checks could be two to three months from now. I believe if they get a credit, it will be much sooner. The credit could be as soon as the next billing cycle where a check could take two to three months from now." Mrs. Bivens said credits to accounts would be started on February 1st. Mr. Barfield stated a check would have to be issued for inactive accounts. Council Member Joseph confirmed a yes vote would mean agreement for a credit to an active account should be issued. Mrs. Bivens confirmed that is correct.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [5 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
SECONDER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls
NAYS:	Milton

10. WATER UTILITIES

A. Motion to Approve Purchase Orders and make payments to Chlorinator Sales and Service Inc., and Ryan Herco Flow Solutions in the Not To Exceed Amount of $75,000.00 for the purchase of nine(9) new chemical pumps and PVC piping materials for the Water Treatment Plant.

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

11. ENGINEERING

A. Motion to ratify grant application to CDBG- Mitigation Infrastructure Program to provide funding for engineering and construction costs in the West End District Stormwater Improvements Project. The total amount requested in this application is $7,865,686.There is no match requirements and the City will not be obligated to contribute towards this grant.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Milton.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve Raymond Engineering of Georgia Inc.'s proposal and make payments in a not-to-exceed amount of $40,000 for architectural and engineering services for the Public Works Office Building Renovations.

Mr. Arteaga explained the proposal was negotiated. He said costs have increased and are expected to continue to increase. Discussions followed. Dr. Yúdice suggested going back to the design firm for further negotiations and coming back to Council for approval at the next meeting. Mayor Barber suggested this motion be tabled for now.

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN**

Motion to table agenda item 12 B. until the February 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:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

D. Motion to approve bid and make payments to Pinnacle Lighting Group, LLC. The project scope includes installation of up light fixtures, tree light fixtures and electrical conduits at intersection of Front Street and Screven Street

(water fountain), Palmetto Park, Francis Marion Park, Constitution Park, and Rainey Park.

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

E. Motion to approve and make payments to WK Dickson & Co., Inc. in the not-to-exceed amount of $428,000 for design, permitting, bidding, and construction admin and observation services of the new flocculation and sedimentation tank no. 2 located at the city's water treatment plant.

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

Motion to table agenda item 12. B until the February Council 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:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

12. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A. Motion to Approve Purchase Order and Payment in the Amount of $250,000 to Sumter Utilities for Miscellaneous Capital Upgrades.

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

13. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve second reading of an Ordinance setting a Special Election in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley.

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

B. Motion to approve second reading of revisions to Chapter 22 (Utilities), Article VI (Stormwater Utility) of the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances.

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

C. Motion to approve an Ordinance to Amend Stormwater Utility Billing Structure and Adjust Rates.

Council Member Humes moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph. Dr. Yúdice pointed out a typo on the third bullet in the points to consider in the agenda packet. She said the percentage should be .8% and not .08%. She stated over the next 20 years, this will generate approximately 15 million dollars. Dr. Yúdice gave several examples of rate adjustment scenarios.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

D. Motion to approve first semi-annual payment to SCMIRF in the amount of $403,480.50 for Property, Liability and Vehicle Insurance and two (2) quarterly payments to SCMIT in the amount of $217,219.50 for Workers Compensation Insurance.

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

14. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Dr. Yúdice stated there was a request from The Friends of the Georgetown Library to install three little libraries throughout the City. She said this would be a great asset and encourage children and adults to read. She said it will work as a give a book, take a book system.

15. MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of December 17, 2020 Council Meeting.

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

16. OLD BUSINESS

None

17. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Jayroe asked if there is a better application to use for virtual meetings. Council Member Jayroe said she is curious what other municipalities are using for their virtual meetings. She said citizens would like to be more involved during the meetings. Mayor Barber suggested IT look into other platforms to see if

there are better options. Council Member Humes stated concern on a random drug screening plan being implemented. He said he spoke with a couple City employees who have not done a random drug test in ten years. Council Member Humes said elected officials should lead by example and would like to see a random drug testing plan be implemented or reinforced that would include elected officials. Mayor Barber requested the City Administrator, the HR Manager, and the City attorney can review and give Council an update on the current program. Mrs. Livingston stated the program includes all safety sensitive positions, such as Fire Department, Police Department, and employees that have a CDL license but does not include all City employees unless there is an accident. She stated the random drug testing program is handled by Doctors Care and not by the City. Dr. Yúdice said the program will be reviewed against other municipalities and brought back to Council at the next meeting.

18. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

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

A. December 2020 Electric Utility Department Report

B. Engineering Monthly Report_December 2020

C. December 2020 Fire Report

D. December 2020 Fleet service Report

E. GPD - December 2020 Monthly Report

F. December 2020 Human Resources/Risk Management Report

G. December 2020 Municipal Court Report

H. December 2020 Planning & Community Development Report

I. December 2020 Public Works Department Report

J. December 2020 Water Utilities Report

K. Finance and IT Monthly Reports - December 2020

19. 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 Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission; to receive a quarterly legal update from the City Attorney on pending and adjudicated cases since last update, and to discuss proposed contractual arrangements for the GBA to serve as the City's Destination Marketing Organization

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.

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

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:42pm.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

Motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding naming Georgetown Business Association (GBA) as the City's Designated Marketing Organization for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

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

20. APPOINTMENTS

Motion to approve Mr. Bruce Pfirrmann to the Board of Zoning Appeals and reappoint Dr. Delores Gibson to the Planning Commission.

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

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

21. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 02/18/21