



**PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP
OF CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 25, 2016 – 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tempore Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Sheldon A. Butts
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Edward S. Kimbrough, Jr.
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Chris Carter, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Miss Suzanne Abed-El-Latif, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Will Cook, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Superintendent
Chief Paul Gardner, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Sterling Geathers, Public Works Director
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Mr. Tee Miller, Assistant to the City Administrator for Economic Development

MEDIA

Georgetown Times - Ms. Eileen Keithly

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr. called the Public Hearing/Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council to order at 4:00 PM and requested all cell phones or electronic devices be turned off or placed on mute so as to not interrupt the meeting.

Motion to amend the agenda by adding first reading of an ordinance to amend the 2015/2016 Wastewater Fund Budget in the amount of \$25,000 relevant to the Georgetown Kraft Credit Union construction.

Mayor Scoville moved, seconded by Council Member Kimbrough.

Mayor Scoville called for the question.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jack M. Scoville Jr., Mayor
SECONDER:	Edward S Kimbrough, Council Member
AYES:	Scoville Jr., Barber Sr., Butts, Jayroe, Joseph, Kimbrough, Smalls

3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive citizen input concerning the proposed Recreation Trail to be constructed at East Bay Park.

Mayor Scoville opened the Public Hearing. No one signed up to comment and the Public Hearing concluded at 4:05 PM.

4. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS ON WASTE HAULER RATES CONTAINED IN THE PRETREATMENT ORDINANCE.

Mrs. Debra Bivens referred Council to the Waste Haulers Discharge Analysis. Council Member Smalls asked for an explanation. Mr. Will Cook explained waste haulers who clean out port-a-toilets and septic tanks bring the waste to the Wastewater Plant. For years the City has charged waste haulers \$5 per 500 gallons to unload their waste at the Plant. Staff is proposing to increase this charge to \$20 per 500 gallons effective July 1, 2016 and \$30 per 500 gallons effective July 1, 2017. This would bring in additional revenues of \$45,000 in FY 2016/2017 and an additional \$31,000 in FY 2017/2018. The funds would help make up some of the shortfall from the loss of revenue from the steel mill and offset the cost of the modifications at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mrs. Bivens indicated if Council agrees, this will be included on the agenda for March. There was no objection from Council.

5. DISCUSS USE OF POLICE BODY CAMERAS

In June 2015, Governor Nikki Haley signed into law a bill that requires every law enforcement agency in the state to equip its officers with body-worn cameras (BWC). The Law Enforcement Training Council (LETC) was tasked with developing guidelines on the use of the BWC. The state dedicated \$3.4 million to assist over 300 law enforcement agencies in acquiring the cameras. Chief Paul Gardner had previously recommended Georgetown wait and see how this plays out until the appropriate time. He informed Council now is the time to include this in the 2016/2017 capital improvement projects program. Staff has researched several devices and is confident in the WatchGuard camera. The department's in-car cameras are the WatchGuard system. Chief Gardner said this is economical for us because the software to run the in-car videos and WatchGuard videos can all be

controlled in an evidence environment that is proprietary and will make it much easier. We need to come up with solutions that keep us moving forward. The Georgetown Police Department has submitted its policy to the Law Enforcement Training Council and has been approved. At the March council meeting Chief Gardner will request permission to apply for funding from the grant. He reviewed a power point presentation on the camera, explained its functions and passed around an actual camera for Council to look over and ask any questions. Council viewed videos from a WatchGuard body camera and in-car camera. The total financial impact is \$36,915 and covers 21 BWC, Ethernet transfer stations, three year warranty, software license, site license for software, setup fee and miscellaneous costs. Chief Gardner explained the price would be \$10,000 more except for the fact HTC provides for cloud space and cloud storage capabilities. We should not have any space problems for years. Discussions followed.

6. DISCUSS UTILITY BILLING AND COLLECTION DELINQUENT FEES

Mrs. Bivens referred Council to the Utility Billing and Collections Analysis handout. Procedures for utility billing and collections were discussed during the January City Council retreat. The City has four weekly billing cycles that originated based on dividing the City geographically. Each billing cycle has 28 days. Each customer has 21 days from the bill date to pay without a penalty and an additional 7 days to pay before cutoff. Bills are mailed weekly based on a billing schedule that is created quarterly. Twenty-one days from the billing date, a 6% penalty is added to the unpaid balance on each utility account. Both the 'due date' and 'last day to pay before cutoff' are shown on the utility bill. After 28 days, utility accounts with unpaid balances over \$10 are scheduled for cutoff.

The AMI project is 98% complete with the exception of some installations in the Belle Isle area. Once the project was launched, it was thought customers could be disconnected automatically from the office. In January 2012 the delinquent fee of \$30 was eliminated. Customers were also allowed to change their due date to ensure timely payments. However, the number of people on the cutoff list has doubled. As a result, staff is presenting a new procedure to send out a delinquent notice. If payment is not received by the 28th day, utility accounts with unpaid balances over \$10 will be scheduled for cutoff. All accounts with balances over \$10 that remain unpaid once the cutoff procedure begins, will be assessed a \$30 restore fee.

Mrs. Bivens explained the City does work with customers who have never been late paying their bill. However, if every month a balance is left on the bill and continues to compound, we will require the customer to pay the entire bill. The City helps fund a public assistance program that is handled by DSS and we refer customers to them on a daily basis. A list of agencies that provide assistance is given to customers needing aid. Most agencies will assist a customer once a year. In addition, once every six months, the City will give customers an extension; an additional two weeks to pay without paying any additional funds. Mr. Alan Loveless said our rates continue to be among the lowest in the state, lowest in the region. Utility bills going

out for the next month will have another insert informing the customer of the energy efficient program with Santee Cooper. A Town Hall meeting is planned for April to provide information to customers that may help lower their electric bill. Mrs. Bivens said by sending out delinquent notices the number of customers on the cutoff list may decrease. The proposal will be presented to Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Loveless reported, with all the wind yesterday, there were only two outage calls and neither was tree related. He said Council has allowed him to bring in a tree contractor the last couple of years and it paid off.

7. PRESENTATION - CONTRACTING CONTAINERIZED WASTE SERVICE IN GEORGETOWN

Mr. Chris Carter stated on June 10, 2008 Council voted to cease providing commercial container pickup to be effective no later than July 1, 2009. The City kept a small number of accounts related to its own use and some servicing apartments and other multi-family housing. The City has one sanitation truck capable of servicing 4-yard and 2-yard containers and owns approximately 48 containers. While our 100 tips per week is profitable, the private sector could possibly increase the margin of the current operation. At some point the capital cost of acquiring a replacement vehicle and using the specialty dumpsters would make it unfeasible. A list was provided of all locations the City currently services and the cost. Request for proposals were sent to providers Waste Industries, Waste Management and American Waste Systems. The service provider would provide their own dumpsters. Bids were received. After comparing the cost to the City to operate the service and annual revenue collected, against what the companies would charge to provide the service, there would be a net profit. If Council agrees to contract out the service, no employee would lose his job. If there is no objection, Mr. Carter would like to present this for consideration. Mayor Pro Tempore Barber referred to past experience on other projects and wanted to make sure, in the long term, we don't get burned on the back-end.

8. 2016 RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

Mr. Carter asked for any feedback from Council on the January 23rd retreat. Mayor Scoville said one of the purposes of purchasing the Eagle Electric site was to move as many of the City functions there as possible and he would like to have money budgeted for a study in next year's budget. This has been put on the back burner while working on the fire station.

Council Member Kimbrough asked Mayor and Council to discuss the Veteran's Memorial on Church. Last year they requested a donation of \$15,000; however, it did not get to the final budget cut. He said there was a perception that it had something to do with the confederate flag and/or confederate soldiers. To clarify he stated all war dead, from all wars, are honored there, including the Civil War. The only flags there belong to the armed forces. The memorial lists all deceased veterans of any wars. This is guaranteed through the federal government so confederate

soldiers cannot be eliminated and not considered to be part of the war dead. He said this is a deserving cause, they are doing a good job and it is in a very visible location in the City. Mayor Pro Tempore Barber said he brought the issue up in reading their proposal. He did not address or mention confederate flag, he mentioned confederate soldiers because they fought for the oppression and persecution of minorities that actually provided economic value to the United States. He is totally against what they fought for, that is why he did not vote to donate \$15,000 and he still would not approve the donation. Mayor Scoville said there may be a possible solution, maybe they could do a separate confederate part to it. Council Member Butts said they already have that across the (Church) Street in the cemetery. Council Member Joseph said he met with the individual today who is heading up the memorial wall. It is a federal law and we don't have a lot of choice in that matter. If we're going to have a wall, it is a federal mandate that states that. He said he agrees completely and would like to revisit as well. It is a huge undertaking and very important for the City of Georgetown.

Referencing Council Member Kimbrough's interest in the Bailey Bill, Mr. Carter said he has asked the ARB chairman and board to develop a program for Council to consider. The Bailey Bill uses a tax abatement to foster investment in historic homes.

Mayor Scoville said we have a grant opportunity for a city fire boat. The cost to the City to write the grant would be \$1,750. He said we can find this in the administration budget. There was no objection from Council. He directed Chris and Tee Miller to move forward with the grant application. This will be presented to Council at a regular meeting.

9. ACTION

Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to amend the 2015/2016 Wastewater Fund Budget for the City of Georgetown, SC in the amount of \$25,000 for installing sewer service to Georgetown Kraft Credit Union facility due to annexation.

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

Mayor Scoville called for the question.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendon M. Barber Sr., Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member
AYES:	Scoville Jr., Barber Sr., Butts, Jayroe, Joseph, Kimbrough, Smalls

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting/Workshop.

Council Member Kimbrough moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Barber.

Mayor Scoville called for the question.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Edward S Kimbrough, Council Member

SECONDER: Brendon M. Barber Sr., Mayor Pro Tempore

AYES: Scoville Jr., Barber Sr., Butts, Jayroe, Joseph, Kimbrough, Smalls

The Special Meeting/Workshop was adjourned at 5:14 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 03/17/16