



Georgetown City Council

2222 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, December 21, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Courtroom

I. 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 Jimmy Morris
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Hobson H. Milton

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
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. Ryan Call, Building Inspector
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mr. Peter Gaytan, Planning & Community Development
Ms. Kara Hamilton, Human Resources Manager
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

II. 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.

III. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Obeng introduced Rev. Brian Swinton to render the invocation and Mr. Jessie Cooper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Madison Cooper. Ms. Cooper thanked Mr. Gaytan for his hard work on the Short Term Vacation Rental ordinance. She said she wants to make sure property rights are not infringed on and she suggested that once the cap is met that staff brings the ordinance back to council to be amended within thirty days. She requested that notification to neighbors be done by certified mail.

V. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. Scott Whittier introduced Ms. Kara Hamilton as Human Resources Manager for the Administration department and Mr. Ryan Courtmanche as Electric Utilities Manager for the Electric department.

VI. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Motion to approve Second Reading of Text Amendment Short Term Vacation Rental Text Amendment.

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

Mayor Jayroe stated this would be discussed further at a future council workshop for revisions.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

2. Motion to Approve a contract in the amount of \$79,500.00 for the CDBG #4-CE-20-007 houses with asbestos grant project and award contract to Charles Demolition and Construction LLC.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements moved to amend the motion to request a performance bond to ensure the disposal of this asbestos material. Council Member Angner seconded.

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, Jayroe, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

VII. FINANCE

1. Motion to amend the methodology for the second Santee Cooper settlement distribution to electric utility customers.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements moved to amend the motion with providing the residents the option to collect their disbursement from Santee Cooper and any residents that decline to take it those funds will be put in the Round Up program for future distribution. Council Member Obeng seconded.

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, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

VIII. POLICE

1. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending article I of chapter 20 of the code of ordinances for the City of Georgetown at section 20- 12 "Activities from Public Ramps at East Bay Park".

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 1/18/2024 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member	
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore	
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Smalls	
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton	

2. Motion to approve purchasing 25 Motorola APX 6000 portable radios for the Police Department in the amount of \$159,819.05 with FY 23-24 funds.

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

IX. ENGINEERING

1. **Motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$218,125.50 for the Gilbert, Hawkins,, Butts Street Sidewalks Project #1236 and award the contract to Benton Concrete & Utilities, LLC.**

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, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

2. **Motion to approve Amendment no. 1 to the existing Memorandum of Understanding between The Nature Conservancy and the City of Georgetown in regards to the execution of the Boyd Living Shoreline Project.**

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, Jayroe, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. **Motion to Approve Two Quarterly payments to SCMIT in the \$230,563.00 for Workers Compensation Insurance.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

2. 2023 South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust Risk Management Award.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

XI. ADMINISTRATION

1. Motion to approve Resolution to Recognize Councilman Smalls for his years of service.

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, Smalls
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton

XII. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier said the SCDOT commission approved the city's request for transferring Meeting, Cannon, and Kaminski streets. He said there will be several projects starting next month that include the Stormwater EDA Grant project, WTP Secondary Sedimentation Basin EDA Grant project, and the new city hall building. He said there was a kick off meeting with the project management firm on 12/13/23. They are now working on hiring an environmental inspection company to test for lead and asbestos as well as working on soliciting for a Design-build vendor and developing a schedule. Mr. Whittier recognized Council Member Milton and Council Member Smalls and thanked them for their dedication and service they provided to the city.

XIII. MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Electric Department Monthly Report
2. Engineering Department Monthly Report
3. Fleet Service Monthly Report
4. Fire Department Monthly Report
5. Municipal Court Monthly Report
6. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report
7. Police Department Monthly Report
8. Public Works Monthly Report
9. Risk Management Monthly Report
10. Water Utilities Department Monthly Report
11. Finance and IT Department Monthly Report

XIV. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Angner asked Chief Cribb to provide an update on planning how to budget for a high water vehicle going into the next fiscal year. Chief Cribb stated he would begin the search to see what is available and find out the requirements they would need to fulfill.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked who works with DNR regarding abandoned boats. Chief Pierce said the ordinance that was adopted last March was contingent on hiring a Harbor Master which has not been done. Chief Pierce recognized DNR representative Jason Dozier and Sgt. Blair Cribb to handle any questions regarding abandoned boats. Mr. Dozier explained the lengthy and tedious process that is involved with getting abandoned boats removed. He also stated the expense to remove the boats is an issue. He recommended a Harbor Master that would have eyes on the water everyday would be the best way to manage and be proactive to prevent abandoned boats.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tempore stated we need to get a plan together regarding the stormwater pumps. He said we can't keep going on the way we have and he looks forward to working with staff on getting a plan put together.

Council Member Obeng stated in light of the recent flooding she wanted to thank the city's first responders and the staff that worked behind the scenes. She encouraged residents and business owners to submit information and photos of flood damage they have to the building and planning department. Council Member Obeng stated she spoke with Ms. Janette Graham from Howard High Alumni and she is having issues with obtaining permits for the MLK parade. She said she spoke with the Police department and feels she is getting the run around. Mayor Jayroe said Capt. Burbage sent her an email with the steps she needs to take to obtain the permits.

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CITY SERVICES, BUSINESS, OR OTHER CITY MATTERS

None

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice related to the defense of threatened or potential legal claims.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

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

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

Council Member Smalls moved, seconded by Council Member Angner.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:37pm.

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

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

XVIII. FINANCE

- 1. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article II , "Business License" of the Code of Ordinance for the City of Georgetown by updating the Standardized Business License Class Schedule.**

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 1/18/2024 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member	
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member	
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Jayroe, Smalls	
ABSENT:	Hobson H. Milton	

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Council Member Smalls moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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