



**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 17, 2023 – 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
2222 HIGHMARKET STREET
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA
AND 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 Carol Jayroe
Council Member Jonathan Angner
Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Jimmy Morris
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ABSENT

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Robert Cox, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development
Mr. Scott Whittier, Deputy City Administrator
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Director of Finance
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Streets and Sanitation Manager

MEDIA

Mr. Scott Harper, GAB News
Mr. Mike Woodel, Georgetown Times

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 Morris rendered the invocation and Council Member Angner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Wesley Gibson. Mr. Gibson stated he wanted to talk about agenda item 8. B. regarding parades. Mr. Gibson stated he spoke to the Mayor of Andrews and he explained the process for setting up a parade route is simple. Mr. Gibson said we are now faced with stumbling blocks and requested that this item be tabled until it can be discussed at a workshop.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Janette Graham. Ms. Graham stated she is President of Howard High School Alumni Association and they sponsor the Juneteenth and MLK Black History Month Parade. She said after applying for a special event permit she was told it would cost \$980 for off duty police officers. She said when she questioned it she was told there is a state law that prohibits parades from crossing state highways. Ms. Graham stated she contacted the state and found out it is not a law but it is a directive that provides guidance on road closures and public events. She requested for the 2nd reading of agenda item 8. B. be put on hold until everyone can get on the same page.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. Whittier introduced Anthony Lee and Chris Mullis for the Water Utilities Department.

6. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve a Resolution to appoint and commission a Code Enforcement Officer for the proper security and general welfare of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

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, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

7. FINANCE

- A. **Motion to approve second reading of a Series Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Combined Public Utility System Revenue Bonds of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$3,000,000, and other matters relating thereto.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

- B. **Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding three hundred thousand dollar (\$300,000) General Obligation bond, series 2023 of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended, to provide for the payment thereof, and other matters relating thereto.**

Council Member Smalls moved, seconded by Council Member Milton.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

- C. **Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, to amend the ARPA Special Revenue Fund.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 1]	Next: 9/21/2023 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member	
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore	
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Jayroe, Smalls	
NAYS:	Milton	
ABSENT:	Obeng	

- D. **Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, to prescribe**

purposes for which certain earmarked funds from an Accommodations/Hospitality Tax Fund supplemental appropriation shall be expended and to correct a scrivener's error.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 2]	Next: 9/21/2023 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member	
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore	
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Jayroe	
NAYS:	Milton, Smalls	
ABSENT:	Obeng	

8. POLICE

- A. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend Article III "STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING" of Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 2]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Jayroe
NAYS:	Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

- B. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend Section 20-120(a) of Article VIII "Parades, events, block parties, performances, filming and picketing" of Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 2]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Jayroe
NAYS:	Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

- C. Motion to approve a Resolution adopting a City Office Public Access Policy.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 2]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Jayroe
NAYS:	Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

9. **ENGINEERING**

A. **Motion to approve a change order in the amount of \$90,091.80 for the Bobby Alford Pavilion project and to make payment to Pyramid Contracting, LLC.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

Mayor Jayroe adjourned the Regular Meeting and called for a five minute recess at 6:15pm.

Mayor Jayroe reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:20pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 2]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Jayroe
NAYS:	Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

B. **Motion to approve City Administrator's determination to use a project management firm for the new City Hall project.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 TO 2]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Jayroe
NAYS:	Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

10. FLEET SERVICES

- A. Motion to approve submitting a letter of intent to purchase New Way Sidewinder XTR automated garbage truck from Amick Equipment in the amount of \$388,712.27.**

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, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

11. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Motion to approve a Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Georgetown County for shared services (Proactive MD)**

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, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Dr. Yúdice stated the generator has been delivered, installed and tested at the Maryville School pump station and all work has been completed on this project. She said the SCIIP grant proposals are due today and Orlando is working with RIA on final documents to issue the notice to proceed. She stated this grant funds the replacement of the sewer force main and the lift station at the old city hall site. Dr. Yúdice stated Ryan Call passed his final exam on August 15th and congratulated him on becoming a licensed South Carolina Certified Building Official. She said to be a Certified Building Official in South Carolina, you must pass three very difficult exams. Dr. Yúdice stated Planning staff met with the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and our City Attorney last Friday to prepare the final documents to proceed with the procurement process for the demolition grant. She recognized Mr. Robert Cox to give an update on the demolition grant. Mr. Cox stated they reviewed the original list of 25 houses and removed houses as necessary. Mr. Cox recognized Derek Harrelson and stated he is managing this project and he would give an update. Mr. Harrelson stated the list is now 14 houses to proceed with demolition. He said several houses on the original list were already demolished by the owners.

13. MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of July 20, 2023 Council Meeting.

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, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

14. OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked Chief Pierce if they are able to obtain historical data to recognize trends on the new SOMA system. Chief Pierce said they are waiting on the Sheriff's office to ramp up with their system because they are in charge of historical data. Chief Pierce said trend reports will be available in 6 months to a year. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked for an update on the Front Street Stormwater Project funding. Dr. Yúdice stated the SC Commerce department is aware that they need to allocate the \$2.2M shortfall for this project and they have until August 31 to meet the deadline.

15. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Angner requested Dr. Yúdice speak about the utility rates increase as it relates to our fiscal year and what our bond attorney suggested we do to get our Enterprise fund solvent. Dr. Yúdice explained our fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30. She stated utility rate studies were completed and our enterprise fund was running in the red. She said they advised to increase utilities this year to get the enterprise fund in the black as opposed to gradual increases annually. Dr. Yúdice explained the 2011 bond ordinance required the city to maintain rates in good working order. She said for many years, this was not done. She said Bond counsel said if the city doesn't abide by the ordinance, rate increases would be mandated and no longer managed by the city. She said those increases could have been 40%-60%. Council Member Angner requested an update on ARPA funds there were allocated to Habitat for Humanity for energy upgrades, roof repairs, new windows, etc. Dr. Yúdice said they were allocated \$200,000 and approximately \$150,000 is still available.

Council Member Milton stated he has lived in the city all of his life and has never remembered the city to shut down.

Council Member Morris requested contact information on our city website be updated and to include event information in the city with contact information.

16. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

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

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

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

Mayor Jayroe recognized Fred Williams. Mr. Williams requested justification for the utility rate increase.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Sharon Melton Jones. Ms. Jones stated her utility bill was \$205.00 for only electric. She said she was not charged anything for water. She said the budget increased 57% over the last two years. She said residents cannot afford the rate increases. She requested sidewalks be placed along Reservoir Street.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Brittany Gibson. Ms. Gibson handed out a copy of her utility bills to Mayor and Council members. She compared her utility bill from last year to this year. She said residents now have to decide if they should purchase their medication or pay their light bill.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Wesley Gibson. Mr. Gibson stated it is a fact that the electric department profited \$7.8M last year. He said more taxes are being paid for less services. He stated Georgetown is in a crisis because they cannot pay their bills. He said if property taxes were increased it would help the bottom line for the city.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Janette Graham. Ms. Graham said the utility bill increases are ridiculous. She said the city has been given many funds and they should be used instead of raising rates for residents. She said she has never known the city to shut down.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1) (2) to discuss proposed development incentive agreements to serve the George Hotel; to receive legal advice relating to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the

attorney-client privilege; and to discuss employment for the City Administrator position.

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, Jayroe, Milton, Smalls
ABSENT:	Obeng

The Regular meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:35pm.

NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 09/21/23