



**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MAY 16, 2024 – 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
Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
Council Member Jonathan Angner
Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Jimmy Morris
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Erin Ethridge

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
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mr. Al Joseph, Main Street Director

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

Mayor Jayroe introduced Pastor Larry Deeter to render the invocation and Mr. Oliver Leimbach from the Coast Guard Auxiliary to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Chief Pierce introduced Mr. Brady Skelley and Mr. Brian McKay for the Police department.

6. PROCLAMATION

A. A Proclamation proclaiming May 18-24, 2024 as National Safe Boating Week in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Mayor Jayroe presented a Proclamation to Mr. Jack Margolis and Mr. Oliver Leimbach from the Coast Guard Auxiliary proclaiming National Safe Boating Week from May 18-24, 2024 in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

7. FINANCE

Motion to amend agenda item 7.B. by removing Schedule F for further discussion.

Council Member Carl requested Schedule F for the encroachment fees in the budget ordinance be considered separately. Council Member Carl stated business owners will have rate increases and this will be an additional expense to them. Mr. Joseph stated currently encroachment fees for restaurants are based on square footage. He said the maximum annual fee a restaurant currently pays for outdoor dining is \$175. Mr. Joseph said last year the city brought in \$2000 for 52 tables. He said if the proposed fees are approved, the city will bring in \$5,200. Mr. Joseph said a rate per table would be the fairest way to change the fees. He said with the proposed fees the maximum charge would be \$1,000 for the year for a restaurant.

RESULT: DEFEATED [2 TO 4]

MOVER: Bruce Carl, Council Member

SECONDER: Jimmy Morris, Council Member

AYES: Morris, Carl

NAYS: Angner, Clements, Obeng, Jayroe

ABSENT: Ethridge

B. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to adopt a budget and raise revenue for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (FY 2025).

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mrs. Vermeland shared a handout with the Mayor and Council Members and stated the agenda packet does not reflect the revised budget number and current rates, but the handout includes the correct numbers and revised ordinance to approve the budget. She stated the budget presented is 48,830,818. Mrs. Vermeland stated this

is an increase of 5.4% from the current FY24 budget. She said this is due to increases in OEM costs, salary increases, and city hall appropriations. She said the proposed budget includes the maximum millage of 22.06 operating mills and includes 4mills of debt service millage. She stated the total is 129.3mills for FY2025 total for the city. Mrs. Vermeland said the current operating millage is 118.3. Council Member Obeng asked for clarification for the 14.7% stormwater increase. Mrs. Vermeland stated the current resident rate is \$9.01 and with the 14.7 % rate increase it will be \$10.33.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 1]	Next: 6/20/2024 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member	
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member	
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Obeng, Jayroe, Morris	
NAYS:	Carl	
ABSENT:	Ethridge	

8. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

- A. Motion to approve a bid in the amount of \$85,000 for the new fence at the Electric & Public Works Municipal Complex site and to award the contract to Ground Zero Construction, LLC.**

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

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, Carl, Jayroe
ABSENT:	Ethridge

9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier gave an update on the dilapidated houses in the West End project. He said 14 structures were demolished for \$150,000. He said 7 structures had asbestos. He said the WRCOG is closing this CDBG grant as completed. The water main upgrade project on the West End is another CDBG project that was completed this month. He said the cost was slightly over \$1M. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked for a status on short term rental licenses. Mr. Whittier stated we have not received any applications and notices will be sent out within a 30-day deadline.

10. MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of March 14, 21 and April 18, 2024 Council Meetings.

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, Carl, Jayroe
ABSENT:	Ethridge

11. OLD BUSINESS

None

12. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements stated a demolition project on King Street that has been going on for months and our ordinance states it can take up to 18 months to complete. He requested an amendment be made to the ordinance because it is not fair to neighbors and that timeframe is excessive. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested a further investigation be done at the laydown yard on Kaminski Street.

Council Member Obeng requested the city have a phone app so residents can easily find information and events going on in the city.

Mayor Jayroe reminded council members that next Thursday, May 23 from 12pm-2pm is the annual safety luncheon for employees and on Saturday, May 25 is Keep Georgetown Beautiful cleanup at Morgan Park.

Council Member Obeng reminded everyone May is Mental Health month.

13. 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 April Report**
- E. Municipal Court Monthly Report**
- F. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report**
- G. Police Department Monthly Report**
- H. Public Works Monthly Report**
- I. RiskManagement Monthly Report**
- J. Water Utilities Monthly Report**
- K. Finance and IT Department Monthly Report**

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

None

15. 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.**

Mayor Jayroe announced there will not be an Executive Session because there are no applications for the City Boards/Commissions to discuss.

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

- C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

16. APPOINTMENT

None

17. ADJOURNMENT

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.

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

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved:06/20/24