



Georgetown City Council

2222 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, April 18, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Courtroom

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 Erin Ethridge
Council Member Jimmy Morris
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

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. Ryan Call, Building Inspector
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
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

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 Pro Tempore Clements introduced Chaplain Rick Yant rendered the invocation and Captain Jerry Rovner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Alex B. Mr. B stated in the monthly reports the Main Street program has a list of meetings attended but did not see any school district attendance. He said the Arts Commission stated the transformers will be designed by students at a private school that is mostly white. He said approximately 1,000 students at Georgetown Middle and High Schools will not be included in this program. Mr. B stated concerns with the Arts Committee meeting he attended and the new proposed development for condos that may not be affordable by everyone.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

None

6. PRESENTATION**A. Presentation of the FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by Mauldin & Jenkins, CPA's and Advisors.**

Mrs. Vermeland introduced Mr. David Irwin from Mauldin & Jenkins, CPA's and Advisors to present the FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Mr. Irwin introduced his firm since this is the first year they have audited the city. He stated there are 2 compliance audit forms He stated the city had a clean opinion on all forms of the audit. He said the Finance department did an outstanding job and thanked them for their hard work. Mr. Irwin stated the city requires completion of the ACFR (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report). He said the ACFR goes above and beyond the standard requirements. He congratulated the city for receiving the certificate of achievement for the Award for Excellence in Government Finance for the 30th consecutive year. he stated very few municipalities have done that. Mr. Irwin reviewed the report that was distributed to Council. He said revenues were \$38.9M which is an increase of approximately \$6.4M from last fiscal year. He said expenses were approximately \$32M which was an increase of \$600,000 from the previous year. Mr. Irwin stated the city has a good balance sheet and is in good shape financially. He said the main priority is the General Fund and he reviewed the last 5 years of that fund. He stated from FY18 to FY22 the General Fund balance increased from \$8M to \$13M. Mr. Irwin stressed it is important to have a strong General Fund balance due to inconsistent economic times and being a coastal community. He reviewed Enterprise Funds and stressed how important it was for the city to raise rates. He stated the stormwater utility went from an operating loss of \$286,000 in the previous year to an operating income of \$50,000. He said both the Electric and Wastewater utilities increased approximately \$465,000. He said they did not find any corrections that need to be made by staff. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked for confirmation on building net reserves from our utilities. Mr. Irwin confirmed the city is building net reserves from the utilities. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested a detail on the deposition of the Enterprise Fund and Utilities be sent to Council.

7. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve first reading of an Ordinance Annexing 5.2 Acres of Land into the Corporate Limits of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe
NAYS:	Tamika Williams Obeng

B. Motion to approve first reading of an Ordinance Rezoning Approximately 19.86 Acres, Located on River Walk Dr, From R1 and General Commercial (GC) to Master Planned Residential (MP-R).

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Angner. Council Member Obeng asked for confirmation on the price point of each unit. Mr. Gaytan said at the Planning Commission meeting, the price point proposed by the developer is \$350,000-\$450,000 per unit. Council Member Obeng stated concern for attainable housing and requested the developer consider 1/3 of the units or 40 units being built would be priced around \$150,000 for the working-class residents in the city.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe
NAYS:	Tamika Williams Obeng

8. FINANCE

A. Motion to approve a resolution for business license hearings and appeals process under business license ordinance in Ch. 13, Art.II, sections 13-30 and 13-31 of the City Code.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve payment up to \$145,652.31 for Tyler Tech/New World for ERP System.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

9. ENGINEERING

A. Motion to approve amendment in the amount of \$120,000 with Tych and Walker Architects for the renovations of the new Municipal Complex Building. The work includes architectural and engineering services for the development of final City-approved construction documents and construction administration services.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve acquisition of sewer utility easement located at Church Street, TMS # 05-0056-001-05-00 (a planned development know as Winyah Fishing Village).

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

10. PUBLIC WORKS

A. Motion to approve a Proclamation proclaiming May 19-25, 2024 as National Public Works Week in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier gave an update on the Opioid Action Plan Settlement. He said the city will be receiving funds, but a plan has to be put submitted to receive the funds. He said the city teamed up with the Georgetown County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission to create a plan. He said the plan is due at the end of the month and will be submitted by then. He confirmed the Electric department has officially moved into their new building.

12. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of January 18, January 25, February 15, and February 22, 2024.

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Ethridge.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
SECONDER:	Erin Ethridge, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

13. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Obeng reminded everyone that tomorrow, April 19 is the last day to respond to the Santee Cooper reimbursement settlement. She thanked the churches and other organizations that provided assistance to residents regarding this matter. Mayor Jayroe confirmed any funds that are left in the account will go the city's round up account to assist residents with their utility bills.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Morris reminded everyone that Palmetto Giving Day is on May 7th and requested Council to bring attention to not-for-profit organizations.

15. 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. Municipal Court Monthly Report**
- F. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report**
- G. Police Department Monthly Report**
- H. Public Works Monthly Report**
- I. Risk Management Monthly Report**
- J. Water Utilities Monthly Report**
- K. Finance and IT Department Monthly Report**

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

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Cary Farrow. Ms. Farrow stated her concerns with the parking issues in the historic district. She requested a citizen task force be formed to compile a list of viable options to bring forward for Council's consideration. She stated the city has many similarities with Beaufort, South Carolina and they have successfully implemented a parking program.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Zach Marshall. Mr. Marshall stated he is the Executive Director of the Georgetown YMCA. He said there is an upcoming Kids Day coming up this weekend. He said there is a Mud Day coming up that is a lot of fun for the kids. Mr. Marshall stated they have received funding to provide swimming lessons for children and adults. He stated he also has 40 scholarships to give out to children that would like to play flag football this summer.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)(2) to discuss appointments/reappointments to the City Boards/Commissions; to receive quarterly legal update from the city attorney on pending cases and cases adjudicated since last update; and to discuss proposed contractual arrangements regarding the new city hall.**

Council Member Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bruce Carl, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

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

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:05pm.

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

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

18. APPOINTMENT

A. Motion to reappoint Mr. Stephen Truluck to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Mr. Paul Smith, Mr. Tim Chatman, and Ms. Destiny Butler to the Keep Georgetown Beautiful Board.

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

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