



Georgetown City Council

2222 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

Regular Meeting ~ Minutes ~

Thursday, January 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
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mr. Peter Gaytan, Planning & Community Development
Ms. Kara Hamilton, Human Resources Manager
Mr. Derek Harrelson, Code Enforcement Officer
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

Council Member Carl introduced Pastor Justin Flowers to render the invocation and Commanding Officer Briar Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. NOMINATIONS AND VOTE FOR MAYOR PRO TEMPORE TO SERVE A TWO YEAR PERIOD

A. Motion to open nominations for Mayor Pro Tempore.

Council Member Angner moved, seconded by Council Member 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

B. Motion to appoint Council Member Clements as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Council Member Angner moved to nominate Council Member Clements as Mayor Pro Tempore, 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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

C. Motion to close nominations for Mayor Pro Tempore.

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe recognized Alex. Alex stated on agenda page 44 under the Main Street program report it mentions subcommittees. He said this confirms there are subcommittees and they are having meetings without a quorum. He said he attended two meetings and they discussed an application to be a designated cultural district. Alex stated he did not understand why there isn't any support for the MLK parade. Council Member Angner stated for the record "His name was Alex, what was his last name?" Mayor Jayroe stated the Public Comment sheet states Alex B.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Sheldon Butts. Mr. Butts stated many people will benefit with the city provided Wi-fi but he is concerned about it being an open network. He requested that the city considers network security to protect individuals.

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

None

7. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Article VI of Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown “Dwellings Unfit For Human Habitation” at Sections 5-103, 5-104, and 5-110.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/15/2024 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member	
SECONDER:	Jim Clements, Mayor Pro Tempore	
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe	

B. Motion to Reconsider City Council’s award of contract in the amount of \$79,500.00 for the CDBG #4-CE-20-007 houses with asbestos grant project to Charles Demolition and Construction LLC with an added requirement of a performance bond.

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

C. [contingent on approval of agenda item 7.B) 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.

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

8. FINANCE

A. Motion to approve second 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 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, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

B. Motion to approve a contract in the amount \$ 157,107.00 for the Wi-Fi in Public Parks Project # 2002 and award contract to HTC, Inc.

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

C. Motion to approve FY2024-25 Budget Calendar

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

9. POLICE

A. Motion to approve second 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.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [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 by Resolution a Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement with the Myrtle Beach Police Department and to authorize the Chief of Police to execute it.

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

C. Motion to approve by Resolution a Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office and to authorize the Chief of Police to execute it.

Council Member Morris moved, seconded by Council Member Carl.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

D. Motion to approve by Resolution a Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement with the Horry County Police Department and to authorize the Chief of Police to execute it.

Council Member Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Motion to Approve payment in the amount of \$631,886.00 to SCMIRF Semi Annual billing for liability insurance.

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

11. PUBLIC WORKS

A. Motion to approve the purchase of park equipment from Carolina Parks & Play for Willowbank and East Bay Park in the amount of \$89,125.10.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

12. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve a resolution to adopt the City of Georgetown's strategic priority goals for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

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, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe

13. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated on December 17th, the city received over 12 inches of rain which resulted in significant flooding and property damage. He said the monetary thresholds for the county were not met for FEMA to assist. He stated the Small Business Association may be able to offer low interest loans to residents and businesses for storm damage. Mr. Whittier said two EDA projects started this month and include phase 1 of the stormwater project and the sedimentation project for the wastewater plant. He said the new city hall project manager will start inspections soon. He reported the electric upgrade project will begin at Front and Orange Streets next month.

14. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Obeng stated she is concerned with representation on the Capital Sales Tax Project Commission for the county. She said there is not any representation from the Andrews community and there is not any minority representation on the commission. She requested the city review the application process because it is way more detailed than the county. She said the county's application process is more streamlined than the city's process.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements stated a resident bought 2 lots and the city fee to subdivide them for her was only \$20. He stated it took the city more than an hour to do the work. He requested the fees are reviewed and to make any necessary adjustments when preparing the next budget.

Council Member Angner stated a resident asked him about an expense report that was paid for to a former Council Member for a Municipal Association meeting in Greenville, South Carolina but he did not attend. He said the resident stated to him that the Council Member did not feel obligated to reimburse the city for the check he cashed because he could not attend the meeting. Council Member Angner asked what the policy is for a council member or an employee to reimburse the city for a meeting or training that they cannot attend. Mayor Jayroe said she would discuss this with the City Administrator.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None

16. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Jayroe announced the department monthly reports are included in the agenda for Council's review.

- 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**

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

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Ed Benton. Mr. Benton stated he grew up in Maryville and he is in full support of the city using the old fire station 2 as a substation. He said the demand is there with the growth in that area and it makes economic sense with the uprising costs of equipment.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Sheldon Butts. Mr. Butts requested for Mayor and Council to have empathy for the city's homeless. He said the temperatures are below freezing and the county and city need to provide shelters for the homeless to stay warm in the winter and to stay cool in the summer.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice on procedural and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.**

Council Member Obeng moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Clements.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

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 adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.**

Council Member Morris moved, seconded Council Member Angner.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:50pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jimmy Morris, Council Member
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.**

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

Council Member Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

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