



**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2018 – 4:00 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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 Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley
Council Member Sheldon A. Butts
Council Member Tupelo Humes
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Carey F. Smith, Interim City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Mrs. Suzanne Anderson, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Will Cook, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

MEDIA

Georgetown Times - Mr. David Purtell
GAB News - Mr. Scott Harper

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. called the Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council to order at 4:00 pm 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. DISCUSS LINE CREW STAFFING IN ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Carey Smith stated during the retreat the issue of hiring qualified, certified linemen in the Electric Department, as well as qualified applicants in the Police and Fire Departments, was discussed. Council agreed on additional resources in the budget for those groups of employees.

Mr. Alan Loveless, the Electric Utility Director, updated Council on the line crew staffing in the Electric Department. This situation has persisted for several years and there is a significant lack of experience on the line crew. In previous discussions, the strategy was to try and recruit experienced A Class line technicians for the vacancies but that was not successful due to the salary being offered. With Council's direction, staff has attempted to rectify this. Offers were increased to experienced, qualified line technicians and we also adjusted the salaries of existing employees who have worked for the City for a number of years. The offers were not successful; applicants still want \$8 to \$10 an hour more. Staff is now rethinking the strategy and plan to concentrate on hiring younger locals, train them while building relationships and loyalty. He pointed out two significant implications: we will still have to pay them to keep them and it takes about four years before they become experienced enough to work on energized lines by themselves. While these employees are being trained, we will continue to be dependent on contractor crews. This will be discussed further at the upcoming retreat. Discussions followed and Council expressed their concerns hiring younger applicants who will require years of training while the pressing issue is the need for experienced linemen now. Mr. Smith recommended using contractors to bridge the gap, with the idea of having a longer term solution.

4. DISCUSS CITY OF GEORGETOWN SANITATION ORDINANCE

Mr. Tim Chatman was asked to review the Sanitation Ordinance and address proposed changes to allow right-of-ways to remain free of bulk and yard debris. Council was provided a handout of the ordinance and proposed pick-up schedule. He said the ordinance is sound when addressing how services are performed. Comparing the City's ordinance with other municipalities our size, we provide more services than most, twice a week garbage pickup is unheard of in most cities our size, and we pick up most everything off the side of the right-of-way. One area we are lacking in is enforcement of the ordinance. Previously there was a Litter Control Officer; however, that position was removed. We have a Code Enforcer and the ordinance states that position or Administrator can appoint subordinate staff to act in that role. Mr. Chatman suggested appointing two Public Works staff and provide them with training to work as litter control. The Litter Control Officer would work with The Code Enforcement Officer and concentrate on right-of-ways, not property issues. Another area needing attention is the pick-up schedule. This schedule was designed when the City had the two-man trucks. The GPS units did not operate as intended because of the overhead trees and limbs and cloudy days. Currently there is a three-man crew which allows more efficiency for debris removal. Mr. Chatman referred to the current operating pick-up schedule and said this could be included in the utility billing. There has been a problem with residents placing their goods out after their pick-up date. Crews will return to pick-up the unsightly debris which puts

the schedule behind. A third area of concern is: the ordinance states the City's cost for this shall be assessed against the applicable utility bill. Previously a fee was imposed and collected by the Finance Department. Staff recommends implementing this fee again. Hopefully this will deter folks from placing goods out on non-scheduled days. The fee would include the tipping fee at the landfill and labor cost. Discussions followed. Before any fees are imposed, all residents must be informed of their pick-up schedule. It was noted contractors from outside the city limits bring their goods and dump them in the City. Property owners will be contacted before they are charged. Enforcement would change responsibilities of current staff; it would not include a new position. Mayor Barber stated a Litter Control Officer should be trained in-house through Building and Planning and Municipal Court. They could be directed on writing citations. He directed Mr. Smith, Mr. Chatman, Building and Planning, Finance and Court to coordinate efforts. Citizens must be educated before any fine is imposed.

5. DISCUSS BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS IN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN

Mr. Carey Smith presented information on ordinances adopted by other municipalities. Small city options include: an ordinance that bans certain types of plastic, impose a fee (or tax) on each bag handed out, conduct a public educational campaign or decide to not actively address plastic pollution. Areas along the coast that have plastic bans in place include Beaufort, Beaufort County, Bluffton, Charleston, Folly Beach, Hilton Head, Isle of Palms, Mount Pleasant, Port Royal, Sullivan's Island and Surfside Beach. Edisto Beach, Richland County and James Island are working on a plastic ban. After examining several small city ordinances, Mr. Smith highlighted staff's findings on what Council could expect to enact if so inclined. Topics included definitions, regulations, exemptions, enforcement & penalties and effective dates. Mr. Smith asked City Council for direction on how to proceed. Mayor Barber noted there is an upcoming 5:30 pm Council Meeting and suggested each member contact Mr. Smith and express his/her views. Council Member Joseph stated this is undeniably the right thing to do. He said the business community is not against this. There are currently 16 businesses on Front Street that do not use plastic. A petition has been signed by businesses throughout the Historic District and the corridors in the City that support the ban. Council Member Butts indicated education could encourage businesses to move away from plastics without an ordinance.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council.

Mayor Barber moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendon M. Barber Sr., Mayor
SECONDER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Barber Sr., Bradley, Butts, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls

The Special Meeting/Workshop adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 02/21/19