SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 30, 2014 – 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr.
Council Member Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Rudolph A. Bradley
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Edward S. Kimbrough, Jr.
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls
Mayor Pro Tempore Peggy P. Wayne

ALSO PRESENT
Mr. Chris Carter, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Finance Director
Chief Paul Gardner, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Jonathan Heald, Public Services Director
Mr. Alan Loveless, Electric Utility Manager
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Mr. Tee Miller, Assistant to the City Administrator for Economic Development
Chief Joey Tanner, Georgetown Fire Department

MEDIA
Georgetown Times - Ms. Taylor Griffith

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr. 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 so as to not interrupt the meeting.

3. FIRE

A. InnovaPad – Fire Department Cost Recovery

Chief Joey Tanner introduced Mr. Trent Harper from InnovaPad, a group from Greenville that provides a cost recovery service available for fire departments that respond to vehicle accidents, hazardous materials, etc. Mr. Harper explained iPads

are used to collect data and send claims to the at- fault driver's insurance company. The insurance company sends the funds to InnovaPad and in turn they pay the fire departments. InnovaPad keeps 25 percent of the funds the fire department collects. Every insurance company has a cost recovery fee built in and if the fire department does not file a claim the company keeps the money. As Fire Chief at Cherokee Springs Fire Department, Chief Harper said the department has been using InnovaPad since 2012. His department responds to an average 100 wrecks a year, collecting $30,000 annually from the insurance companies. Ninety percent of the at-fault drivers did not live in the fire district and 48 percent did not live in South Carolina. It was noted last year the Georgetown Fire Department ran 319 automobile accidents calls which could have led to a cost recovery of up to $159,500. Fire recovery is recoupment of funds expended to respond to these accidents. The law states a governing body can approve an ordinance to implement cost recovery. Mayor Scoville spoke up and said he was sold and asked Chief Tanner to pursue this further. Several Council Members agreed.

B. ISO - Evaluation results and scoring

Chief Tanner presented an overview of the ISO survey. Departments are rated on communications, the fire department, water supply and community risk reduction. There are 105.50 available points, GFD scored 82.47 points. After reviewing the scores Chief Tanner listed improvements needed in the categories. He noted personnel is declining; the water supply system needs to improve in certain areas, some flows are not adequate. Staff is working to identify the areas and determine how the issues can be addressed. The Class 2 rating will become effective January 1, 2015. Chief Tanner has not received notification of the effect this will have on the City and our citizens. Once he receives notification he will inform Council.

4. POLICE

A. Motion to approve purchase and payment of a new access control system for the Georgetown Police Department from WTS In the amount of $65,748.67.

Mayor Pro Tempore Wayne moved, seconded by Council Member Bradley. Chief Paul Gardner stated the access control system is no longer programmable and is a security issue. Twelve vendors attended a tour of the building and four submitted proposals. He is requesting Council approve the bid from WTS out of Myrtle Beach in the amount of $65,748.67. NextGen's proposal was slightly lower but did not provide all the requested information. The Capital Improvements Program has $75,000 budgeted to cover this cost. Chief Gardner thanked Major Johnnie Deas for her efforts on handling this proposal and process.

Mayor Scoville called for the question.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Peggy P. Wayne, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Council Member
AYES:	Scoville Jr., Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Kimbrough, Smalls, Wayne

5. UPDATE ON GEORGETOWN COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

Mr. Rodney Ward, Post Commander of the American Legion Post in Georgetown and a Vietnam veteran and Mr. Bubba Ferdon, a long time resident and previous business owner in Georgetown and a Korean combat veteran addressed Council concerning the Veterans Memorial Wall. Mr. Ward informed Council the memorial will be inscribed with the names of all identified Georgetown County military veterans who died during any of our Country's wars. Names of past and present members of the American Legion Post and the VFW post will be on the wall. This is a great challenge and they are requesting monetary donations to help build the wall. Ground breaking took place Memorial Day weekend and the foundation along with ten flag poles are in place. The next phase will not take place until they have funds available. Mr. Ferdon reported Georgetown Memorial Hospital was built in the late 1940s and funding came from the American Legion veterans from WW I and WW II. After being approached, Georgetown Hospital has given $50,000 and a commitment for $25,000 matching funds. This is a $300,000 project and currently $36,000 has been spent. This memorial wall is for the entire County and will have over 2,000 names. A memorial walkway of bricks will be laid around the base of the wall. A brick can be purchased in honor or memory of someone, they do not have to be a veteran, and the name will be inscribed on the brick. Mr. Ward noted the Veterans Day Parade will be Tuesday, November 11th. Mayor Scoville said this will be discussed at a later meeting.

6. ADMINISTRATION

A. Review of updated website.

Mr. Tee Miller and Mr. Matt Millwood have been working on a project to update the City's website. A situation analysis indicates the current site is not very user friendly and intuitive, has missing information, does not serve as a one-stop portal for the community, does not market the City, does not provide mobile version, the visual appearance has become stale and citizens need better electronic communications. Citizens need to learn about City services, City codes, ordinances, guidelines, policies, meetings, agendas, garbage, recycling, paying bills, procurement, bids, taxes, service requests and reporting problems. In today's world, the internet is the first source of information for decisions about where to visit, where to relocate or where to start a business. The final goal is to improve the City's online image for current residents and businesses and potential new residents and businesses, as well as visitors; improve communications to citizens and opportunities for engagement; improve online customer service and leverage technology to efficiently provide services for the growing internet savvy residents which will allow us to provide more personal service to the residents who do not use the internet. A PowerPoint presentation illustrated the different websites Mr. Miller and Mr. Millwood visited while determining what would work best for the City of Georgetown. New features include facebook feeds, rotating pictures, service requests, commercial property listings, email subscriptions, multiple ways to obtain the same information, more marketing focus to better sell the City to visitors, investors and residents, new website that is compatible with mobile devices and

website analytics. The existing firm is hosting the website. One very important factor will be to keep the information current.

B. Discuss 700 Block of Front Street rebuilding effort.

Mr. Carter provided Council a copy of correspondence from Mr. Maceo Nance, Director of the Department of Commerce concerning the City of Georgetown 700 block rebuild. Included was a summary document that defines the responsibilities outlined during the October 20th meeting when he met with the City and property owners to discuss the future of Front Street. The Department of Commerce will make available up to $1 million in Community Development Block Grant funds to establish a common foundation that would help eliminate the chances of flooding. CDBG grants can only be made to units of local government. For the City to obtain this funding, all property owners must first commit to participate and create new jobs, 51% of which must be low and moderate income individuals. With the commitments in hand, the City will submit a CDBG application to the Department of Commerce requesting funding for the common foundation. The grant amount will be based on the total number of jobs committed, up to a public benefit standard of $10,000/new job to be created. If the jobs are not created or are not filled by at least 51% low and moderate income individuals, the project will not be considered eligible under HUD guidelines and funds must be repaid.

Mr. Carter stated the first order of business will be to secure job commitments from property owners to hire at least 51% of their workforce as low and moderate income individuals. The City must request permission from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to utilize the balance of their $12,000 disaster relief grant to conduct soil borings on the site of the proposed common foundation, as well as work with Waccamaw Regional Council of Government to secure easements from the property owners to do the testing and development of the common foundation. Mr. Brian Tucker, Georgetown County Economic Development Director, will be the point of contact between the property owners and the City and Mr. John Rogers will represent the property owners.

Council Member Bradley stated he has a problem with the City seeking a grant to help rebuild private property. Council Member Smalls agreed with Mr. Bradley. He reiterated this is private property. Mayor Scoville stated because of the flood zone regulations that apply, the estimated return on investments when complying with construction cost that will be added, is very difficult to justify. The CDBG is federal money and it has to come through the City, the property owners cannot receive it directly. These funds will create hopefully 100 brand new jobs in the City and increase the tax base. Council Member Jayroe said the Governor and Lieutenant Governor sent the Department of Commerce to give us assistance. The property owners have committed to build back. She said if we don't do something, nothing will happen and she cannot understand why we would turn down something that has been offered to us for our citizens and job creations in the City of Georgetown. Council Member Barber expressed concern with guaranteeing 100 jobs in the 700 block when there are other vacant storefronts along Front Street. Also, he said for years he has been asking this administration along with staff to approach the

government for community development projects to help with revitalization of neighborhoods to help restore homes for people who can't afford to. He questioned why that is taking so long when this CDBG grant has appeared all of a sudden. Mayor Scoville said the City has received several Community Development Block Grants. This CDBG is a grant for job creation. Council Member Bradley noted when the City decided to buy the old Eagle Electric property he agreed to approve the purchase so jobs could be created. He questioned why we would help a few people when we had an opportunity to help far more and nothing happened. This is private property and he does not believe the government should be involved with financing rebuilding private entities. Council Member Kimbrough stated he understands Council Members Barber and Bradley but added the center of our town is gone and we are missing potential taxes. He thinks the least Council can do is support the property owners who in the end will develop that void and hopefully start paying taxes and generate jobs. The pressure is on the owners to secure the jobs…not the City. Mayor Scoville suggested that Mr. Nance meet with Council and explain the grant process.

C. Discuss planning retreat for 2015.

Mr. Carter asked City Council to contact him with suggestions they have for the planning retreat in January including the location and dates.

D. Review proposals to perform Phase 2 Environmental Assessments of Goat Island.

As a result of previous discussions concerning the possible transfer/donation of Goat Island by the property owner the City solicited quotations for Phase 2 Environmental Assessment. Mr. Jonathan Heald stated a lumber mill was previously located on Goat Island which justifies a more in-depth sampling and surveying of the property. Quotes were solicited from four firms. Two firms responded with a complete Phase 2 assessment ranging from $25,000 to $40,000; one responded with a more limited assessment for $8,230. Mr. Heald's opinion is the limited survey is the best option for the City. Discussions followed. Mayor Scoville asked for a consensus. Mayor Scoville and Council Members Jayroe and Kimbrough were in favor of the limited Phase 2. Mayor Pro Tempore Wayne and Council Members Bradley and Smalls were in favor of the more extensive Phase 2. Council Member Barber was undecided. Council Member Bradley was excused from the meeting at 5:30 PM.

E. Other Briefings

Ms. Suzanne Abed-El-Latif, HR Manager, addressed City Council concerning the high rate of employee turnover. In the last six months there have been 14 terminations, 12 were voluntary and 7 of those were new job opportunities. Turnover is costly. The City trains and certifies employees, better offers come along and they leave. Department heads have been meeting to determine how to prevent this trend; what needs to be done to keep our employees. She said the class and compensation study approved last year was a positive step in the process; however, she is having a problem attracting qualified employees. As a starting point, it was decided to

conduct an anonymous survey among City employees. Next week employees will receive the survey and results will be shared with Council at the retreat.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council and enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

Mayor Pro Tempore Wayne moved, seconded by Council Member Smalls. Mayor Scoville called for the question.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Peggy P. Wayne, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member
AYES:	Scoville Jr., Barber Sr., Jayroe, Kimbrough, Smalls, Wayne
EXCUSED:	Rudolph A. Bradley

The Special Meeting/Workshop was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reopen the Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council.

Mayor Scoville moved, seconded by Council Member Smalls. Mayor Scoville called for the question.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jack M. Scoville Jr., Mayor
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Council Member
AYES:	Scoville Jr., Barber Sr., Jayroe, Kimbrough, Smalls, Wayne
EXCUSED:	Rudolph A. Bradley

Executive Session was adjourned and the Special Meeting/Workshop was reopened at 5:45 PM.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Kimbrough informed Council a business owner in Georgetown has volunteered to take over the maintenance of the East Bay Park boat landing. He is a boat retailer and has a vested interest in keeping the area well maintained. When asked about liability issues, Ms. Elise Crosby stated an agreement could be crafted that would release the City…nothing complicated. Mr. Kimbrough indicated he would speak with Chris Carter.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting/Workshop was adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 11/20/14