



**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 25, 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 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

MEMBER ABSENT

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Carey F. Smith, Interim City Administrator
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Mrs. Suzanne Anderson, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Will Cook, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

ABSENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department

MEDIA

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

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley 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.

Mr. Carey Smith read the following statement from Mayor Barber. "Dear Friends and Citizens of Georgetown, Recently, I had an unforeseen allergic reaction to medication which required hospitalization. After excellent treatment and care, along with the will and grace of God, I am on the mend. My wife, Pamela, and I would like to personally thank each and every one of you who prayed, sent well wishes and expressed sincere concerns. Our hearts are humbled and deeply touched. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Sincerely, Brendon M. Barber, Sr., Mayor, Georgetown, SC."

3. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRESENTATION

Ms. Patty Jackson, Chair for the SC Coastal Region Task Force on Human Trafficking, addressed City Council on this world wide problem that is impacting the City of Georgetown. Ms. Jackson reported human trafficking global data estimates 20-40 million children and adults are sold as slaves for sex or labor purposes annually. This is happening in the coastal region of South Carolina. Myrtle Beach and Charleston are two of the highest designated human trafficking locations. Ms. Jackson stated bike week in Myrtle Beach is the largest human trafficking event in the country. The City of Georgetown is a prime location for this to take place. At highest risk are run-aways and foster children who may not have a safe place to sleep or food to eat. Prime targets are children 12-14 years old although victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality. Sex traffic victims can be found in massage parlors, brothels, strip clubs, major sporting events, truck stops, street prostitution and escort services. Some sex slaves are rented to sex buyers 10-45 times in one day. Yearly, slave sellers exploit 1 million children in commercial sex trade and can make as much as \$250,000 per victim per year. Symptoms and signals of human trafficking were listed. Ms. Jackson wants every innocent child and adult existing in an unimaginable horror to know there is a way out. If they can get to a cell phone and text 233733, it does not show on that phone, it goes straight to homeland security. The underground sex trafficking economy only exists because of demand. The root cause of human traffickers is sex buyers. The entire criminal enterprise would collapse overnight if sex buyers stopped the sole source of revenue. No human being is for sale. South Carolina needs stronger laws that deter sex buyers and degrade the underground sex economy. It is easier to transport human beings than drugs. Ms. Jackson said the State Attorney General has started a statewide task force to combat human trafficking. There is a task force on the coastal region whose primary function is to make the community aware. In order to know what to look for, police officers in the City need to have special training on human trafficking. Questions from City Council followed. Council Member Joseph requested staff look into the training available for law enforcement and school resource officers. Posters and folders were provided to Council.

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSISTANCE TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Carey Smith stated while attending the 2017 annual meeting of the South

Carolina Community Economic Developer's Association, Dr. Gloria Bromell Tinubu learned of the SC Community Planning Assistance Team (SC CPAT) Program sponsored by the SC Chapter of the American Planning Association. SC CPAT makes available a multidisciplinary team of planning professionals from across South Carolina who provide pro bono assistance to communities with limited access to planning resources and expertise. Dr. Tinubu submitted the "West End Neighborhood Revitalization Project: Addressing Dilapidated and Deteriorated Structures" proposal for assistance on February 9, 2018 and was notified in March 2018 that the project had been selected for assistance. The four areas of focus were increasing access to affordable housing, evaluating the R-5 zoning designation, maximizing property maintenance code enforcement efforts, and addressing heir's property. The nine member CPAT team visited Georgetown July 18-20, 2018. They took a tour of the West End Neighborhood and met with the West End Redevelopment Sub-Committee, City staff, landlords, Center for Heir's Property, affordable housing organizations, funders, and residents of the West End as well as interested residents from the City at large. Three members of the CPAT team in attendance are, Dr. Jeff Parkey, Planning Director for Anderson County, Mr. John Taylor, Jr., Planning Director for the Town of Kiawah Island and Mr. Michael Williamson, Community Development Project Manager, for the City of Greenville, and will present the final recommendations. Dr. Parkey referenced the Executive Summary provided to Council by Mr. Smith and gave some background of the CPAT team. Mr. Taylor provided an overview of the time spent in Georgetown. Workshop sessions were held and a list of recommendations was provided. Mr. Williamson highlighted two main recommendations. First, Accountability of Standards. A few small recommendations for changes to the zoning code were made. Once Council evaluates and determines how to handle the changes, they should be easily accessible to the public and enforced. Secondly, continuing the efforts of Affordable Housing development. The SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority is a funding source that provides opportunities annually for financing affordable housing. Consider various types of organizations for neighborhood development and redevelopment such as a Community Development Corporation; Redevelopment Authority; and Community Housing Development Organizations. When asked about R-5 zoning recommendations, Mr. Williamson stated the team recommended looking at allowing manufactured housing that meets HUD's wind standards but not necessarily newly titled and creating design guidelines to go along with that. During the tour, residents expressed their concern with how close together structures are. They feel it is unsafe. Council Member Butts asked, for the record, that we take the Redevelopment Plan from 2011 that was never implemented, along with the CPAT Team recommendations, and go forth. Mr. Smith indicated once a Planner has been hired, we will be able to move ahead with implementation of Council decisions.

5. DISCUSS INCLUDING COLOR PALETTE FOR THE MAIN OVERLAY AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Mr. Rick Martin stated he has received requests from individuals seeking clarification on the color palette for the Historic District and the Overlay District. He

asked Council if they desire staff to address this. In 2011 there was a color chart that was used in the main Overlay District; however, it was removed when the zoning was updated. There is a Community Appearance Board that hears requests from businesses that may want to relocate in the City but regulations prohibit their plans. Discussions followed. The consensus was this is not something Council should take on. It should start with the Architectural Review Board and brought back to City Council with their recommendation. Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley requested the Board look at the history of the color palettes in the country.

6. DISCUSS PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS IN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC

Ms. Erin Pate of the Coastal Conservation League addressed City Council on plastic pollution in our community. She is representing "Plastic Free Georgetown" a grass roots coalition of citizens in the City and County that are concerned. The presentation addressed the impact of plastic pollution on people, wildlife and our environment. Many businesses in Georgetown are, or are working toward becoming plastic free. Information was shared on what other coastal cities are doing in terms of plastic pollution. Ms. Goffinet McLaren of the Chirping Bird Society and a five year resident of Pawleys Island, addressed Council and thanked them for considering a plastic bag and plastic straw ban in Georgetown. She explained the devastating consequences they have on the environment. Plastic is a mass pollutant; it is a known carcinogen and is everywhere including our bodies. She stated the only people who benefit from plastic bags and straws are the companies that produce them. Since much of the plastic ends up in the ocean, it is predicted by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish by weight in our oceans. Plastic bags can be devastating to marine and wildlife. An ocean free of plastic is essential to our economy and local jobs. Ms. Kelly Thorvalson, Conservation Programs Manager at the South Carolina Aquarium, presented a PowerPoint giving facts about plastic. She stated pieces of plastic are often ingested by marine life and end up in the food chain. There has been an increase in the number of sea turtles consuming plastic. Only 10 percent of plastic produced in the United States is recycled. Ms. Lisa Haas, owner of Green Bean Consignment Boutique on Front Street, told Council she switched from using recycled plastic bags to paper bags last year. This has not affected her business and customers are more conscious when they see the paper bag. She does not think it is a costly endeavor for businesses to absorb. Ms. Pate stated they have met with a number of groups and received support in protecting our community and families. She provided a list of local businesses taking ownership of going plastic free along with a list of communities that are plastic free. She requested Council consider an ordinance banning single use plastic bags. Some communities ask law enforcement to enforce the ordinance. Discussions continued. Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley said he would not be surprised if there are some legal challenges if Georgetown enacts an ordinance. Ms. Thorvalson said she is not aware of any legal challenges.

Mr. Smith asked Council to let him know if they would like to schedule a workshop to discuss this further. Council directed him to draft some options for their

consideration to be presented at a future meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Council Member Butts moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sheldon A. Butts, Council Member
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
AYES:	Bradley, Butts, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls
ABSENT:	Barber Sr.

The Special Meeting/Workshop adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 01/17/19