

**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 – 5:00 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
2222 HIGHMARKET STREET
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA
AND LIVESTREAM:**



<https://www.facebook.com/cityofgtown/>

**Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the
South Carolina Code of Laws as amended.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES**
- 3. PRESENTATION**
 - A. Equalized Monthly Utility Payment (Budget Billing) Program.**

Attachments:

 - 1 2023.09.28 Workshop Budget Billing
 - B. Juneteenth Parade Presentation**

Attachments:

 - 1 Juneteenth Parade Briefing Document
- 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - A. Motion to adjourn Special Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) discuss employment for the City Administrator position.**
 - B. Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Special Meeting.**
 - C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
 - D. City Council may take action on items discussed in Executive Session.**
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**
 - A. Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of City Council.**



120 North Fraser Street • Georgetown, SC 29440 • (843) 545-4000

INFORMATION ITEM

DOC ID: 3931

Council Meeting Date: 28 September 2023
Department: Administration
Issue Under Consideration: Equalized Monthly Utility Payment (Budget Billing) Program.

MAYOR
CAROL JAYROE

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SANDRA E. YUDICE, Ph.D.

CITY CLERK
STEPHANIE BUCCIONE



COUNCIL MEMBERS
JIM CLEMENTS
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

JONATHAN ANGNER
HOBSON H. MILTON
JIMMY MORRIS
CLARENCE SMALLS
TAMIKA WILLIAMS-OBENG

Executive Offices
(843) 545-4001

To: Mayor Carol Jayroe and Members of Council

From: Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Sandra E. Yúdice, Ph.D., City Administrator

Department: Finance and Administration

Date Prepared: September 13, 2023

Subject: Equalized Monthly Payment Program (Utility Budget Billing)

CC: Scott Whittier, Deputy City Administrator

Issue Background

It looks like the City of Georgetown implemented the Equalized Monthly Payment program (known as “budget billing”) in early 2007. This program allows residential utility customers (owner-occupied households) to pay an equal amount each month based on the previous 12-months of utility consumption. This program helps with removing seasonal variations in monthly utility bills making them more predictable for utility customers.

To be eligible for this program, residential utility customer accounts (property must be owner occupied) must (a) have been at the same location for more than 12 months to establish consumption history; (b) be in good standing and have a good payment record with the city; (c) be current; (d) have not requested an extension or deferment to pay the utility bill; and (e) have not had a payment returned for insufficient funds.

The equalized payment amount is based on the average monthly bill from the previous 12 months. Customers pay for all utility services used but the payments are spread equally over a 12-month period. The 12th bill reflects the variance between the actual charges and the equalized payments for the year. The variance may be a credit to the customer or an outstanding balance owed to the city. Customers may choose to have payments automatically drafted from their bank account.

Discussion

Research on city council adopting this program did not yield documentation that council approved it. Therefore, council should adopt the program by ordinance and ratify previous actions the city took.

City council requested to research information on including rental properties in the Equalized Monthly Payment program. Previous Finance staff indicated that, at the time of implementation, staff recommended

Drawer 939
Georgetown, SC 29442

Attachment: 2023.09.28 Workshop Budget Billing (3931 : Equalized Monthly Utility Payment Program)

not to include rental properties (i.e., utility customers who are tenants) in the program due to tenants moving out or being evicted from properties and creating administrative issues for the city. For example, one municipality with utilities services does not offer budget billing to transient customers noting that it would be an administrative “disaster” to include tenants in the program. Further, the city has had instances where tenants have left without notifying property owners or managers, leaving utility bills unpaid with balances ranging from \$163.32 to \$298.86.

The city has two programs to assist owner-occupied households to make home repairs or low-income utility customers with their bills:

- ARPA funds provided to Habitat for Humanity to assist qualified owner-occupied households with home repairs such as replacing windows, roofs, and HVAC systems with energy efficient ones (see Attachment 1, Habitat June 2023 Report).
- Round Up Program assists low-income households within the city limits. This is a voluntary program where utility customers opt in to round their bill up to the next highest dollar amount. Thus far, 870 customers have signed up for this program (see Attachment 2, Ordinance No. 2023-01).

There are federal, state, and local programs assisting with energy costs and utility payments as noted in Attachment 3 (note the list is not exhaustive).

Alternatives

1. Continue with the budget billing program as intended and recommended by staff in mid-2000s, which includes owner-occupied households only.
2. Expand the budget billing program to rental properties (i.e., utility customers who are tenants).

Recommended Course of Action

Staff recommends council to adopt an ordinance and ratify previous actions the city took and continue with the budget billing program as intended, which includes eligible owner-occupied households only. (Attachment 4).

Timeline for Recommendation

Ordinance adopting program and ratifying previous actions:

- 1st reading: October 19, 2023.
- 2nd reading: November 16, 2023.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Social Impact

N/A

Environmental Impact

N/A

Attachments

Attachment 1: Habitat June 2023 Report

Attachment 2: Ordinance No. 2023-01, Round Up Program

Attachment 3: Programs Assisting with Energy Costs and Utility Payments

Attachment 4: DRAFT Budget Billing Ordinance



Report on Use of ARPA Funds Through June 2023

Of the \$200,000 that was committed by the City's ARPA funds to Habitat for Humanity Georgetown for low-income, owner-occupied home repairs, \$10,000 was approved for administrative and construction management.

\$75,361.54 has been spent with another \$510 committed for a job in the queue. A prior reported job using \$3,798 was canceled.

That leaves a remaining balance of \$114,128.46 to be spent by the end of the grant in December 2024.

Habitat has repaired 3 homes with one scheduled since the last report.

The repairs this period included:

- A ramp
- Replacing a patio door and a storm door
- And replacing several windows

All 3 houses this time were in the West End, and all were seniors.

In addition, we received a grant from Lowes Home Improvement for \$15,000 for landscaping in the Habitat Revitalization neighborhood. For us, this is the West End. We landscaped these homes and many others with these funds.

We receive many more applications, but many are heirs' property and others are not owner-occupied. Unfortunately, these properties are among those that need the most attention. We will continue to let residents of the City know we have funds available. Thank you.

Household Assistance Program-ARPA	\$200,000.00
Habitat For Humanity Admin Fee	\$10,000.00
usage of funds previously reported / January 2023	\$21,127.16
usage of funds previously reported / February 2023	\$50,435.92
usage of funds this report	\$3,798.46
Habitat for Humanity Total Expenditures for completed jobs:	\$75,361.54
HFH Total Allocated for future jobs	\$510.00
Balance of ARPA Funds	\$114,128.46

Recipient Address	Scope of Work	Itemized expenditures
1912 Gilbert	storm door	N/A
	Replace windows	\$1,217.46
	Total:	\$1,217.46
Recipient Address	Scope of Work	Itemized expenditures
1910 Winyah	Replace patio door	\$851.04
	Total:	\$851.04
Recipient Address	Scope of Work	Itemized expenditures
1811 Winyah	install ramp	\$1,729.96
	Total:	\$1,729.96
Recipient Address	Scope of Work	Itemized expenditures
	Total:	\$0.00
Recipient Address	Scope of Work	Itemized expenditures
	Total:	\$0.00

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE RESIDENTIAL UTILITY
ROUND-UP PROGRAM AND THE RESIDENTIAL UTILITIES
ROUND-UP ASSISTANCE FUND**

WHEREAS, the City of Georgetown, South Carolina (the “City”) is a municipal corporation of the State of South Carolina (the “State”), located in Georgetown County, South Carolina (the “County”) and as such possesses all general powers granted by the South Carolina Constitution (1895, as amended) and statutes of the State to municipal corporations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 5-9-10 *et seq.* of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended (the “SC Code”) and Section 2-1 of the City’s code of ordinances, the City operates under the mayor-council form of government, with a mayor and six council members serving as the governing body of the City (the “City Council”); and

WHEREAS, the City provides electric, water, wastewater, and stormwater utility services and accepts payments from customers for their consumption of utilities; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds the cost of providing utility services has increased drastically; and

WHEREAS, the City has increased utility rates in response to the increased cost of operations and maintenance, affecting low-income utility customers within the City; and

WHEREAS, other cities providing utility services and electric cooperatives have successfully implemented round-up programs to financially assist those less fortunate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Georgetown to promote generosity and allow utility customers to participate in a local round-up program and, to that end, desire to provide seed money and initiate a round-up program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA:

SECTION 1. Enactment

This Ordinance was enacted by the City Council by a positive majority vote.

SECTION 2. Creation of the Residential Utilities Round-Up Program.

The Residential Utilities Round-Up Program (“Program”) is hereby created as a means to financially assist the City’s utility customers who are eligible and qualify for the Program. The Program would be voluntary and utility customers would have the opportunity to opt-in to participate in the program to round up their utility bills to the next highest dollar amount. The difference between the actual utility bill and the round-up amount would be earmarked to the Residential Utility Assistance Round-Up Fund to assist low-income households within the City limits with one-time financial assistance in a 12-month, period.

Additional private donations could be made on a voluntary basis to the Fund to increase the number of low-income households receiving assistance. Utility customers or anyone may

choose to make private donations to the Program in any amount. The donation will be restricted and earmarked to the Residential Utility Assistance Round-Up Fund.

The Program shall not make cash payments to utility customers. The program is intended to only provide a credit to the utility bill based on the recommendation from a third-party program eligibility administrator.

SECTION 3. Creation of the Residential Utilities Round-Up Fund.

The Residential Utility Assistance Round-Up Program Fund ("Fund") is hereby created as a separate fund to account for private donations resulting from voluntary enrollment of the City's utility customers on the Residential Utilities Round-Up Program and/or from other private donations. The Round-Up Fund is exclusively created to account for the receipt of those funds and all respective administrative cost and financial assistance appropriations as approved by City Council during the annual budget process. Funds shall be maintained in a separate bank account and not comingled with other City revenues. Earned interest on that account shall be used to further fulfill the purpose of the Program.

The City will provide \$10,000 as seed funds for the Program from the FY 2023 budgeted Public Assistance Program. City Council shall appropriate funds each fiscal year based on the previous fiscal year's fund balance of the Residential Utilities Round-Up Fund to alleviate the financial burden of eligible and qualified utility customers within the City limits to receive assistance under the Program. Funds would be available on a first-come, first-served basis until the annual appropriation is exhausted or until there are no approved applications from eligible, qualified applicants, whichever comes first.

Unspent appropriations at the end of each fiscal year shall return to the Fund and be available for appropriation the following fiscal year. A maximum of \$200.00 shall be maintained as fund balance in order to achieve the purpose of the Fund so that no funds are accumulated.

SECTION 4. Residential Utilities Round-Up Program Eligibility.

To be eligible for the program, a customer must:

- (1) Be a residential customer of the City utility services and live within the City limits. Commercial customers are not eligible.
- (2) Be under threat of disconnection of utility services due to non-payment.
- (3) Agree to go on a payment plan of up to six months for the remaining balance of the past due amount, and adhere to that plan. Failure to adhere to the plan may result in ineligibility for future assistance from the Program. This requirement shall be waived if written documentation prohibiting participation in a payment plan is provided by a landlord.
- (4) A maximum award of \$400 per customer is permitted in a 12-month period.
- (5) Must not have received assistance from the Utility Round Up Program within the last twelve (12) months.
- (6) Applications must be received by the third-party program eligibility administrator no later than noon on the 20th day of each month to ensure consideration for that month.

SECTION 5. Residential Utilities Round-Up Program Administration.

The City Administrator and the Finance Director are authorized to develop the Program's Rules and Procedures based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines in collaboration with the third-party program eligibility administrator. Such Rules may be revised from time to time by the City Administrator and the Finance Director to comply with the purpose of the Program.

To ensure fair treatment of utility customers, the City Administrator and the Finance Director are authorized to contract with a third-party human services organization located within the City limits to receive, review applications, and qualify applicants for the Program based on Federal Poverty Guidelines. The organization shall provide a list of eligible and qualified utility customers within the City limits to the Finance Director to apply for financial assistance as recommended. The list shall certify that applications have been reviewed and eligible customers comply with Federal Poverty Guidelines. Any administrative fee shall be paid by the Fund.

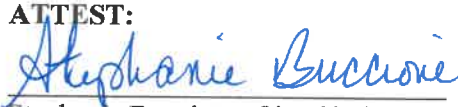
SECTION 6. Severability

That if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by valid judgment or decree of any Court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or sections of this Ordinance, which remaining parts shall be considered as severable and shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Penalty

Whoever violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than the maximum amount allowed by law.

ATTEST:

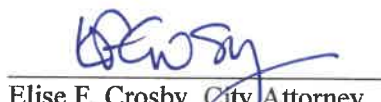

Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk


Carol Jayroe, Mayor

First Reading: 12/15/22

Approved as to Form:

Second Reading: 1/19/23


Elise F. Crosby, City Attorney

Attachment 3

PROGRAMS ASSISTING WITH ENERGY COSTS AND UTILITY PAYMENTSCity of Georgetown

- Program: Round Up Program. This is a voluntary program through which neighbors help neighbors to financially assist the City's utility customers who are eligible and qualify for the program. The Residential Utility Assistance Round-Up program assists low-income households within the city limits with one-time financial assistance in a 12-month period.
- Good Friends of Georgetown County administers the Round Up Program for the city.

Good Friends of Georgetown County

- Program: city council approved funding for Good Friends to assist eligible low-income customers with their utility bills.
- Website: <https://www.goodfriendsofgeorgetowncounty.org>
- Location: 1813 Highmarket Street, Georgetown, SC 29440
- Phone: (843) 527-3454
- Email: info@GoodFriendsOfGeorgetownCounty.org

Habitat for Humanity of Georgetown County, SC

- Program: ARPA funding for owner-occupied homes repairs.
- Website: <https://www.habitatgeorgetown.com/>
- Location: 1907 Hampton Court, Georgetown, SC 29440
- Phone: (843) 546-5685
- Email: info@habitatgeorgetown.com

Helping Hands of Georgetown, Inc.

- Program: assist people in need through utility bills vouchers once during a calendar year. Senior citizens and disable people are eligible for a \$100 voucher and others are eligible for an \$80.
- Website: <https://www.helpinghandsofgeorgetown.org/>
- Location: 1813 Highmarket Street, Georgetown, SC 29440.
- Phone: (843) 527-3424.

United Way

- Program: the 211 Program provides utility bill assistance to low-income households.
- Website: <https://sc211.org/>
- Location: Black River United Way (<https://www.blackriveruw.org/>); 1514 Bourne St, Georgetown, SC 29440.
- Phone: Text 211 or call (866) 892-9211 to find out eligibility requirements.

US Department of Health and Human Services

- Program: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This program assists with energy costs, home weatherization, etc.
- Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap>;
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap>

- Location: [Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council Inc. \(https://www.weoc.org\)](https://www.weoc.org); 1837 N. Fraser Street, Highway 701, Georgetown, SC 29440.
- Phone: 843-546-6161.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 22 BY ADDING SECTION 22-4 TITLED
EQUALIZED MONTHLY UTILITY PAYMENT**

- WHEREAS,** Section 5-7-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws confers municipalities the power to enact regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of the State; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 1-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Georgetown allows for the amendment of the Code of Ordinances from time to time; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2007, City staff published an advertisement indicating “The City of Georgetown has established an Equalized Payment Program for use by its residential utility customers;” and
- WHEREAS,** Historical City Council minutes do not show City Council formally adopted the Equalized Monthly Payment program (known as “Budget Billing”); and
- WHEREAS,** The City Council desires to establish the Equalized Monthly Payment or Budget Billing program officially to continue assisting residential utility customers who could benefit by Budget Billing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, that the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances be amended as follows, by adding Section 22-4, previously reserved, as follows:

22-4 Equalized Monthly Utility Payment

1. Purpose. The Equalized Utility Payment or Budget Billing program is established for residential utility customers. This program is offered as a customer service, to help removing seasonal variations in monthly utility bills, making them more predictable. Customers enrolled in Budget Billing will be billed an equal amount each month based on the prior 12-months’ consumption.
2. Eligibility. To be eligible to enroll, utility customers must comply with the following:
 - (a) Residential property must be owner occupied; and
 - (b) Have been at the same location for more than 12 months to establish consumption history; and
 - (c) Be in good standing and have a satisfactory payment record with the city; and
 - (d) Have not requested an extension or deferment to pay the utility bill; and
 - (e) Have not had a payment returned for insufficient funds.
3. Enrollment. Enrollment shall be by application on an Agreement form prescribed by the City of Georgetown Finance Department, to contain terms for enrollment and continuing participation.
4. Program Maintenance. Budget Billing accounts shall be monitored and re-calculated on an annual basis consistent with the City of Georgetown fiscal year, regardless of enrollment date. At the end of the fiscal year, Budget Billing accounts shall be trued-up and the bill for

the month ending the fiscal year shall reflect the variance in usage averages and reflected as a credit or outstanding balance, with notice of the new monthly billing amount.

5. Discontinuance/Remedies. Participants or the City may discontinue the program or participation with one month's notice, to be delivered to the Finance Department (if to the City) or by customer bill (if to the participant.) Balance or credit shall be applied under Section 4, above, except in the case of a closed account, for which balances shall be billed. Any claim against the City of Georgetown for credit must be brought within twelve (12) months of the date of the utility bill containing the recalculation or be forever barred.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, City Council ratifies previous actions the City of Georgetown took regarding the Budget Billing program and directs the city administrator and finance director to update the Equalized Monthly Payment Agreement and develop an efficient process for residential utility customers to follow it, in the best interest of the city.

ATTEST:

Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk

Carol Jayroe, Mayor

First Reading: _____

Approved as to Form:

Second Reading: _____

Elise F. Crosby, City Attorney



120 North Fraser Street • Georgetown, SC 29440 • (843) 545-4000

INFORMATION ITEM

DOC ID: 3932

Council Meeting Date: 28 September 2023
Department: Administration
Issue Under Consideration: Juneteenth Parade Presentation

MAYOR
CAROL JAYROE

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SANDRA E. YUDICE, Ph.D.

CITY CLERK
STEPHANIE BUCCIONE



COUNCIL MEMBERS
JIM CLEMENTS
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

JONATHAN ANGNER
HOBSON H. MILTON
JIMMY MORRIS
CLARENCE SMALLS
TAMIKA WILLIAMS-OBENG

Executive Offices
(843) 545-4001

To: Mayor Carol Jayroe and Members of Council

Prepared by: Sandra E. Yúdice, Ph.D.

Department: Administration

Date Prepared: August 25, 2023

Subject: Juneteenth Parade

CC: Scott Whittier, Deputy City Administrator
Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Elise Crosby, City Attorney

Issue Background

The Juneteenth Parade is a celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865. On August 20, 2020, Georgetown City Council approved a Resolution Creating a New City Holiday “Juneteenth Recognition Day” (Attachment 1). The federal government recognized it as a national holiday in 2021.

Since 2021, the Howard Alumni Association has celebrated this holiday with a parade from the Beck Administrative parking lot to the Howard Alumni Headquarters/Westend Heritage Center. This route requires crossing Highmarket Street, a SCDOT owned and a heavily traveled road with logging trucks, tractor trailers, and other heavy trucks.

SCDOT issued Directive #ED-28, which became effective July 27, 2009, outlining the procedures required to temporarily close state roads (Attachment 2). The city became aware of this SCDOT directive recently and incorporated SCDOT requirements in the Special Events application through an amendment to Section 20-120(a) of Article VIII, Parades, Events, Block Parties, Performances, Filming and Picketing, of Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances.

Discussion

The liability the city assumes for parade participants to cross heavily traveled roads is intrinsically high because the city approves Special Event applications. It would take just one irate driver to cause havoc should the city not provide the proper number of police officers to ensure the safety and well-being of participants. This is an outcome no one wants to happen. Further, to be covered, the city requires event organizers to name the city as an additional insured, no exceptions are allowed on this requirement.

Georgetown Police Department's standard operating procedures (SOP) authorizes the Chief of Police to determine standard hourly rates and minimum hours for off-duty police officers. Consistent with the SOP, on December 2, 2022, Chief Bill Pierce revised the rate and minimum hours to be in line with the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office beginning January 1, 2023, (Attachment 3). The new rates and minimum hours were included in the Special Events application starting in January 2023. Special events organizers pay off-duty officers and the city does not receive this revenue.

Sec. 20-123 (Approval of permit under alternate date, time, route or conditions) of the Code of Ordinances authorizes the city administrator the following:

The city administrator, in denying an application for a permit under this article, shall be empowered to authorize the conduct of the parade, event, block party, performance or filming on a date, at a time, or over a route and under different conditions from that requested by the applicant. (Ord. of 12-13-07(2))

To date, the city administrator has not denied an application for the parade. However, for public safety reasons, concerns outlined above, and to lower the organizers' costs, we have discussed with them rerouting the Juneteenth Parade to avoid crossing the heavily traveled Highmarket Street. Nevertheless, parade organizers insisted on having the route from the Beck Administration building to the West End. This requires 17 police officers to ensure Highmarket Street is closed to traffic while parade participants cross the street taking about 45 minutes.

The city co-sponsor events and includes funding each year to cover city provided services such as law enforcement, public safety, and public works. For FY 2024 the following events are co-sponsored: Christmas, Martin Luther King, Veterans, and Homecoming parades. The funding source is the Local Hospitality Tax (H-Tax). Event organizers must pay the Special Event application fee.

What are other municipalities doing to celebrate Juneteenth?

- a. Conway: Festival privately organized. The city provided funding for the festival.
- b. Lake City: 4-day celebration (concerts, open galleries, party, etc.). Some events are free, others have a fee (\$10 for a party to \$125 for a gala).
- c. Myrtle Beach: sponsored parade.
- d. Spartanburg: 3-day celebration with free events (educational panel, block party, festival). There were also community partners sponsoring the events.
- e. Lancaster: 1-day event with entertainment, activities, performances, food vendors, kids' zone.
- f. Cheraw: provides funding for celebrations but does not organize it.

Alternatives

1. Event organizers to reroute the Juneteenth Parade.
 - a. Avoid crossing heavily traveled roads such as Highmarket Street.
 - b. This will require less police officers; hence, decrease the cost of law enforcement to event organizers.
2. Continue with current route.
 - a. Cost will remain the same and covered by event organizers.
3. Event organizers may apply for H-Tax grant funding each year through the grant-committee process.
 - a. Generally, applications are due in August/September time frame each year.
4. Organize an all-day festival rather than having a parade.
 - a. A festival is localized and does not require people to walk on or cross heavily traveled streets.
 - b. It would lower organizers' cost of law enforcement and public safety personnel.
 - c. Organizers could seek sponsorship and/or apply for H-Tax funds through the annual process.
5. City to co-sponsor the Juneteenth Parade.
 - a. Include cost in the budget each year (estimate is \$3,1000).

Recommended Course of Action

- Staff has recommended organizers to reroute the parade in the past to reduce their cost. However, parade organizers insist on having the route from the Beck administration building to the West End, which requires crossing Highmarket Street.
- A local festival would be another feasible alternative. Organizers could seek sponsorships from private organizations and/or apply for H-Tax grant funding each year through the grant-committee process.

Timeline for Recommendation

N/A

Fiscal Impact

Depending on the annual H-Tax grant funding application approval.

Social Impact

African American city residents have indicated this event would unite people in times when there is much division at the national level.

Environmental Impact

N/A

Attachments

Attachment 1: August 20, 2020, Resolution Creating a New City Holiday “Juneteenth Recognition Day.”

Attachment 2: SCDOT issued Directive #ED-28.

Attachment 3: December 2, 2022, GPD off-duty rate and minimum hours notification.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	RESOLUTION
	)	CREATING A NEW CITY HOLIDAY
CITY OF GEORGETOWN	)	"JUNETEENTH RECOGNITION DAY"

WHEREAS, the City of Georgetown is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina and possesses all general powers granted by the Constitution and statutes to such public entities; and

WHEREAS, On June 18, 2020, the Honorable Brendon M. Barber Sr., Mayor of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, proclaimed June 19th of 2020 as a day to celebrate Juneteenth within the city and to encourage all citizens to become more aware or the significance of this celebration in African-American History and in the heritage of the nation; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, United States Army General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay with Federal troops and announced “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free,” acknowledged to be the last delivery of the message of emancipation to enslaved people in America; and

WHEREAS, The annual anniversary of General Granger’s announcement has come to be known as “Juneteenth,” which represents the celebration of the end of slavery, and is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, across our nation, county, and city, the celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, liberty, and opportunity which are at the core of the American promise; and

WHEREAS, other cities in the United States have declared June 19th a legal holiday in commemoration of the expansion of freedom across the Nation and the death of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Georgetown believe a legal holiday in honor of the importance of Juneteenth is a fitting way to honor the history and struggle of the African American community and the universal celebration of the end of slavery by all the citizenry.

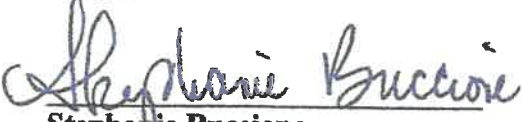
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Georgetown hereby declares June 19th of each calendar year henceforth as “Juneteenth Recognition Day.” For those years where June 19th falls on a Saturday, the city holiday shall be celebrated the preceding Friday. For those years where June 19th falls on a Sunday, the city holiday shall be celebrated the following Monday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all City employees will have holiday pay on Juneteenth Recognition Day.

All resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution are repealed to the extent of conflict or inconsistency.

APPROVED this 20th day of August 2020.

ATTEST:


Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

CITY OF GEORGETOWN
a Municipal Corporation


Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Elise F. Crosby
City Attorney

South Carolina Department of Transportation
Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-28 **Effective:** July 27, 2009

Subject: Road Closures for Parades, Festivals, or Other Events

References: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 56-5-710. Powers of local authorities.
 S.C. Code of Laws, Section 56-5-930. Placing and maintaining traffic-control devices on State highways.
 Others – S.C. Code of Laws, Sections 57-7-10, 56-5-3160, 56-5-3170, 56-5-615, 56-5-910, 56-5-2540, 56-5-3860, 56-5-3900, and 56-4-4450.

Purpose: Provide Guidance for Road Closures for Public Events

This Directive Applies to: Maintenance and Traffic Engineering

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has no objections to municipalities, county governments, state government, or others endorsed by a municipality, county, or state government wishing to hold parades, festivals, or other events that may involve the temporary closing of one or more roads in the state system, provided however, that the parades, festivals, or other events are held in a safe and orderly manner and that motorist and pedestrian safety, as well as adequate traffic movement and accessibility for persons with disabilities, is maintained. The following procedures shall be required for such temporary state roadway closures:

1. All requests shall be submitted to the district engineering administrator (DEA), who shall be responsible for signing all letters addressing requests for temporary road closures in conjunction with parades, festivals, or other events within the district. If the event affects multiple districts, the request shall be forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Operations to coordinate and respond on a statewide perspective.
2. The requests shall be in writing and, if not submitted by a local authority, shall include the local authority's permit or written authorization for the event.
3. All SCDOT responses to requests for such temporary road closures shall clearly state the following:
 - a. Local or other law enforcement agencies are responsible for and shall provide all necessary traffic control when state roadways are temporarily closed, to include adequate detours for the safe and efficient movement of the traveling public around the closed area. The traveling public expects state routes to be open and free of delay. Therefore, adequate signs and traffic control devices shall be used to clearly mark the area to minimize inconvenience to through traffic. SCDOT is not responsible for traffic control or notification of local or other law enforcement for these events.

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- b. The local authority shall be responsible to ensure that all traffic control devices, utilized by the local or other law enforcement agencies for the parades, festivals, or other events, shall conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), latest edition.
 - c. Pavement markings are not allowed unless specifically approved by SCDOT.
 - d. No equipment or structures that would damage the pavement shall be located on the roadway surface, including but not limited to, petroleum products, such as hydraulic fluid, diesel fuel, gasoline, etc., mechanical stabilizers, and anchoring systems.
 - e. SCDOT does not recommend parades, festivals, or other events crossing a railroad track. However, if the parade, festival, or other event unavoidably uses a state roadway that crosses a railroad line, the requester and/or local authority is responsible for contacting the railroad company to advise of the event and coordinating any needed precautions to ensure the public's safety.
 - f. SCDOT shall not be held responsible for any personal and/or property damage or injury incident to or arising from these events.
 - g. Access to and the use of curb ramps and other facilities for any person(s) with disabilities shall not be blocked.
4. Temporary state roadway closures for parades, festivals, and other events are considered on a case-by-case basis using SCDOT engineering judgment.
 5. Copies of the letter responding to the request for temporary state road closure shall be sent by the DEA or Chief Engineer for Operations to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and the SCDOT resident maintenance engineer.

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Recommended by: James J. Feda, Jr.
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Approved: Christy A. Hall
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December 2, 2022

Good afternoon

Effective January 1, 2023, the Georgetown City Police Department's rate of pay for all off-duty jobs will be increasing as indicated below.

Hourly rates per officer for all non-holidays will be set at \$35.00 with a 4-hour minimum.

The following dates are considered City Holidays, accordingly the hourly rates per officer will be set at \$52.50 with a 4-hour minimum:

New Year's Day (Jan 1 and 2)
Martin Luther King Day (Jan 16)
Presidents Day (Feb 20)
Good Friday (April 7)
Memorial Day (May 29)
Juneteeth (June 19)
Independence Day (July 4)
Labor Day (Sep 4)
Veterans Day (Nov 10 and 11)
Thanksgiving (Nov 23 and 24)
Christmas (Dec 25-27)

We appreciate your understanding and look forward to working with you.

Thank you,

Chief William A. Pierce

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