# SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
# SEPTEMBER 25, 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
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
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.

Mayor Scoville said he has discussed with the Council Members his reasons for removing Mr. Rubillo's portrait. He stated if the body wants to direct the Administrator to replace it he would not interfere. Council Member Barber said in the best interest, let's put it back up there for an historical preference.

**Motion to direct the Administrator to replace Mayor Tom Rubillo's portrait.**

Council Member Kimbrough moved, seconded by Council Member Barber.

Mayor Scoville called for the question.

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| **RESULT:** | **APPROVED [6-1]** |
| **MOVER:** | Edward S Kimbrough, Council Member |
| **SECONDER:** | Brendon M. Barber, Jr., Council Member |
| **AYES:** | Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Kimbrough, Smalls, Wayne |
| **NAYS:** | Scoville, Jr., Mayor |

**3. PLANS TO RENOVATE SCREVEN STREET PARK - KEEP GEORGETOWN BEAUTIFUL.**

Mr. Chris Carter introduced Mrs. Cindy Thompson, the Keep Georgetown Beautiful Coordinator. On behalf of Keep Georgetown Beautiful Mrs. Thompson presented the improvement plan to City Council. KGB's interest involves beautification which includes litter pickup, planting flowers, recycling events and education. They monitor all City parks and recognized Screven Street Park was in need of improvements. The group appointed a four member landscape committee consisting of three master gardeners and a very avid gardener to propose a design for the space surrounding the fountain at the corner of Screven and Front Streets. An application for a $30,000 grant from the South Carolina State Parks and Recreation was submitted and approved; no matching funds are required. At the time the grant was written it included improvements to Ben Cooper Park and Screven Street Park. After speaking with Jonathan Heald it was discovered any landscaping at Ben Cooper Park would be counterproductive because of upcoming construction in the Park. KGB would like to use the entire amount for Screven Street Park. They solicited the help of Mrs. Susan Krowka to inspect Screven Street Park. If Council approves the proposed improvements the process will begin right away. Council Member Barber asked Mrs. Thompson if she had amended the request to specify it will be for Screven Street Park only. She said once she knows all the funds will go to that Park she will amend the request. A power point presentation of the proposed improvements was reviewed by Council. More seating will be provided by adding a brick wall and benches, a pergola will be included to provide shade, the current shrubs will be replaced with low maintenance blooming plants and shrubs, a brick planter will be added, a trellis will be placed between the Strand Theater and the public restrooms and the restroom signage will be updated. The Holly trees will remain. Depending on the cost, there may be some proposed improvements that will have to be removed. Council Member Bradley stated he does not want to see any proposed improvements cut and asked the Mayor and Mr. Carter to see if there are any contingency funds available in the event the proposed project costs are in excess of the grant amount. Mayor Scoville noted security has been a concern in that area. Mrs. Thompson said KGB plans to work with the electric department to design a maintenance schedule for the trees and add uplighting for safety and aesthetic purposes.

**4. TEXT CHANGE TO ZONING ORDINANCE RELATING TO CONDUCT OF MINING OPERATIONS.**

This request was discussed at a previous workshop. At the August 21, 2014 Regular Meeting of City Council the property owner withdrew the request to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow mining due to a pending sale of the property. The sale fell through and Mr. Rick Martin told Council his department has since received a request from the same property owners to allow mining as a possible use. He referenced a conceptual plan provided by the owners, Mr. Buddy Hucks and Mr. Perry Collins who are both present. Council Member Bradley's major concern is the surrounding residential area with stagnant water in ditches being a health risk. He does not see this as a great benefit to Georgetown or the citizens. Council Member Barber does not want to interfere with the integrity of the surrounding residential neighborhood. Answering Council Member Kimbrough's question Mr. Martin said this change would impact the entire City. If mining is allowed as a conditional use in zoning there are six additional properties that could be affected. Discussions continued. For the record Council Member Bradley stated he *is adamantly opposed to any mining in the City of Georgetown. It is not conducive and it does not fit in the grand scheme of the direction of the City of Georgetown*. Mayor Scoville stated this request needs to go back to the Planning Commission for review. Mayor Scoville recognized Mr. Collins who told Council he and Mr. Hucks intend to improve the property for a future sale and protect safety, aesthetics and enhance the property for future use.

**5. DISCUSS PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGARDING PROPOSED CO2 EMISSIONS STANDARD FOR GENERATING PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Mr. Richard Kizer, Vice President of Intergovernmental Relations with Santee Cooper, reviewed a recent regulation put forth in June by the Environmental Protection Agency pertaining to the reduction of carbon dioxide. They have set a nationwide limit of a reduction of 30%, for South Carolina they set a 51% limit reduction. Santee Cooper believes this will have some impacts on their operations and customers as a utility company. Santee Cooper has taken a very proactive role in CO2 reductions over the years and plans to reduce the emissions by 44% by the year 2030. Mr. Kizer asked City Council to consider a Resolution asking EPA to reconsider how they treat nuclear under construction. Santee Cooper and South Carolina Electric and Gas are building two new nuclear units in South Carolina that will produce zero CO2. When the rule was crafted it was assumed the units were already producing electricity giving no credit for the CO2 reductions. Santee Cooper believes this provision of the regulation has the largest impact. Several large industrial customers and others are being asked to request EPA to reconsider the provision. The original deadline for comments was October 16$^{th}$; this has been extended to December 1$^{st}$. Discussions followed. Mayor Scoville asked Council to review the information and stated the Resolution will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

**6. UPDATE ON EAST BAY PARK.**

Mr. Carter noted money is budgeted for improvements to East Bay Park. Previously he has suggested removing some of the ball field activity lighting and a parking solution to the boat ramp. The City-owned Park is leased to and managed by Georgetown County. He reviewed a parking plan proposed by the County's Civil Engineer with an estimated cost of $226,322.88 and asked Council for feedback. Concerns were expressed about the lack of space for walking and bike riding. Mr. Carter listed five points the Engineer felt were positive. New paved area is existing gravel parking, existing field and fence not being disturbed, possibility to use pervious pavement, asphalt is a cleaner look, and one way traffic will help minimize congestion while backing boats. The plan designed by the City's Engineer was passed along to the County's Engineer. This is a proposed conceptual plan of Phase I. Discussions followed. Council Member Bradley said the Park was with the mindset for the citizens, not so much for the boaters. He has a grave concern that this design may not leave enough space for walkers and bike riders. Council Member Kimbrough agreed with Mayor Pro Tempore Wayne stating walking spaces and bike riding need to be incorporated around the Park. After hearing Council's comments, Mayor Scoville asked staff to meet with the County to include future plans for a walkway and bring those plans back to Council.

**7. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NOVEMBER 4TH CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX REFERENDUM IN GEORGETOWN COUNTY.**

Georgetown County asked the City to consider adopting a Resolution supporting the November 4, 2014 One Cent Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum. Six elements are identified in the Resolution. Two specific needs benefit City residents most. The dredging of Winyah Bay and resurfacing of streets that are in desperate need of repaving. Mr. Carter referenced a list of streets identified in the 2014 Capital Project Sales Tax Resurfacing. He asked for Council feedback. Council Member Jayroe would like to place the Resolution on the October agenda as an action item for approval. Concerns included Murrells Inlet dredging, disposal site preparation for dredging, number of streets in the West End scheduled for repaving and the County road fee City residents pay for each vehicle they own. Discussions followed. Mayor Scoville stated the Resolution would be on the agenda at the next official meeting.

**8. DOWNTOWN HOTEL MARKET STUDY.**

**Motion to approve proposal from PKF Consulting to conduct a Downtown Hotel Market Study.**

Mayor Scoville moved, seconded by Council Member Bradley. Mr. Tee Miller said the City received six proposals to the RFP for the Downtown Hotel Market Study. He said the 2011 Comprehensive Study and the 2009 Bridge2Bridge Charrette (Clemson study) specifically recommended the need for a downtown hotel to make the City more of an overnight destination and leverage our existing products. In addition to evaluating the need for hotel rooms, the study will address the demand for the meeting space that could be supported in the project. This would allow the City to better host special events such as destination weddings, Chamber Galas, conferences, etc. The City has been awarded a $44,000 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant which will pay for this study. PKF Consulting USA was selected to conduct the market study at a cost not to exceed $25,500 if all phases of the study are completed. They have extensive experience in doing market studies for hospitality product for cities. PKF has conducted studies for Beaufort, SC, Conway, SC and Beaufort, NC. There are three potential sites in the downtown area. Several hoteliers have expressed interest in developing a hotel if the study is favorable. If it is determined that a hotel is unfeasible, the later phases would not be conducted and the cost would be less than the $25,500. Discussions followed.

Mayor Scoville asked for further comments or questions. Mayor Scoville called for the question.

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

**9. DISCUSS CHANGE OF FORM OF GOVERNMENT FROM MAYOR COUNCIL TO COUNCIL MANAGER.**

Mayor Scoville recognized Mayor Pro Tempore Wayne. Mrs. Wayne requested this topic be placed on the October meeting as an action item. She provided information to Council for their review and stated "we should all vote yes on calling the referendum and then let the people have their say instead of us deciding ourselves."

Mr. Carter announced the public input session for Broad Street will be held next in Council Chamber next Thursday at 5:30 PM.

Chief Paul Gardner said the Wooden Boat Show in coordination with the Bridge2Bridge marathon has requested they be allowed to share the cost of a tent between the two events, leaving the tent up for a full week in Francis Marion Park. The Special Events Ordinance states there should be a daily charge because the event is being extended. Council Member Bradley asked if he is asking for a waiver. The consensus of Council was to waive the daily fees.

Mayor Scoville encouraged everyone to attend the ceremony/celebration beginning at 6:00 PM (tonight) downtown in commemoration of the fire, along with Music in the Park.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Wayne moved, seconded by Council Member Barber.

Mayor Scoville called for the question.

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

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

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 10/21/14