



**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 27, 2020 – 4:00 PM
TELECONFERENCE**

LIVESTREAM:

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

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 Tupelo Humes
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Will Gunter, Water Utilities Director
Mrs. Gladys Rutledge-Livingston, Human Resources/Risk Manager
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Ms. Angela Rambeau, Director of Planning and Community Development
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department

ABSENT

Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. called the Special Meeting of City Council to order at 4:00pm 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. ROLL CALL

4. FINANCE

A. Georgetown County Landfill Tipping Fee Increase Discussion

Dr. Yúdice stated the County has increased the landfill tipping fees and introduced Mrs. Bivens to present further information. Mrs. Bivens said in 2009 City Council voted to remove the City from the commercial dumpster business. She said there are a few city dumpsters that remain at apartments but they are outsourced. She said because the County has increased the tipping fee, GFL would increase their fees to the City by 6.4% or by \$6,020 monthly. She stated the City recognizes a \$39,000 yearly revenue and would continue to recognize that amount. Mrs. Bivens said they do not recommend passing an increase to customers at this time. Dr. Yúdice said this could be revised in 2-3 years based on what the County and GFL does with increasing rates.

5. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A. Discussion of Proposed Interim Solar Rate

Dr. Yúdice introduced Mr. Alan Loveless to present the proposed interim solar rate. Mr. Loveless said he made a presentation about this topic a year ago and with further discussions he has updated the presentation and has more detailed information. He said if Council is in agreement with what is presented, it will be brought back to the Council Meeting in September for approval. Mr. Loveless stated the primary value for a customer to have solar panels on the roof of their home or business is to reduce the amount of power they would need to purchase from the City. Mr. Loveless said if a customer does not use all of the energy produced by the solar panels, it will flow back to the City's utility system and the City would compensate the customer. Mr. Loveless said there are two options to compensate a customer for surplus energy, which is net metering and avoided cost. Mr. Loveless referred to the presentation provided in the agenda packet for further information. He explained several billing examples using both options of net metering and avoided cost. Mr. Loveless said he reached out to other municipalities in South Carolina who have a solar energy program. He stated a few municipalities do not compensate the customer at all. He said no municipalities in South Carolina are using the net metering option for compensation. Mr. Loveless confirmed this would be an interim rate and the next cost of service study would be more in depth and would likely take place around 2024. Mr. Loveless stated our electric rates are very competitive and benefits all of our customers. Discussions followed.

6. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve an extension to an Emergency Ordinance requiring individuals to wear face coverings in certain establishments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

B. Destination Marketing Organization Presentation

Dr. Yúdice said this presentation was requested by City Council to give options for a Destination Marketing Organization for the City for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Dr. Yúdice said South Carolina code requires municipalities to have a Destination Marketing Organization and requires allocation of the State Accommodations Tax funds. She said the first \$25,000 is allocated to the General Fund. She said 30% of the balance will go towards publicity and generating tourism. Dr. Yúdice said \$29,000 was allocated for this fiscal year. She said the remaining balance with interest would be allocated to tourism related expenses. She stated South Carolina code requires the Destination Marketing Organization to be a not-for-profit and have a tourism promotion program or the municipality can develop an organization as long as it is in compliance with SC Code, Section 6-4-25. Dr. Yúdice said they contacted the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee and they confirmed that cities are not-for-profit and meets the requirements of a DMO. Dr. Yúdice referenced the list of past Destination Marketing Organizations for the City in the presentation included in the agenda packet. She reviewed the expenditures from the last three years for the current DMO. She said a revised agreement with the Georgetown County Chamber was supposed to be an action item during this meeting but the City received a letter today from the Georgetown County Chamber that they can no longer serve as our DMO. Dr. Yúdice reviewed several DMO options which include reinstate the Georgetown partnership; create an independent and not-for-profit organization such as a tourism and visitors bureau, and establish a City of Georgetown marketing strategy. Discussions followed.

C. Motion to approve a Revised Memorandum of Understanding naming Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce as the City's Designated Marketing Organization for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Mayor Barber stated there is no need to take action on this item at this time. He confirmed the City Administrator and staff will begin a search for a new Destination Marketing Organization for the City.

RESULT:	WITHDRAWN
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7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion to adjourn Special Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) to discuss and review a performance evaluation for Dr. Sandra Yúdice, City Administrator, one year anniversary.

Mayor Barber said he did not receive all of the evaluations yet so he wants to postpone this executive session for a later time.

- 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.**

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of City Council.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley moved, seconded by Council Member Humes.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rudolph A. Bradley, Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Tupelo Humes, Council Member
AYES:	Barber Sr., Bradley, Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:13pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 09/17/20