



**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 1, 2019 – 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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Carey F. Smith, Interim City Administrator
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mrs. Suzanne Anderson, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Will Gunter, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Ms. Angela Rambeau, Director of Planning and Community Development

ABSENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley called the Special Meeting/Workshop of City Council to order at 4:00p.m. 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. ENGINEERING

A. Presentation of Storm Water Management Plan Project by WK Dickson.

Mr. Carey Smith stated the three goals of the strategic initiative of the Stormwater Management Plan are to address flooding, address flooding in areas that are prone to flooding, and enhance water quality. Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Bill Young, PE. Mr. Young is the Vice President and Regional Manager for WK Dickson. Mr. Young stated that he is also working with the City on the wastewater and drinking water systems in addition to the Stormwater Management Plan. Mr. Young introduced the rest of the WK Dickson team which included Project Manager, Mr. Jay Reigart, PE, Technical manager and Project Engineer, Mr. Earl Bingham, PE, and Stormwater Practice Area Leader, Ms. Lisa Wells, PE. Mr. Young turned the presentation over to Mr. Jay Reigart. Mr. Reigart reviewed the scope of the project and how WK Dickson acted on it. During the kickoff meetings, Mr. Reigart stated they got to know the staff and learned about the flooding issues that occur in Georgetown and were able to identify the problem areas through their study. Mr. Reigart stated the study was done City wide but they worked closely with City staff to prioritize the problem areas. Mr. Reigart stated the data they collected from the City was used for the basis and then they did a GAP analysis to find out where they needed more data or where they didn't have any data. Mr. Reigart stated a field investigation was also done at a GPS level to determine the topography, the structures, and the pipes to focus on the problem areas. Mr. Reigart said there were questionnaires sent out to the Citizens of Georgetown and they received over 200 responses. Mr. Reigart stated the inventory was the basis used for the design of the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling. The models were used as a tool to determine where the problems exist and how severe the impact based on different sized storms. The information was used to develop a Watershed Plan. Each Plan helps attack the problem areas. The Capital Improvements Plan recommends the improvements that need to be made in each Watershed to correct the problem. Mr. Reigart explained how they evaluated the Stormwater Utility Rate structure of the City and possible changes that need to be made to generate more revenue in order to improve the problem areas that were identified in the study. Mr. Reigart said the Stormwater Design Standards was also reviewed and recommended changes noted. The Standards would be used for undeveloped land in the City. Mr. Reigart turned the presentation over to Mr. Earl Bingham. Mr. Bingham reviewed the detailed analysis that was performed to focus on the problem areas. Overall, 470 structures and eight miles of pipe was evaluated. Ten percent of the structures had defects which was to be expected because they concentrated on the downstream areas which experiences more volume of water and debris than other areas. Mr. Bingham stated that they received over 200 responses from the Citizens of Georgetown, which he stated is a huge response rate based on the size of the City. Mr. Bingham said 40% of the public that responded to the surveys experience flooding every year. Mr. Bingham pointed out the responses received and the problem areas on the City map. Mr. Bingham stated twelve critical systems were analyzed in detail. They discovered flat slopes, small pipes, and lots of sediment and debris. Mr. Bingham proposed over 18,000 linear feet of pipe be replaced and upsized, add ten new storage areas for water until it can go back out

with the tide, install tide valves on six outlets along waterfront so water cannot flow back up into the system, Mr. Bingham stated the twelve improvement projects would cost between \$200,000 and \$4.4 million dollars each. Mr. Bingham pointed out on the areas for recommended improvement on a map of the City which included waterfront property along Front Street, the Historic District, areas along Church Street, and the area around the Steel Mill. Mr. Bingham said that the existing detention ponds need to be maintained so they can work properly. Mr. Bingham reviewed the prioritization of the projects. The highest priority projects on the list were the Constitution Park area on Front Street, Queen Street due to the possible hotel development, the intersection at El Cerro Restaurant and St. James Church due to the high amount of traffic. The total cost to improve all twelve projects would be \$20,822,000. Mr. Bingham handed over the next portion of the presentation to Ms. Lisa Wells. Ms. Wells reviewed the current structure of the City's Stormwater utility fee. She stated the ERU fee is \$6 per month and in the City ordinance does not allow for a rate change. Ms. Wells reviewed several recommendations to increase revenue based on the current rate structure to cover the costs of the improvement projects. She suggested increasing the ERU fee to \$8 per month, having an annual adjustment to the Stormwater rate based on growth and inflation, increasing fees for Stormwater permits and annual inspections, and developing workflows and business processes to ensure efficient and complete collection. By implementing the recommendations, it would generate approximately \$15,000,000 in revenue. Ms. Wells stated if the City chose to change over to an impervious surface ERU rate structure, she suggests to calculate ERU equivalencies for all parcels to establish a revised parcel fee, develop and implement processes for collection of fees for properties with inactive meter accounts or no meter accounts, and develop workflows and business processes to update parcel data and fee annually to capture impervious area increases. By changing the rate structure along with the recommendations, the City would generate approximately \$17,000,000 in revenue. Ms. Wells reviewed a list of design standards recommend to establish consistent standards for development. The list included Stormwater Management Plan requirements, hydrologic analysis, storm drainage systems, culvert design, open channel hydraulics, Stormwater detention design, erosion and sediment control, and drainage easements. Mr. Smith inquired Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley and Council for questions to the presentation. Council Member Humes asked Mr. Reigart why the Hawkins Street area did not make the priority list of projects since it has had flooding issues his whole life. Mr. Reigart stated that he was familiar with the area and it had come up in previous discussions, but it did not make the top twelve priority projects in the City. Mr. Reigart said that it may come up in future project lists or the City could decide to replace the project from one on the current priority project list. Council Member Joseph questioned why the area around East Bay Park was not mentioned during the presentation. Mr. Reigart responded that there is not a good engineering solution because it is such a low lying area. Council Member Butts requested to see how much relief the Front Street improvement project would bring to nearby areas. Mr. Reigart stated all of the details for each improvement project was given to the Engineering Department. Council Member Butts asked for further explanation of the study as it pertained to the tide changes. Mr. Reigart

stated that the study was done based on normal tide changes with flooding. Storm surge was not used as a factor in the study. Mr. Bingham reviewed the map and how the watershed improvement projects would relieve some of the problem areas during a storm surge. Discussions followed. Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley requested the completed surveys be sent to Mayor Barber and Council for review. Mr. Smith stated he would like to get the strategic plan for stormwater process started by the next workshop on August 22, 2019.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.

Council Member Butts moved, seconded by Council Member Jayroe.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bradley called for the vote.

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

The Special Meeting of City Council was adjourned at 5:20pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 10/17/19