



**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 1, 2017 – 4:00 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
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.
Mayor Pro Tempore Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Sheldon A. Butts
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Edward S. Kimbrough, Jr.
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Al Joseph

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Paul A. Gardner, City Administrator
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Miss Suzanne Abed-El-Latif, HR Manager
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Will Cook, Water Utilities Director
Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Superintendent
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department

ABSENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Mrs. Gloria Bromell-Tinubu, Economic Development Director

MEDIA

Georgetown Times – Ms. Anita Crone

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.

3. PRESENTATION ON LIONS CLUB DONATION

Mr. Paul Gardner introduced Mrs. Jane Thomas representing the Georgetown Lions Club. In celebration of the Lions 100th anniversary they were empowered to make a legacy project in the community. Several ideas were discussed and a gazebo was decided upon. She presented a drawing similar to what it would look like with a concrete pad, electricity and benches. The Lions Club would like to locate the project in Francis Marion Park near the water. From start to finish it should take 6-9 months. Council Member Jayroe said we should be very thoughtful about the location. Mrs. Thomas stated they hoped it could be located within the Front Street area; East Bay Park does not attract the tourism as Front Street does. Council thanked the Lions Club for the generous offer. Mayor Pro Tempore Barber expressed appreciation for all the resources provided to children in the community by the Lions Club.

4. UPDATED EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Miss Suzanne Abed-El-Latif presented a brief overview of the proposed revisions to the Employee Handbook which was last reviewed in 2004; every policy had some change which appears in red text. Each Council Member was previously provided a copy of the revised handbook. The MASC labor attorney reviewed each policy and modified as necessary. Once the changes are approved every employee will receive a new handbook.

Included in the changes are two additional official holidays...Good Friday and one additional day at Christmas. This will bring the total number of holidays observed annually to 13. Per diem rates will be paid in accordance with the current standard South Carolina Federal per diem rates.

The Medical Insurance Reimbursement will change July 1, 2017. A chart was provided showing the increase employees will pay. The final change will take effect July 1, 2018.

5. FRONT STREET TRAFFIC CONTROL

Captain Nelson Brown presented Council with a copy of correspondence from the Department of Transportation. Front Street is maintained by the City of Georgetown from Dozier Street to Queen Street and any speed limit or stop situations would be regulated by the City in this section of Front Street. Currently the speed limit is 25 MPH. He stated this is pretty fast in a district where adults and children are walking across the street, others trying to park, festivals taking place, etc. Council has the option to lower the speed limit on Front Street. Another 'traffic calming method' would be a speed monitoring device; this would cost \$10,000-\$12,000. Speed humps or speed bumps could be another option. The highway

department does not favor these because of the liability it can cause when a vehicle crosses over. A true speed hump is 20 feet wide and costly to install. A temporary/permanent speed hump can be bolted to the roadway and is less costly, \$1,000 to \$1200 per hump. Council could also consider three-way stops at various intersections on Front Street. This would stop the traffic and provide a protected crosswalk for pedestrians to cross the street. An ordinance would have to be enacted to enforce the change. The public and business owners should be educated throughout the entire process. Addressing parades and special events, Captain Brown proposed closing the street off earlier. He referred to a severe accident that occurred during a parade on Front Street and suggested Council consider curtailing people from sitting in the back of cars or on tailgates along the parade route. Discussions followed. Mayor Scoville directed Paul Gardner, Captain Brown and the City Attorney to prepare a proposed ordinance for the three-way stops between King and Queen Streets intersecting Front.

6. PEAK SHAVING PROJECT AND POWER OUTAGES

Mr. Alan Loveless presented a brief summary of funding and expenses to-date for the permanent peak shaving generation project. A chart was reviewed which included engineering cost opinion, actual to-date expenses and estimated actual expenses when the project is completed. He reported a pre-bid conference was held last week with potentially 13 general contractors represented and hopes to receive very competitive bids. The permanent project is expected to cost \$4.5 million. Expenses included for the temporary project are not included in the presentation. All savings experienced to-date have been passed back to the customers. There has been discussion about using some of the savings to pay for the project. This would be Council's decision. With the current demand rates paid to Santee Cooper, this project will pay for itself through savings in seven years. Currently our demand rate is \$15 per KW; others are being charged \$19 per KW. He said the City's demand rate will increase in the fall of 2018 to approximately \$20 per KW. This will increase our savings and shorten our payback time. Discussions followed.

Mr. Loveless provided Council a summary of recent electric outages. In August 2016 a Santee Cooper arrester failed in the Georgetown substation which took out both of the City's substations. Maryville was restored after a time and the Georgetown substation afterwards. In November 2016 another Santee Cooper arrester failed on their transformer in the Maryville substation. This took 4 ½ to 5 hours to repair. In October 2016 the entire City was affected by Hurricane Matthew. There were issues on the City's distribution system in January 2017; a line down on South Island Road on January 8, 2017 followed by a bad underground conductor in The Oaks on January 16, 2017. On May 16, 2017 another Santee Cooper arrester failed at the Winyah Generating Station. They were able to isolate it and restore power in about 20 minutes. There is a planned outage this coming Sunday morning between the hours of 2:00 am - 6:00 am. The arrester that failed in August will be repaired or replaced. The public has been given significant notification of this outage. Customers in Maryville will not be affected.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting/Workshop was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 07/13/17