# SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
# APRIL 2, 2015 – 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**
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 Wayne

**MEMBERS ABSENT**
Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr.

**ALSO PRESENT**
Mr. Chris Carter, City Administrator
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Miss Suzanne Abed-El-Latif, HR Manager
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Superintendent
Chief Paul Gardner, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
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**
No media present

## 2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Pro Tempore Peggy Wayne called the Special Meeting of City Council to order at 4:00 PM and rendered an invocation.

Mrs. Wayne requested all cell phones or electronic devices be turned off or placed on mute so as to not interrupt the meeting.

## 3. POWER POINT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chris Carter reviewed a PowerPoint budget presentation. The 2013/2014 budget was $30,013,443; 2014/2015 budget is $31,445,184; 2015/2016 department requests are $31,917,805 and the 2015/2016 Administrator recommendation is $30,843,461. He noted there are twelve different funds in City government. Fund accounting is used to segregate certain activities from others. Before making budget recommendations he takes into account Council's priorities discussed at the retreat, looks at expenditures to ensure we can maintain the current level of service and estimates revenues reasonably with minimal use of fund balances and retained earnings.

Budget by expense type for 2015/2016 includes Operating $15,173,823/42%; Capital $11,177,950/31% and Personnel $9,846,785/27%. Proposed expenditures by fund type include General Fund $13,909,746/41%; Electric $13,234,851/38%; Water and Wastewater $5,593,580/16%; Waste Management $894,389/3% and Stormwater $753,840/2%.

The largest source of revenue in the General Fund is taxes. Historically, the City collects about 95% of taxes due. With a millage rate of 87 mills, each mill representing $32,200, we expect to collect $2,948,878.

Taxation in South Carolina is regulated by Act 388. Taxes can only be raised in a combination of increase in the consumer price index and the population growth experienced by the jurisdiction. Exceptions include: (1) make up a deficit from the previous year, (2) pay for any catastrophic event, (3) comply with court order, (4) loss of 10% or more of property taxes due to taxpayer closure, (5) comply with state or federal mandate, (6) purchase of property near a military base, (7) purchase equipment in county with 100,000 plus population and 40,000 plus acres of state forest land. In 2011 Act 57 amended section 6-1-320 which would allow a political subdivision to impose millage increases allowed but not imposed for the three preceding property tax years and to exempt from the cap millage imposed for operating purposes by a special tax district. This was called the "look back."

A list of Accommodations Tax and Hospitality Tax expenditures were highlighted. Requests for contributions were received for the Winyah Auditorium, the Veterans Memorial and the ARB has asked for a study to look at design standards.

In summary, projects included in the 2015/2016 budget are the 17/701 project and repair of water and sewer problems in Maryville prior to the County resurfacing certain streets that were included in their bond ordinance.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent Order requires the first two stages of work be completed at a cost of $1,000,000; this is also budgeted. Staff is exploring refinancing the existing revenue bond to cover this cost, as well as the West Side sewer rehab project, possibly the Historic District water project and perhaps replacement of the City Hall water tank. The General Fund includes funds for the replacement of the Fire Station in Maryville and repairs to City Hall and Fire Station #1. Repairs to City Hall and Station #1 are estimated to be $3.4 million and the insurer has preliminary indicated they will take the claim.

Council Member Bradley asked for a prioritization of projects, the costs and where the money will come from to fund them.

## 4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Wayne adjourned the Special Meeting at 4:35 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 06/25/15