



Georgetown City Council

2222 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

Special Meeting/Workshop

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, March 14, 2024

5:00 PM

Municipal Courtroom

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 Carol Jayroe

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements

Council Member Jonathan Angner

Council Member Bruce Carl

Council Member Erin Ethridge

Council Member Jimmy Morris

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator

Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk

Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician

Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer

Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager

Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department

Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department

Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer

Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director

Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager

Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Carol Jayroe called the Special Meeting of City Council to order at 5:00pm 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. PRESENTATION**A. Presentation and discussion of potential projects for submission to the Georgetown County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission**

Mr. Whittier stated the Capital Project Sales Tax is a one cent charge that will fund capital projects such as buildings, roads, and dredging. He stated the county passed a resolution last year to form a Capital Project Sales Tax Commission to evaluate Capital Project proposals from government entities within the county, prioritize the list, and then present them to Georgetown County Council for approval in May and then to Georgetown County voters on the November ballot. Mr. Whittier handed out a copy of a draft proposed list of projects and shared a copy of the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission 2024 Evaluation Matrix that will be used to give each project a ranking based on community value & impact and ability to be successful and deliver value. Mr. Whittier stated this workshop is to review the city's list of projects and to finalize the project list for council to approve at the next Regular Meeting of City Council and submit to the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission before the April 1st deadline. Chief Cribb presented a proposal to add a City of Georgetown Fire Station #3. He stated there has been a lot of growth in the area east of South Island Road in Maryville. He said the property where the old Fire Station #2 is located would be ideal to put a new building. He said the project would cost \$950,000 and it would just be a substation for fire and police personnel. He stated there would not be any administration housed at this station. Mr. Arteaga presented 11 proposed projects for water, wastewater, and stormwater that would provide service to the entire city. The proposed projects for water include: a water treatment plant hypochlorite disinfection system for \$2M; Maryville water improvements phase II for Elizabeth and Morrison Streets for \$1.42M; Maryville water improvements for phase II for Oak Street for \$1.5M; and a water treatment plant new filter building for \$6.1M. The proposed projects for wastewater include: a wastewater treatment plant influent pump station submersible pump for \$1.49M; wastewater treatment plant effluent pumps for \$1M; a wastewater treatment plant SBR #1 modifications/DO control for \$2.26M; and a wastewater sludge tank replacement for \$1.5M. The proposed projects for stormwater include: a stormwater system for Church and N. Merriman Streets for \$3.3M; a stormwater system for Cannon Street for \$1.36M; and a stormwater system for the steel mill for \$2.1M. Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Carl Linquist from Tideland Health stated the Black River Road improvement project is very important to them because they service a great number of people in the community. Mr. Linquist introduced Mr. Stacey Johnson from SCDOT to present more details regarding this project. Mr. Johnson stated he is the Program Manager for this area and he is working closely with the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) on the funding for this project. He stated this project started in 2015-2016 and a concept plan was submitted in 2018 and shared with the public. Mr. Johnson stated at this point they have acquired most of the right of ways. He said there are 2 tracks left that are on hold. Mr. Johnson said they anticipate construction to begin in approximately eight months after they confirm with the area utilities a plan is in place for relocating. He said the city would need to relocate the

electric utilities and would be responsible for the funding of this project. He stated the \$1M needed to fund this project could be requested by the city through the Capital Project Sales Tax. Mr. Johnson said the city owns the water and sewer utilities too, but in 2018 legislation was passed that requires SCDOT to pay for the relocation of those utilities. Mr. Johnson reviewed the current map of the Black River Road area and reviewed the changes that would be made. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked for the total cost of the project. Mr. Johnson stated the total project consists of three phases and the total cost is approximately \$6.5M. He confirmed that amount does not include the \$1M needed to relocate the electric utilities. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked if large trucks could be restricted from traveling on this road. Mr. Johnson stated he would need to question the district staff regarding this restriction and he stated there would be enforcement concern. Mayor Jayroe confirmed this question was included in a letter the city sent to SCDOT last July. Mayor Pro Tempore asked about installing a sidewalk all the way to Fraser Street. Mr. Johnson said that was not included in this project due to funding. He said it could potentially be a separate project that may be funded by GSATS. He explained there are many factors to consider such as right of ways and draining issues. Mayor Pro Tempore asked what the risk is to obtain the 2 right of ways that are on hold. Mr. Johnson confirmed negotiations would continue and he is confident they will be acquired. Council Member Obeng asked about the underground infrastructure and how it would benefit residents. Mr. Johnson stated the water and sewer infrastructure would be brand new. Council Member Obeng requested Tideland's Health to consider establishing a trauma unit in the city. Council Member Angner asked who the property owners were for the 2 right of ways on hold. Mr. Johnson stated Georgetown Presbyterian Church and a business owner at the intersection of Black River Road and Bonds Street. Council Member Carl asked if the sidewalks that will be taken up will be replaced and Mr. Johnson confirmed they would be replaced. Mayor Jayroe asked if the sidewalk would be replaced in the same exact spot at Georgetown Presbyterian Church and Mr. Johnson said it would shift approximately 15 feet. Mayor Jayroe asked about the impact on the resident's side of the road and Mr. Johnson said the new sidewalk would impact approximately 6 feet and 1 foot for the curb replacement. Mayor Jayroe asked how many trees would need to come down to accommodate the widening and Mr. Johnson said a significant number of trees would need to come down to accommodate the widening project. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked what the tree replacement policy is and Mr. Johnson said SCDOT does not have a policy and it would not be a GSATS funded project. He said they could work with city staff and add it to the project, but the city would need to add it to their \$1M budget. Mr. Linquist stated this project has many benefits for the community. He said Georgetown Memorial Hospital has 500 employees and Tideland's Health is the biggest employer in the county. He said the number of patients they serve is growing and they anticipate 189,000 visits this year.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe requested anyone interested in speaking would need to sign their name and state if they live in the city or county. She stated public comments would be limited to three minutes per person.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Jessie Walker. Ms. Jessie Walker stated she is a city resident. She said there is public safety concern in the West End and many residents have had meetings regarding the issue of children crossing Highmarket Street that need to get to Georgetown High School. She is requesting a foot bridge be installed at the intersection of Highmarket and Lafayette Streets and include sidewalks, lighting, and possible cameras with the 2 cent sales tax funds.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Nolan Lundy. Mr. Lundy stated the traffic on Black River Road has been a problem since he moved to the city in 1971. He stated the problem has only got worse and he is in support of the project.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Paige Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer stated he is a city resident and travels Black River Road several times a day. Mr. Sawyer stated the main concern is to improve the traffic going in and out of the hospital. Mr. Sawyer asked what the process is for getting the foot bridge that was requested approved by the county and voters. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements explained the steps in the process.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Kent Moore. Mr. Moore stated he is a city resident and asked if the new sidewalk would run from Landgrave Street to 701. Mr. Johnson confirmed it would. Mr. Moore stated that will create a bigger problem with people walking through the neighborhood and items being stolen.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Everett Allen. Mr. Allen stated he is a resident of Georgetown County. He stated the trees make the city beautiful and requested the road be widened without tearing down the century old trees.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Tom Martin. Mr. Martin stated he is a Georgetown County resident. Mr. Martin stated he and Mr. Allen do trash pickup along Highway 17 from the Georgetown bridges up to Hog Heaven. He stated his concern with the trees being taken down for the Black River Road project. He stated he supports the trees be protected.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Becky Ryan. Ms. Ryan stated she is with the Coastal Conservation League and covers Georgetown County. She stated she is in support of protecting the grand oak trees that will need to be removed for the Black River Road project. She said not only are they a beautiful part of Georgetown, but they have a healthy benefit by keeping the temperatures cooler and improving the air quality. She requested other options be considered like putting in a traffic light at the hospital.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Stacey Johnson. Mr. Johnson explained if the project shifted to protect the trees, then it would impact property owners in a negative manner. Mr. Johnson said the project was approved by the city in 2020 and that is why they moved forward with acquiring the right of ways.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of City Council.

Mayor Jayroe moved, seconded by Council Member Angner.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Carol R. Jayroe, Mayor
SECONDER:	Jonathan Angner, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Clements, Morris, Obeng, Ethridge, Carl, Jayroe