



**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP OF CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 26, 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 Al Joseph
Council Member Edward S. Kimbrough, Jr.
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Paul A. Gardner, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Will Cook, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Superintendent
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department

ABSENT

Miss Suzanne Abed-El-Latif, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer

MEDIA

Georgetown Times - Ms. Eileen Keithly
GAB News - Mr. Scott Harper

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. BAILEY BILL PRESENTATION

A. Ms. Amy Moore, Preservation Planner with the City of Columbia, SC

Mr. Paul Gardner introduced Ms. Amy Moore from the City of Columbia who made a presentation on the Bailey Bill. The South Carolina state legislation enacted in 1992 and amended in 2004 the Bill as a local real estate tax incentive for rehabilitation of historic property. In the City of Columbia, it freezes the taxable assessed value of a property for up to 20 years following a minimum investment threshold, review and approval of the project and successful completion of the project within two years. The applicant submits a completed application form, photographs, written description and fee to the review board. A \$150 fee for single family residential and \$300 for any multi-family and commercial projects. The review board approves the project, staff notifies the county and monitors the project, once the project is complete, staff sends final certification notice to the county. The applicant enjoys the real estate tax savings for the length of the abatement period. Benefits for owners include the potential for significant savings on real estate tax, a catalyst for starting a project, incentive for less protected building, removes some of the "sting" of historic designation and can transfer to new owner. Benefits for the community are to gain more landmarks and districts, recapture historic facades, catalyze an entire Main Street revival, educate people about their buildings and encourage local investment. She said consequences are owners have to maintain the property and any changes are under review, the municipality has to maintain designation, if property drops in value due to economic recession, their county maintains the Bailey Bill freeze at the same level.

Counties and municipalities can offer this by state legislation. Mrs. Moore said their experience has been it is much better when both offer the abatements together. Property owners can use this. Those who do not pay a property tax, such as most churches or other non-profits and government entities do not benefit from this program. She said the 20 year abatement works well for the City of Columbia. The City ordinance can include rehabilitation of historic properties in and outside of the Historic District and list certain criteria. Georgetown County has had the Bailey Bill since 1997 with a 10 year abatement period, but it has never been utilized.

Mrs. Moore explained their process for starting a Bailey Bill project, reviewing the project, approving the project and final certification. Discussions followed.

4. FIRE

A. Motion to Approve Agreement and Purchase of New P25 Compliant Motorola Radios and Payment to KS State Bank in the amount of \$35,000.00.

Mayor Pro Tempore Barber moved, seconded by Mayor Scoville. Chief Charlie Cribb presented the request to purchase new radios. He explained the current radios are between 10 and 15 years old and are on an analog system. The system is now digital and other agencies are migrating over. Discussions followed.

Mayor Scoville called for the question.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brendon M. Barber S., Mayor Pro Tempore
SECONDER:	Jack M. Scoville Jr., Mayor
AYES:	Scoville Jr., Barber Sr., Butts, Jayroe, Joseph, Kimbrough, Smalls

Mayor Scoville told Council the bulkhead at Constitution Park is failing and the City may incur the cost. The County owns the building (next door) where the Coastal Carolina Innovation Center is located. They experience repeated flooding problems. The bulkhead issue should be addressed in the upcoming budget. Mr. Gardner said numbers will be available at the Retreat.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Scoville adjourned the Special Meeting/Workshop at 5:14 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 04/20/17