

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 — 5:30 PM

MUNICIPAL COURTROOM

2222 HIGHMARKET STREET

GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

AND LIVESTREAM:

<https://www.facebook.com/cityoftown/>



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 Jim Clements
Council Member Jonathan Angner
Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Jimmy Morris

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Carol Jayroe
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer
Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager
Mr. Ryan Call, Building Inspector
Mr. Peter Gaytan, Planning & Community Development Director
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Ms. Eliza Jagger, Assistant Finance Director
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called the Regular Meeting of City Council to order at 5:30 pm 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. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements recognized Council Member Ethridge to render the invocation and Council Member Angner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

None

6. PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements announced the proclamations.

- A. A Proclamation proclaiming October 6-12, 2024 as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**
- B. A Proclamation proclaiming October 12, 2024 as Melissa Jefferson Day in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**

7. FINANCE

- A. Motion to Approve the Accommodations & Hospitality Tax Committee Disbursement Recommendation of FY 2024/2025 Accommodations & Hospitality Tax Funds to Fifteen (15) Applicants.**

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
AYES:	Jonathan Angner, Jim Clements, Erin Ethridge, Bruce Carl, Jimmy Morris

8. FIRE

A. Motion to approve purchase and payment in the amount of \$169,954.71 to Motorola Solutions for Replacement of Radios.

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Jim Clements, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris

9. POLICE

A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to amend article III of Chapter 20 of the code of ordinances for the city of Georgetown by deleting Section 20-46 and replacing it in its entirety to read 20-46 operation on flooded or closed streets, roads, highways, bridges or alleys.

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris

10. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier said the ARPA wastewater project at S. Fraser and Front Streets will begin next week. He said the quotes received were much higher than what was budgeted, so only the critical parts of the project will be completed. He said it may cause traffic issues while the project is in progress. Mr. Whittier stated that a few years ago Raftelis conducted a utility rate study and now they are working on a cost of operations study for the city.

This study should be completed in December or January and will be presented at a future workshop for discussion. He stated Human Resources is working on a compensation study that should be completed before the next budget planning starts. He said the last time the city completed a compensation study was in 2021. Mr Whittier stated there are 36 short-term rentals that are operating in compliance in the city. He said there are a handful that are in violation and they will be sent citations next week. Mr. Whittier said this year has been challenging for businesses and staff regarding business licenses. He said this year the requirement for businesses to report gross revenues was enforced and it has not been in previous years. He said approximately 200 businesses were given a notice of assessment letter.

11. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve the minutes of August 15 and August 22, 2024 council meetings.

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris

12. OLD BUSINESS

None

13. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Angner stated Council Member Obeng brought up reviewing the parade ordinance in a previous meeting. Council Member Angner requested the City

Administrator to put this topic on a future Council workshop and have public comment.

He said he would like to have the ordinance standardized and help streamline the process for both staff and citizens.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested that all city boards and commissions are required to elect new chairpersons at the beginning of every year. He said he would like this to be a requirement as the first order of business in January. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested a hierarchy of building permits be put in place. He said no other permits should be issued until the ARB work that is approved has been completed or is in progress and the work has been reviewed.

14. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements stated the department monthly reports are available for review in the agenda.

A. Building Monthly Report

1. Building department August 2024 Monthly Report

B. Electric Department Monthly Report

1. Electric Department August 2024 Monthly Report

C. Engineering Department Monthly Report

1. Engineering Department August 2024 Monthly Report

D. Finance Department Monthly Report

1. Finance Department August 2024 Monthly Report

E. Fire Department Monthly Report

1. Fire Department August 2024 Monthly Report

F. Fleet Services Monthly Report

1. Fleet Service August 2024 Monthly Report

G. Human Resources Monthly Report

1. Human Resources August 2024 Monthly Report

H. Municipal Court Monthly Report

1. Municipal Court August 2024 Monthly Report

I. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report

1. Planning & Community Development August 2024 Monthly Report

J. Police Department Monthly Report

1. Police Department August 2024 Monthly Report

K. Public Works Monthly Report

1. Public Works August 2024 Monthly Report

L. Risk Management Monthly Report

1. Risk Management August 2024 Monthly Report

M. Water Utilities Monthly Report

1. Water Utilities August 2024 Monthly Report

**15. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CITY SERVICES, BUSINESS, OR OTHER CITY MATTERS
NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements recognized Mr. Jason Collins. Mr. Collins stated he received a letter from the city stating he could not operate multiple businesses at 622 Washington Street. He said he was grandfathered in by the previous administration. He said the

current administration told him he was treated the same as any other business owner in the city. He said he provided shelter for people that needed a place to stay during storms and that he was not considered a public nuisance. Mr. Collins stated he feels that he and his family are not being treated fairly.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements recognized Ms. Mozella Warren. Ms. Warren passed out a packet of pictures taken of her residence at 1806 Front Street during a flood. She stated the flooding on her property had occurred because the city allowed a business at 103 Merriman Road to raise the elevation and a curb on Front Street was added that directs water onto her property. She stated she had spoken with Mr. Stack and Mrs. Crosby in the past, but nothing has been resolved. She stated she received a letter from Mr. Whittier stated that the city cannot do any work on the drainage pipe on private property, but they can provide a connection to the pipe that is in the drainage easement.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1) and (2) to discuss appointments/reappointments to the City Boards/Commissions and to receive legal advice relating to a pending, threatened, or potential claim covered by the attorney-client privilege.**

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm

- B. Motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Meeting.**

Council Member Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Ethridge.

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
SECONDER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
AYES:	Jim Clements, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:15pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

D. City Council may take action on items discussed in Executive Session.

17. APPOINTMENT

Motion to reappoint Mr. Zannie Graham to the Construction Board of Appeals for a five year term.

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris

18. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Erin Ethridge moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 10/17/2024