

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
DECEMBER 19, 2024 — 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
2222 HIGHMARKET STREET
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA
AND LIVESTREAM:**



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

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
Mayor Carol Jayroe
Council Member Jonathan Angner
Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Jimmy Morris
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
Deputy Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Ryan Call, Building Inspector
Mrs. Clarissa Tindall, Zoning Administrator
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Ms. Eliza Jagger, Assistant Finance Director
Ms. Kara Hamilton, Human Resources Manager
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jayroe called the Regular Meeting of City Council to order at 5:30pm 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

Council Member Carl introduced Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark to render the invocation and JROTC Master Chief Amena Reyes to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe introduced Mr. Ed Benton. Mr. Benton presented a copy of his book, "Revenue Sources of Local Governments" to Mayor Jayroe and each Council Member. Mr. Benton stated the City of Georgetown is mentioned on page 149 in reference to the challenges of passing a budget.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. Mullis introduced Wilson Smith for the Water department. Deputy Chief Brown introduced Paul Howard for the Police department.

6. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve second reading of an Ordinance Rezoning of Approximately 0.38 acres, located at 327 Duke Street, Georgetown, SC (05-0030-134-00-00), from Residential (R1) to Residential (R4).

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

7. FINANCE

A. Motion to approve FY2025-26 Budget Calendar.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

8. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A. Motion to approve upgrades to Front St underground infrastructure phase 3 project and award Sumter Utilities in the amount of \$671,021.30.

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

9. PUBLIC WORKS

A. Motion to Approve purchase of a Scowbody Dump Truck from Carolina International Trucks in the amount of \$196,149.75.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

B. Motion to approve upgrades to park equipment in East Bay Park and award Churchich Recreation the amount of \$454,622.03.

Council Member Jimmy Morris moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

10. WATER UTILITIES

A. Motion to approve purchasing a 400-ECO Vac-truck from Jet-Vac in the amount of \$399,340.95 with FY25 Funds.

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated there were some technical difficulties transferring data so the transition from New World to BS&A will be delayed until January 21. He said some of the staff training has been delayed. He stated there will be a person on-site from BS&A when the city goes live with the software to resolve any issues. Mr. Whittier stated if a utility customer is enrolled in auto draft or auto pay those services will end on December 31 and they will need to re-enroll after January 21 to continue this service in the new system. Mr. Whittier stated the city has received 4,000 water nodes this month and they are ready to be installed. He said the new nodes should reduce the number of re-reads and manual adjustments that are done now. He stated the install project will be done by a vendor from North Carolina and will start in February. He said that the project will be completed in 10-12 weeks. Mr. Whittier stated the City of Georgetown Police department received accreditation from the state law enforcement division. He said this is a voluntary process and it takes several years to complete. He stated this accreditation symbolizes a high honor and dedication of our police department. Mr. Whittier congratulated the department for thier hard work and recognized Deputy Chief Brown to share a few words. Deputy Chief Brown recognized Captain Shannon Burbage for her leadership and dedication over the last three years to complete this project. He thanked her and the rest of the department for their hard work on getting accredited by the state.

12. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of November 21, 2024 Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

13. OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked for an update on the raw water station electrical upgrade. He stated it is listed in Mr. Arteaga's monthly report as a redesign. Mr. Arteaga stated when it was brought to Council for approval a few months ago, it was for the full

amount of the project. He said this project will be partially funded by Liberty Steel. He said there are some questions the city has asked the contractor regarding the redesign and we are awaiting their response. He stated the redesign project would not need to come back to Council for approval unless the cost would change from what was previously approved by Council. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked when the Comprehensive Plan will be presented to Council. Mrs. Tindale stated they are waiting for information to take back to the Planning Commission at their January meeting and then they are required to have a public hearing.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Obeng asked if residents have been sent notifications regarding the new system and how they will be affected. She said it would be good to remind them with the holidays coming up. She stated the notifications should be sent out in English and Spanish. Mr. Whittier stated notifications have been sent out to the first part of billing cycle residents and the city will be posting reminders on social media. Council Member Obeng thanked Laurie Cipolla, the city's KGB Coordinator, and her dream team along with the Front Street business owners for their help with the angel tree this year. She said the angel tree will help 70 children from ages 0-18 years old that live in the city have a nice Christmas. She reminded residents to shop local.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements stated some Planning Commission board members requested to be invited to meetings that Council members are included in that involves topics in the city. He gave the port as a meeting topic example. Mayor Jayroe requested contact information for the interested board members and stated the city is usually not the meeting host.

15. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Jayroe stated the department monthly reports are available for review in the agenda packet.

- A. Building Monthly Report**
- B. Electric Department Monthly Report**
- C. Engineering Department Monthly Report**
- D. Finance Department Monthly Report**
- E. Fire Department Monthly Report**
- F. Fleet Services Monthly Report**
- G. Human Resources Monthly Report**
- H. Municipal Court Monthly Report**
- I. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report**

J. Police Department Monthly Report

K. Public Works Monthly Report

L. Risk Management Monthly Report

M. Water Utilities Monthly Report

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

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Cary Farrow. Ms. Farrow stated she is an appointed member for the city's A/Tax & H/Tax Committee. She stated the biggest challenge she sees with the city's boards and commissions is recruiting board members. She said the advertisement of vacancies is not enough and direct contact should be used in recruiting members. Ms. Farrow said the city should be highlighting a particular commission or board monthly on social media and board member terms should be listed on the city website. She said board member roles should be taken seriously and attendance of meetings is important. Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Bradley Campbell. Mr. Campbell stated he drives by City Hall every day and he is disgusted by the appearance. He said he was so frustrated that he took the project on himself to clean it up recently during a weekend. He said he cleaned up litter, trimmed the bushes, and filled up 69 trash bags. He said he sent a message to SCDOT regarding Frasier Street and they cleaned up some of it. Mr. Campbell said we need to take pride in our community and show respect.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss and receive legal advice related to the city's bid process and proposed settlement in 2024 for CP-2022-465.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Morris

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
SECONDER:	Council Member Jimmy Morris
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:10pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

18. CITY ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Whittier stated he would like to make a recommendation regarding the Municipal Complex project. He said pursuant to the Procurement ordinance, Section 2-187 Professional and Construction Management Services, Design-Build Services, Turnkey Management, at his/her discretion, the City Administrator is required to determine on the construction contracting administration that is most advantageous to the city regarding the Municipal Complex Project. as required and as part of this determination, the City Administrator shall have the discretion to use construction management services, design-build services, or turnkey management services as alternatives for construction contracting administration. If the City Administrator determines the use of one of the alternatives for construction is the most advantageous means of securing the construction contract administration, the selected method shall be submitted for review to City Council at a regular meeting. After such review, interested parties have fifteen days to submit to the City Administrator written comments on the selected construction method. Interested parties who have provided such comments may address Council at the following regular meeting. I have determined the city's best option for the renovation of the Municipal Complex project is the Construction Management delivery method for the construction contracting administration. The Construction Management services approach is the most advantageous means of securing the construction contracting administration with the anticipation that this approach will result in the timeliest, most economical, and successful completion of the renovations of the Municipal Complex building. He stated he requested the preconstruction contractor to provide the guaranteed maximum price.

- A. Motion to approve that we accept the recommendation of the City Administrator to proceed under Section 2-187 of the Purchasing ordinance for Construction Management services and move forward with Phase II of the building renovations for the Electric and Public Works departments at the Municipal Complex and to request the guaranteed maximum proposal from the preconstruction services contractor for Council's consideration.**

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

19. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of City Council.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jonathan Angner

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
SECONDER:	Council Member Jonathan Angner
AYES:	Jim Clements, Carol Jayroe, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 01/16/2025