

**REGULAR MEETING OF
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2025 — 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 Carol Jayroe
Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Jimmy Morris
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Jonathan Angner

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Braxton Walton, 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
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
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 5:30 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

Council Member Carl introduced Mary Drayton Dennison to render the invocation and the Boy Scouts of America troop #300 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Vermeland introduced Ms. Jessica Cooper for the Finance department.

6. FINANCE

- A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article IV, Section 2-187 "Professional and Construction Management Services, Design-Build Services, Turnkey Management" for the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

7. ENGINEERING

- A. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance authorizing the conveyance of two easement areas on Cannon Street, Block 100, located at 15 Cannon Street and 16 Cannon Street.**

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

- B. Motion to ratify the approval of a grant application submittal for funding support for a new walking trail and bridge replacement project at Morgan**

Park with the Recreational Trails Program from the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT).

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements moved to postpone agenda item 7.B until there is a better understanding of the next fiscal year budget, seconded by Council Member 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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

C. Motion to approve a deduct change order for \$261,026.85 to Coastal Structures Corp. for the Raw Water Pump Station Project.

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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

D. Motion to approve the lowest qualified bid of \$6,972,555.00 and to make payments to Don Moorhead Construction, Inc. for the Division I-Pump Station #11 Project Base Bid only, excluding two alternates.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

E. Motion to approve the lowest qualified bid of \$3,247,960.00 and to make payments to RH Moore & Company, Inc. for the Division II-Force Main base bid only, excluding four (4) alternates.

Council Member Erin Ethridge moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

8. PUBLIC WORKS

A. Motion to approve purchase of a John Deere Tink Tractor and make payment to Dobbs Equipment in the amount of \$128,180.91.

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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier announced the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new pavilion at East Bay Park was held last week. He stated construction began this week to install an inclusive playground at East Bay Park. He said the swings that were upgraded in 2024 and the new playground project should be completed by the end of the month. Mr. Whittier said the transition between the old and new software systems is going smoothly and the issues regarding utility billing are being resolved. He confirmed the meter readings on the utility bills are correct. He said new water nodes began installation at the end of last month. He said 4,000 water nodes will be installed and the project will take 10-12 weeks to complete. Mr. Whittier stated that once this is complete, this will eliminate the need for a meter technician to conduct a re-read and it will eliminate the need for a staff member in Finance to manually enter the data.

10. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of the January 16, 2025 council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements
SECONDER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
AYES:	None

11. OLD BUSINESS

None

12. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Obeng stated she attended several community events last week and said they were free to attend. She reminded everyone that it is important to attend these events and show support to the community. She said there is an event coming up on Saturday at the Howard Auditorium for Black History month and the event is open to the public and it is free to attend.

13. 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**

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

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Sharon Melton. Ms. Melton stated she is concerned with the new utility system because it is not accurate with her household usage. She said the EPA needs to be contacted regarding the smell from the paper mill since they closed. She said we have to do better for the citizens of Georgetown.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Thuplin Deas. Ms. Deas said as a senior citizen she is concerned regarding the high utility bills. She said there won't be money for food or other things because all the money will go towards paying the high utility bill.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Betty Stewart. Ms. Stewart stated she is concerned about the high utility bills.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Barbara Brown. Ms. Brown stated she is concerned about the high utility bills.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Isaac Grate. Mr. Grate stated he is concerned about the high usage and high utility bills. He said he has not done anything different since he bought his house 10 years ago. He said he would like to cut down the oak trees in his yard to be able to put up solar panels, but he is not allowed to do so.

Mayor Jayroe announced there is a sign-up sheet for any citizens that would like the Finance department to look at their accounts to see if there are any errors in the system. She said they will follow up with everyone tomorrow.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Janette Graham. Ms. Graham said she is concerned and wants to know how her utility bill went from \$241 to \$793. She said she lives in a two-person household.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Mr. Wesley Gibson. Mr. Gibson said his utility bill went from \$337 to \$676. He said there was a leak in his water heater and he used 7,000 gallons of water and this month he was told he used 10,000 gallons of water with no water leak. He said he is concerned about the increases in utility rates every year and that residents won't be able to pay their bills.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a) (1)(2) to discuss appointments/reappointments to the City Boards/Commissions and to receive quarterly legal update from the city attorney on pending cases and cases adjudicated since last update.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

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

Council Member Jimmy Morris moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:55pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

16. APPOINTMENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved to appoint John Keith Anderson to the Construction Board of Appeals, 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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved to appoint Suzie Shoman to the Arts & Cultural Commission, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl
Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 03/20/2025