

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**MARCH 13, 2025 — 5:00 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 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
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician
Deputy Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Ms. Eliza Jagger, Assistant Finance Director
Ms. Katie Badgett, Human Resources Manager
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jayroe called the Special Meeting of City Council to order at 5:00 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. PRESENTATION

A. Raftelis Consulting presentation on the cost-of-service study for electric rate structures.

Mr. Whittier introduced Ms. Mihaela Coopersmith from Raftelis Financial Consultants. Ms. Coopersmith stated she is reviewing the results of the electric utility cost of service and rate study update that they performed. She stated the results in this presentation are subject to change due to a recent notification regarding an increase in purchased power costs for the city that will be effective on April 1, 2025. Ms. Coopersmith gave an overview of the financial plan, cost of service analysis, and the rate design. She said they updated the forecast of revenues and revenue requirements, evaluated the sufficiency of existing rates, and assessed the level of future increases. She stated the projected expenses are based on the FY2024-2025 adopted budget with annual increases ranging from 3%-5%, the existing debt service from 2017 and 2023 Combined Public Utility System Revenue Bonds, and the plan to fund the 5-year CIP with TIF proceeds and cash from reserve funds or PAYGO. She said residential accounts are projected to grow 0.5% and commercial accounts are projected to grow at 0.25% annually. Ms. Coopersmith reviewed the recommended Electric Fund rate increases and stated they are consistent with the 2022 and 2023 rate studies. She stated the rate recommendations for all rate categories across the board should be 4.0% for FY2026-2028 and 3.0% for FY2029-2033. She said these increases will cover all operating expenses and approximately 57% of the capital fund projects. She reviewed the cost-of-service methodology and the cost-of-service results. Ms. Coopersmith pointed out that residential revenue under existing rates is \$6.4M and our cost for service is \$7.4M, the commercial revenue under existing rates is \$6.5M and our cost of service is \$5.8M, and the extra-large commercial revenue under existing rates is \$1.6M and our cost of service is \$1.2M. She confirmed the extra-large commercial customers are Walmart, Georgetown Hospital, and the city. She reviewed the rate design objectives for residential, commercial, and extra-large commercial. She said they are proposing a target rate adjustment of 2.5% for residents to provide more equitable recovery of costs and avoid rate shock. Ms. Coopersmith reviewed the current and proposed rate structure. She gave an example of changes to monthly charges for residential homes going from \$11.18 to \$15.27 and commercial demand going from \$16.76 to \$31.50. She said 50% of residential customers' bills fall between 0-1,200 kwh. She reviewed residential customer impacts on current and proposed rate structures that ranged from a difference of \$.043-\$7.40 power month.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion to Adjourn the Special 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, Jonathan Angner, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 04/17/25