

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Bruce Carl

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
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mrs. Clarissa Tindall, Zoning Administrator

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jayroe called the Regular Meeting of City Council to order at 5:30pm 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 Morris introduced Mr. Ernest B. Cole from the Low Country Veterans Group to render the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jayroe recognized Cary Farrow. Ms. Farrow stated her concerns about the Comprehensive Plan that Council will be voting on tonight. She stated this is not the same plan that was voted on by the Planning Commission. She said the plan has many flaws and urged Council members to send it back to the Planning Commission to be revised.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Sheldon Butts. Mr. Butts stated the West End Redevelopment Plan was recommended by residents to be included in the Comprehensive Plan, but was not voted on by the Planning Commission. He said he is concerned if Council votes on this plan because of the revisions that were added at the last minute.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Connie Bull. Ms. Bull stated she is concerned with the Comprehensive Plan that Council will be voting on tonight because of its legitimacy. She said best practices were not used during the process and this plan is not ready to be considered for approval of first reading by Council.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Kim Shell. Mrs. Shell stated she has concerns that state regulatory requirements have not been met by the Planning Commission for the Comprehensive Plan that Council will be voting on tonight. She said goals of the 2040 population element are not included in the current plan. She stated there were planning requirements that were not met. She urged Council members to work with citizens to create a plan that represents a true vision for the future instead of voting for the first reading of the Comprehensive Plan tonight.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Raad Joseph. Mr. Joseph stated he is a member of the Planning Commission and it is required by state law that a municipality reviews their Comprehensive Plan every five years, but it had not been done since 2011. He expressed gratitude to the group of residents who gave input and helped draft the new plan. He stated he recommends that Council move forward with approving the first reading of the Comprehensive Plan tonight and to hire a new Planning Director so the Planning Commission can continue to work on this document.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ede Graves. Mrs. Graves stated she worked with the Core 24 group of residents to give input to the new Comprehensive Plan. She said she believes the Planning Commission has done the right thing by bringing this to Council to vote on first reading tonight. She stated if this plan is put on hold, the city will not be ready for big changes that are upcoming in the city. She said that she is in favor of the approved plan being updated and revised to suit the city's future.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Glenn Roberts. Mr. Roberts said he is a concerned citizen and member of the Planning Commission. He said he appreciated all the input that Ede Graves and residents put into the Comprehensive Plan during the process. He said he recommends that the plan gets approved by Council so that the Planning Commission can work on modifying it.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Natrona Simmons introduced Anthony White, Lee Ford, and Aaron Jenkins for the Public Works department. Mr. Scott Whittier introduced Katie Badgett as the new HR Director for the Administrative department.

6. RESOLUTION

A. Motion to approve a Resolution designating April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

7. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve first reading of the City of Georgetown's Ordinance amending Chapter 20, Sections 20-7 Encroachment, 20-7.4 Encroachment for noncommercial purposes, 20-7.5 Items, merchandise, activities allowed within the permitted encroachment area, 20-7.6 Sidewalk sales, 20-7.7 Fees, 20-8.0 Deposits of goods, wares, merchandise: time limited, 20-9 Enforcement of provisions.

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

B. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance adopting an updated Comprehensive Plan (the 2040 Comprehensive Plan) for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements. Mayor Jayroe asked if the COG reviewed the plan to make sure all the requirements made by the state law were followed. Mrs. Tindall confirmed.

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris
NAYS:	Tamika Williams-Obeng

8. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance authorizing terms for rights over public property.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

9. ENGINEERING

A. Motion to approve engineering proposal from and make payments to Thomas and Hutton in the not-to-exceed amount of \$98,500 for the Willowbank Watermain Improvements project.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve engineering proposal from and make payments to Rowe Professional in the not-to-exceed amount of \$101,500 for the N. Merriman Rd -Congdon St Stormwater Improvements project.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

C. Motion to approve engineering proposal from and make payments to G3 Engineering and Surveying LLC in the not-to-exceed amount of \$150,335 for the Morgan Park Trail and Bridge project.

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

D. 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 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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

10. WATER UTILITIES

A. Motion to approve purchasing a 2026 International HX520 dump truck for the Wastewater Treatment Facility in the amount of \$282,698.06

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated that during the transition of our billing system, the city did not charge any late fees. He said the transitions to the new system has been completed and the city will start issuing late fees on April 1st. He said customers will be notified through constant contact, the city Facebook page, and inserts sent out with utility bills. Mr. Whittier gave an update on the new city hall project. He said the interior demolition and asbestos abatement are complete. He said the design process is ongoing and construction should begin in September. He said the replacement of the wastewater pump station at the old city hall project is being funded by SCIP (South Carolina Infrastructure Program) and they will select the contractor.

12. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of February 20 and February 27, 2025 Council Meetings.

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

13. OLD BUSINESS

None

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

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 Sharon Melton. Ms. Melton said she should have signed up to speak for the public comments on agenda items because she is concerned with the Fair Housing Month Resolution. She said the city does not have affordable housing. Ms. Melton stated she was asked how long the billing audit will take and if the residents be notified of any credits due to them.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Lyneatha Drayton. Mrs. Drayton said she is concerned about a backup that is causing her bathtub to overflow. She said she had called the city to report the issue and she appreciated the staff who responded. She said her neighbors do not have this problem. She said she is concerned if she is not home and the bathtub overflows that her floor will be ruined and she cannot afford to replace it.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Glenn Roberts. Mr. Roberts said he is thankful that the drainage issues are being repaired on his street. He said there is a vacant lot in his neighborhood

and the property owner should have to pay for stormwater availability. He said it would be a great source of income due to the number of vacant lots in the city.

17. 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; to discuss and receive legal advice on matters covered by attorney-client privilege related to a request to Incentivize the Rinehart Building Project; and to receive legal advice for the Fema Swift Current program.**

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

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

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, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

Executive Session adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:35pm.

- C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

18. APPOINTMENT

A. Motion to reappoint Delores Gibson to the Planning Commission.

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Jonathan Angner

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to reappoint Natalie Pantuso to the Arts & Cultural Commission.

Council Member Erin Ethridge moved, seconded by Mayor Carol Jayroe

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 04/17/2025

