

**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 27, 2021 – 4:00 PM
TELECONFERENCE**

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 Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Jonathan Angner
Council Member Tupelo Humes
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Mayor Pro Tempore Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mr. John Barfield, Director of Finance
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Will Gunter, Water Utilities Director
Mrs. Gladys Rutledge-Livingston, Human Resources/Risk Manager
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Mr. Ricky Martin, Building and Zoning Administrator
Deputy Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department
Ms. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Office Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. called the Special Meeting of City Council to order at 4:00pm 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. ROLL CALL

4. ANNOUNCEMENT

- A. Mayor Barber stated effective immediately the Executive Order on the Emergency Proclamation was modified to lift the ban on Special Events permits and we are working towards going back to face to face Council Meetings in May.**

5. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Motion to approve second reading of an Ordinance requiring individuals to wear face coverings in certain establishments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Smalls. Council Member Joseph asked for clarification on the expiration of this ordinance. Dr. Yúdice confirmed this ordinance will be in effect for ninety days or until the Governor's state wide emergency lapses or is rescinded, whichever occurs first. Mayor Barber confirmed the medical experts are still recommending wearing face masks regardless if you have been vaccinated. Council Member Joseph asked if conditions improve can this ordinance be reviewed before the ninety day expiration. Mrs. Crosby confirmed that Council may revisit the ordinance prior to the ninety day expiration. Council Member Angner stated he received a request from a constituent for the name of the medical expert giving advice. Mayor Barber said he is not at authorized to release their name without permission but it is one of the leading experts in the county. Mayor Barber said if he gets their permission, he will share the information. Council Member Angner asked if it is appropriate for the person to be identified if they are advising scientific data to be used to make decisions for our voters. Mayor Barber stated the experts giving guidance can be seen through various websites and through the CDC and DHEC. Council Member Angner asked the City Attorney for an opinion on the point of order. Mrs. Crosby confirmed a point of order was not made. She pointed out the recitals are in the whereas clauses in the ordinance. Mayor Barber stated the request refers to the Executive Order and does not pertain to the face mask ordinance. Mayor Barber said with all of the concerns pertaining to the pandemic, we have received briefings from doctors in virtual public settings and meetings. Mrs. Crosby stated the Clerk's minutes will reflect what came before Council and the findings in the whereas clauses are the findings made by Council when a decision is made through the voting process.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 2]
MOVER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
SECONDER:	Clarence C. Smalls, Mayor Pro Tempore
AYES:	Barber Sr., Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls
NAYS:	Angner, Jayroe

6. FINANCE

A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to further amend Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Budget (2nd Budget Amendment).

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph. Mr. Barfield stated from discussions with Will Gunter, we know that we need to have additional funds to assist the Water and Wastewater funds to make it through the end of the fiscal year. He said we are requesting \$167,500 for Water and Wastewater and an additional \$50,000 for matching EDA grant funds. Mr. Barfield stated there has been an increase in chemical and water treatment costs. Mr. Barfield stated the Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater funds will be in jeopardy if this is not approved. Dr. Yúdice added this budget amendment also includes \$30,000 for the CDBG grant. Discussions followed.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

7. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Discussion on Building and Planning Fees from the City Clerk's Records.

Mr. Martin said they had a meeting in March with contractors that work in the city and they received great feedback. He stated there has not been any increases in fees since 2007. Mr. Matt Millwood reviewed the planning and zoning fees with the city compared to neighboring communities. Mr. Millwood stated there are options and flexibility on adjusting any of the fees. Mr. Martin reviewed samples of the top five permit types with proposed fee increases. Mr. Millwood reviewed options for an increase in operational fees. Mr. Martin stated the cost of construction and demand for building materials is increasing. Discussions followed.

8. REVIEW ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR FY2021/2022 BUDGET.

Mr. Barfield stated the challenges the city is facing are common across the country for other cities comparable to the size of Georgetown. Mr. Barfield gave an update from the presentation done in March. The total budget presented as of today is \$36,262,158. He said in the General Fund we have used \$934,934 of unassigned fund balance to fund capital improvements and to balance the General Fund. The

budget includes a 3% salary increase and longevity assumption. The budget includes an adjustment to the Stormwater fund that took effect on April 1, 2020. He stated it will take a few years before we fully benefit from it. Mr. Barfield stated the Capital Projects Fund was established in 2016 and has a balance of \$419,478. He said for FY2022 we are proposing to move the unassigned general funds of \$892,272 to cover expenses for Capital Projects. Mr. Barfield stated healthcare costs continue to be a major portion of the payroll costs. He confirmed the Employer Retirement Contribution rate is 19.24% for Police Officers and Fire Fighters and 16.56% for all other city employees. He stated these rates will increase 1% annually until 2023. He stated the city's portion of retirement costs are 18% of payroll costs. Mr. Barfield said they are making good progress with the South Carolina Business License Standardization Act and should see the revenues from that change immediately. Mr. Barfield reviewed the proposed expenditures with Stormwater at 5%; Water and Wastewater at 29%; Waste Management at 2%; General Fund at 27%; Hospitality and Accommodation at 2%; and Electric at 31%. Discussions followed.

9. DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS.

Mayor Barber confirmed special event permits are now being allowed. Council Member Angner asked what the procedure is if there is an error or if something on the special event permit application is disapproved. Mayor Barber stated the city has always been helpful with the application process and assisting in planning events. He said Police, Fire, and Administration have always worked together with the applicant on planning out the details of the event.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of City Council.

Council Member Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Joseph.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Hobson H. Milton, Council Member
SECONDER:	Al Joseph, Council Member
AYES:	Angner, Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Milton, Smalls

The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 05/20/21