

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 24, 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 Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Jonathan Angner
Council Member Jimmy Morris

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Braxton Walton, IT Technician
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer
Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
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 5pm 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. PROCLAMATION

- A. A Proclamation proclaiming April 25, 2025 as Arbor Day in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**

Mayor Jayroe announced tomorrow is Arbor Day. She said there will be a ceremony honoring Mr. Clarence Smalls with a tree planting tomorrow morning at 10am at Ben Cooper Park. She said he will be honored for all of his years serving the community.

4. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A. My Meter Software Presentation by VertexOne

Mr. Courtemanche introduced Mr. Kevin O'Neil and Mr. Edward Houn from VertexOne. Mr. O'Neil said they provide a software solution that will educate the city's customers about their utility usage. Mr. Houn demonstrated their app and how customers can view their utility accounts. He said there is an interface for their software to work with our current BS&A system. He stated auto pay and paperless billing options are available for customers to enroll in the app. He stated their app can be used by both residential and commercial customers. Mr. Houn pointed out daily usage to help customers better understand their billing trends. Mr. Courtemanche stated the first-year cost of this software is \$40,000. He said this price includes the setup fees. He said every year after the first year should be about half the cost annually.

5. ADMINISTRATION

A. Hate Crime Ordinance Presentation

Mr. Whittier introduced Mr. Charlie Barrineau from the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Mr. Barrineau said they are trying to get a statewide Hate Crime ordinance put in place. He said 19 of the 271 municipalities in South Carolina have adopted a Hate Crime ordinance. Mr. Barrineau said there is a Hate Crime ordinance in place at the federal level. He said there are currently no counties in the state that have adopted a Hate Crime ordinance, but Richland County is working on it. Chief Pierce said in 32 years of working in law enforcement he has seen a handful of times that this ordinance could have been applied. Chief Pierce explained that a person cannot be charged at the local level and at the state level for the same offense.

6. FINANCE

A. Residential Utility Round-Up Program

Mrs. Vermeland introduced Ms. Sassy Tugwell from Good Friends of Georgetown. Mrs. Vermeland stated we currently have 166 customers enrolled in the round-up program. She said the purpose of this presentation is to discuss increasing the maximum annual award. Mrs. Vermeland said the current amount in the round-up program is \$300,000. She said this includes the last settlement from Santee Cooper. Mrs. Vermeland said the average amount awarded is \$366. She proposed an increase to \$500 once or twice annually per household. Ms. Tugwell said 23% of the people that come to them to request assistance are denied because they didn't provide the necessary documentation. She said since July, they have helped 21 utility customers through the round-up program. She said this number is low and they get most of the requests in the winter. Ms. Tugwell said her organization is fully funded by donations and they could help residents replace water heaters and insulation if it is proved necessary.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 05/15/2025