

**SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 22, 2025 — 5:00 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 Pro Tempore Jim Clements
Mayor Carol Jayroe
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
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
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 Call, Building Inspector
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Katie Badgett, Human Resources Manager
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Manager
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent
Mrs. Clarissa Tindall, Zoning Administrator

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jayroe called the Regular Meeting of City Council to order at 5 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. ENGINEERING

A. WK Dickson presentation on stormwater pump station study

Mr. Arteaga introduced Mrs. Yesim Yazgan and Mr. Joe Becker from WK Dickson. Mrs. Yazgan stated the purpose of the study was to conduct a comprehensive condition assessment of the existing stormwater pump station and evaluate alternatives for the existing hydraulically driven pumps. She stated the first phase of the study was to evaluate the existing systems and focus on the mechanical and electrical components. She stated they also studied SCADA programming and performance. Mrs. Yazgan stated they reviewed maintenance records from 2018 to present, record drawings, and pump specifications. She stated they conducted interviews with the city's maintenance staff and verified the pump total dynamic head and flow design. She stated they researched new pump options that were low on maintenance and operational costs but were proven to be reliable. She stated some of the current system challenges were due to harsh weather conditions in 2015, 2018, and 2023. She said only one pump is currently operational. Mr. Becker stated they came up with five different options for the city to consider. He reviewed each option and pointed out the advantages and disadvantages. He said they recommend rehabilitating the existing hydraulic submersible pumps because they are the most cost-effective and least disruptive. He said this option would require the pumps to be removed and inspected and an assessment of the condition of the hydraulic lines. He stated the estimated cost for this option would be \$1.125M to \$1.4M. Mr. Becker said the alternative recommendation is to replace the current system with vertical axial flow electric motor-driven pumps because it is a straightforward installation, it would eliminate hydraulic system issues, and it would entail minimal site modifications. He said the estimated costs for this project would be \$2.4M-\$3.0M. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements asked if SCDOT is responsible for any of the costs for this project. Mr. Arteaga stated that he has an agreement that was approved years ago that states the city is fully responsible for the costs of this system.

4. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Community Appearance Board presentation

Mrs. Tindall reviewed the Urban Core Overlay District (UCOD) map and stated they are looking for suggestions for revising the design guidelines. She stated the current design guidelines are not very business friendly. She stated there are concerns with the current zoning ordinance. She stated the powers of the Board of Zoning Appeals have been granted to the Community Appearance Board. She said there are contradictory standards regarding jurisdiction and powers. She reviewed a list of staff recommendations that would redefine zoning allowances that include reducing setbacks, increasing maximum building heights, and increasing densities with the UCOD. She said currently the

Architectural guidelines override the building code in certain cases because there is a historic exception per state building code. She said the South Carolina state building code provides no exceptions for design overlay districts, therefore building code must rule for items such as windows, handrails, flood, porch/deck guards.

5. ADMINISTRATION

A. Present and discuss employee handbook revisions

Mrs. Badgett reviewed recommendations to revise the employee handbook. She said they recommend increasing the call-out pay from \$100 to \$200. She said another recommendation is to add an explanation of hazardous weather and emergency leave to the employee handbook. She said "Extended Emergency Condition" means a Declaration of Emergency with a duration of three or more consecutive days. She stated the final revision defines the process for rehiring retirees.

6. 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 6:25pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 06/17/25