



**BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 23, 2020 – 4:00 PM
TELECONFERENCE**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley

ALSO PRESENT

Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, 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
Ms. Angela Rambeau, Director of Planning and Community Development
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. called the Budget Workshop/Special Meeting of City Council to order at 4:00p.m. 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. BOARDS & COMMISSION MEETINGS

- A. Motion for City Council to authorize City Boards & Commissions to meet and take action electronically or telephonically during the COVID-19 emergency as proclaimed by Mayor Barber and declared by Governor McMaster, so long as a quorum to convene the meeting is established by remote attendance. Attendance shall be verified by the Clerk or Secretary to the Board or Commission at the time the presiding officer calls the meeting to order. Public notice and provisions for virtual public attendance compliant with the SC Freedom of Information Act shall apply. Board and Commission procedures may be modified as necessary for electronic or telephonic hearings.**

Council Member Joseph moved, seconded by Council Member Milton.

Mayor Barber called for the vote.

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

5. REVIEW ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR FY2020/2021 BUDGET.

Dr. Yúdice said she and Mrs. Bivens have been closely monitoring the current budget and have been making appropriate cuts to next year's budget due to the impact of the economic state. Dr. Yúdice said the budget is balanced but some money will need to be taken from the Fund balance. Dr. Yúdice said her goal as City Administrator is to present a balanced budget without the need to use the Fund balance. She said that she expects to be able to do this by the next Budget Workshop. Dr. Yúdice reminded Council they may have to come back in January 2021 to ask for Amendments to the budget to cover some expenses based on the economy. Mrs. Bivens confirmed the budget is presented at \$32,538,048 and is balanced. She said currently the General Fund will be using \$97,130 but we are working towards not needing to use any of these funds by closely monitoring revenues and expenditures. The budget does not currently include any increases in property taxes because we are awaiting cost of living increases from the State. The budget does not currently include any salary increases due to the COVID-19 pandemic effect on the economy but it may be reviewed in January 2021 for the second half of the fiscal year. Mrs. Bivens stated the budget does not currently include any requested new positions or new vehicles. Mrs. Bivens said the Fleet Department is currently analyzing the entire fleet inventory and will hopefully present to Council at a Workshop next fall to review and make necessary changes to our current grading system. She said in January we may be able to embark in the lease purchase program that was discussed at the Budget Retreat in March. The budget does include the Water and Wastewater rate adjustments of 5% each. Mrs. Bivens explained the effect it would have on a residential customer would be \$2.25 per month. She said the budget does not

include a rate adjustment in the Stormwater Fund. Mrs. Bivens reviewed what is not included in the budget. The consensus of Council was to not include the Family Justice Center funding, the GPS System for City vehicles & equipment, Habitat for Humanity West End Beautification Project, the Compensation Plan/Study, the Front Street Basketball Court, and the East Bay Skate Park in the budget at this time. Mrs. Bivens said the recommendation is to review these items again in January 2021 or delay them until next fiscal year. Mayor Barber said it is important with the budget process to be able to maintain our current workforce. Discussions followed. Mrs. Bivens reviewed the A-Tax and H-Tax budget projections and explained the reductions to save \$177,324 in this fund. She stated only necessary projects should be completed at this time. Dr. Yúdice recommended to remove \$20,000 allocated for the fully sponsored events in the H-Tax budget and delaying these events for the remainder of the year due to the public emergency we are in with COVID-19. The consensus of Council was in agreement with her recommendation. Discussions followed.

Mayor Barber thanked Council and staff for everything they are doing at this time of uncertainty.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Budget Workshop/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:	Milton, Barber Sr., Jayroe, Joseph, Humes, Smalls
ABSENT:	Bradley

The Budget Workshop/Special Meeting of City Council adjourned at 4:51pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 05/21/20