

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2025 — 5:30 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 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
Deputy Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Ryan Call, Building Inspector
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utility Manager
Mr. Chris Mullis, Water Utilities Manager
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 5:30 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. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Ethridge introduced Pastor Jamie Harrelson to render the invocation and Mr. Paige Sawyer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to receive citizen input concerning an ordinance to adopt a budget and raise revenue for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (FY2026) and the imposition of certain adjustments to sanitation fees, stormwater fees, and rates/charges associated with the city's combined water, sewer, and electric system.**

1. Open the Public Hearing

Mayor Jayroe opened the Public Hearing and stated no one signed up to speak.

2. Close the Public Hearing

Mayor Jayroe closed the Public Hearing.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Deputy Chief Nelson Brown introduced Aaron Davis for the Georgetown Police Department.

7. PRESENTATION OF TREE CITY USA AWARD

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ann Huyler from the Urban Forestry Specialist Pee Dee Region South Carolina Forestry Commission to present the Tree City USA award to the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

8. PROCLAMATION

- A. A Proclamation proclaiming June 28, 2025 as Carolina Day in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**

Mayor Jayroe announced there is a Proclamation to proclaim June 28, 2025 as Carolina Day in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

9. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- A. Motion to approve second reading for an ordinance rezoning approximately 1.93 acres, located at 2704 Highmarket St., owned by Barrel Properties LLC, from Split Zoned Medium Density Residential (R3) / General Commercial (GC) to General Commercial (GC).**

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve first reading of an Ordinance Amending the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article X: Sign Regulations Section 1012 Core Commercial (CC) to Include a Provision for Perpendicular Signage Within the Core Commercial (CC) Zoning District.

Council Member Jonathan Angner moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

10. FINANCE

A. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend the Residential Utility Round-Up Program.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to adopt a budget and raise revenue for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (FY 2026).

Mrs. Vermeland stated the following revisions to the budget from the first reading include an increase in expenditures in the Electric Funds of \$1,200. to cover dues for the South Carolina Association of Municipal Power System (SCAMPS), a reduction in expenditures of \$41,672. related to the Designated Marketing Organization, and a correction of a scrivener's error in the extra-large commercial class customer charge in the Electric Utility Rates Schedule from \$2.983.83 to \$2,983.83. She stated these revisions resulted in

a decrease of \$39, 644. in the budget bringing it to a total of \$54,526,593. for FY2025-2026.

Council Member Jonathan Anger moved to amend the original FY2025-2026 Budget as presented for first reading to reflect these changes. Council Member Bruce Carl seconded.

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to adopt a budget and raise revenue for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (FY 2026) as amended.

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

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

RESULT:	Adopted
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

11. ENGINEERING

- A. Motion to select the recommended option for a new stormwater pumping system identified in the feasibility report. Choose Option 1: New vertical axial pumps powered by electrical motor mounted directly on top or Option 5: Rehabilitation of existing hydraulically driven submersible pumps with new hydraulic lines.**

Motion to select the recommended option for a new stormwater pumping system identified in the feasibility report and choose option 1: New vertical axial pumps powered by electrical motor mounted directly on top.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Mayor Carol Jayroe

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

Motion to approve GMP proposal from and make payments to Coastal Structures Corp. for the Municipal Building Complex Phase II work: Main Building Renovations in the amount of \$1,087,495.21.

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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

12. POLICE

A. Motion to approve a contract with Saint Francis Animal Shelter in the amount of \$85,000.00 using fiscal year 2025 / 2026 budget.

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

B. Motion to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 16, Article IX of the code of ordinances for the City of Georgetown by adding Section 16-167, Hate-Based Intimidation

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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

13. WATER UTILITIES

A. Motion to approve an agreement with the West Georgetown County Regional Wastewater Treatment System for the WWTP.

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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

14. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Motion to approve a resolution for an extended moratorium of the two-hour parking ordinance starting on June 29, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025.**

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, Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Jimmy Morris, Tamika Williams-Obeng

- B. Motion to approve the revised Employee Handbook as presented during the May 22nd workshop.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl
Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

15. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated the dilapidated houses on Wood Street have been demolished. He said the City Arts & Cultural Commission have been working with city staff to make the transformers around the city more decorative and have decided to go with a decorative wrap. Mr. Whittier thanked Council and staff for their hard work and dedication during the budget process.

16. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of May 1, May 15, and May 22, 2025 Council meetings.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl
Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

17. OLD BUSINESS

None

18. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Obeng announced there are activities going on in the city for the Juneteenth holiday, including a parade on Saturday, and reminded everyone to get involved and learn more about the holiday.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested the City Administrator to look at utility billing cycles at other municipalities. He said a 15-day billing cycle is too short for residents. He stated the city has 4 billing cycles and he would like to see it be reduced to 1 billing cycle for city residents. Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested the city design review board guidelines be reviewed and amended to eliminate staff-level approvals for the Architectural Review Board and Community Appearance Board unless there are stated exceptions.

19. 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

**20. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CITY SERVICES, BUSINESS, OR OTHER CITY MATTERS
NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Jayroe recognized Dr. Myrtle Brown Milton. Dr. Milton thanked Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng for her help in getting a hate-based intimidation ordinance on the table for the City of Georgetown.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Wesley Gibson. Mr. Gibson said he attended a meeting that discussed the possibility of a biomass plant coming to the city. He thanked Council Member Jimmy Morris and Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng for showing concern and attending the meeting. He requested responses on who will be managing the water canal that is currently being managed by the paper mill, will the cost for the city to manage it be in next year's budget, and if the residents be guaranteed to have safe and clean water.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss appointments, reappointment, and releases for the City's Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Jayroe announced there would not be an Executive Session.

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

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

22. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion to Adjourn the Regular 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 Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 07/16/25