

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2025 — 5:30 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 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
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Office
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager
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
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 Angner introduced Captain Wright Wall from All Saints Parish to render the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. Courtemanche introduced Naz Solodenko and Jose Gonzalez for the Electric department and Chief Pierce introduced James Smith for the Police department.

6. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- A. Motion to approve first reading for an ordinance rezoning approximately .25 acres, located at 1224 Front St., owned by the City of Georgetown, from General Commercial (GC) to Public Service (PS).**

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

- B. Motion to Approve First Reading for an Ordinance Amending the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article XIII: Design Overlay Districts Section 1302 and II. Urban Core Overlay District (UCOD) Affected Properties to Clarify the Applicability of Design Standards to Existing Structures and Property Features.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

7. ENGINEERING

- A. Motion to approve proposal from and authorize payment to Ardurra (formerly known as WK Dickson Co.) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$303,225 to provide engineering services for the replacement of two**

stormwater pumps. The work includes mechanical, electrical, and SCADA design, construction management, and grant funding assistance services.

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

- B. Motion to approve City Hall project overall budget in the amount of \$5,801,160 for the restoration of the new City Hall building and council chambers.**

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

- C. Motion to approve the City Hall construction budget based on Coastal Structures estimate dated August 7, 2025 in the amount of \$4,268,786 and to authorize staff to begin construction and renovation activities for both City Hall building #1 and Council Chambers Building #3, including site improvements.**

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

8. FIRE

- A. Motion to approve purchase and payment in the \$129,903.35 to Rhinehart Fire Service for Scott air Pack replacement.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jonathan Angner

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

- B. Motion to approve purchase and payment of a Skeeter Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 Northstar Ultimate, with a 6GPM UHP ultra-high pump, 150' ultra-high pressure hose reel, 70-gallon water tank with 5-gallon foam tank. Includes Stokes basket carrier and EMS jump seat in the cargo bed in the amount of \$135,000.00.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jonathan Angner

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

9. PUBLIC WORKS

- A. Motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend Articles II and III of Chapter 9, City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances, Garbage Trash and Weeds, by amending sections 9-17 and 9-23 of Article II, Collection Regulations and section 9-45 of Article III, Solid Waste Regulations in the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances.**

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

- B. Motion to approve Letter of Intent to purchase a third automated garbage truck from Amick Equipment for the amount of \$377,241.44.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jonathan Angner

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

10. WATER UTILITIES

- A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 22-Utilities, Article III, Division 6, Section 22-126 The Pretreatment Ordinance for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina to reflect updates as required by SCDES as a conditions of the City's upcoming renewal of the NPDES Wastewater permit.**

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

11. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Motion to authorize the City Administrator to sign a fund agreement between Georgetown County and the City of Georgetown for the relocation of the electric facilities on Black River Road using the Capital Project Sales Tax funds.**

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. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated the utility billing audit was completed by Raftelis and the findings did not show any billing errors on residential accounts. He said there were errors found on the commercial customer accounts, but the customers benefited from the detected errors. Mr. Whittier stated there are 34 active short-term rentals in the city. He said there are 23 short-term rentals that are in violation and staff are issuing letters to be sent out

listing the reasons why they are non-compliant.

Mayor Pro Tempore Clements requested the audit report be published on the city website and that staff follows up with the citizens who signed up a few months ago with concerns about their utility bill.

13. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of July 16 and July 24, 2025 City Council meetings.

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

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

14. OLD BUSINESS

None

15. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Angner requested there to be continuous training for first responders on launching the rescue boat. He said he witnessed a rescue call last month when the rescue boat was deployed and he said there appeared to be some confusion between the teams of first responders.

Council Member Obeng invited everyone to a speak out event at Arnett AME Church this Sunday. She said this is a forum for youth and community leaders to speak out. She said it is important for these events to occur and be well attended due to the recent events that have happened in the city with youth violence. Chief Pierce stated the National Night Out is on October 7th at East Bay Park.

Council Member Morris requested a stipulation be considered to the budget billing program for citizens over 65 years old.

16. 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**
- 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**

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

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Cary Farrow. Ms. Farrow said she researched electric rates for seven public utilities and three municipal-owned systems that were comparable to the size of the city. She reported the findings from most expensive to cheapest and Duke Energy was the only one that was lower than the City of Georgetown.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Janette Graham. Ms. Graham said she is responding to a press release from the city regarding a press conference that was recently held by the Howard Alumni Association regarding their utility bill. She said there was misinformation and no facts shared in the press release. She said it was stated that they were offered an extension to pay their utility bill, but that was not true. She said they would have accepted an extension offer if it had been an option.

Mayor Jayroe recognized Ms. Sharon Melton. Ms. Melton said people need to understand their utility bill. She requested a workshop for residents so that they could understand. Ms. Melton requested transparency on the new city hall project funding because over \$10M is a lot of money for construction. She said she does not understand why residents are still receiving high utility bills.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1)(2) to discuss appointments to the City of Georgetown Boards and Commissions and to receive a quarterly legal update from the city attorney on pending cases and cases adjudicated since the last update.**

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

Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Clements moved, seconded by Council Member Jonathan Angner

Mayor Jayroe called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:30pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 09/18/25