

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2026 — 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

Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
Council Member Sharon Melton
Mayor Jay Doyle
Council Member Hobson Milton
Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Braxton Walton, IT Technician
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager
Chief William Pierce, Georgetown Police Department
Mrs. Clarissa Tindall, Zoning Administrator
Mr. Al Joseph, Main Street Director
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utilities Director
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Director
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director
Mrs. Pam Gaddy, Water Utilities Director
Mr. Isaac Walton, Fleet Supervisor

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Doyle 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 Carl rendered the invocation and Mayor Doyle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. NOMINATIONS AND VOTE FOR MAYOR PRO TEMPORE TO SERVE A TWO-YEAR PERIOD (JANUARY 15, 2026-DECEMBER 31, 2027)

A. Open Nominations

Mayor Doyle opened nominations. Council Member Milton nominated Council Member Walker. Council Member Carl nominated Council Member Obeng.

B. Close Nominations

Mayor Doyle closed nominations.

C. Motion to appoint Jessie Walker as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Sharon Melton
AYES:	Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker, Tamika Williams-Obeng
NAYS:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Jonathan Angner. Mr. Angner stated he has concerns with agenda item 7.A. with regard to the moratorium. He stated it was initially called a building moratorium, but it is now being called a zoning moratorium. He stated his concern that the purpose of the moratorium is to buy time for the new administration to get up to speed and get settled into their new roles.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. John Hemmingsen. Mr. Hemmingsen stated he was a Commodore with the Belle Isle Yacht Club Marina and stated they are against annexing Belle Isle into the city.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Brendon Barber. Mr. Barber urged city council members to utilize their resources and to reach out to the Municipal Association of South Carolina with questions to fulfill their obligation to withhold their responsibility to make good decisions for the city.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Todd Laliberte. Mr. Laliberte stated concern if Belle Isle was to be considered for annexation into the city.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. James Cobb. Mr. Cobb said that he serves on the city's BZA board. He said if a property owner submits a variance request, they have the right to have it heard within a reasonable amount of time based on state law. He stated that a moratorium cannot supersede state law and prevent the request to be heard within a reasonable amount of time.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Donald Gilliard. Mr. Gilliard congratulated and showed support to the new administration and stated the city should have a warming shelter due to the cold temperatures.

Mayor Doyle recognized Ms. CA Hemmingsen. Ms. Hemmingsen stated she lives in Belle Isle and prefers to be in the county and does not want to be a part of the city.

6. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

None

7. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on rezoning of any parcel, subdivision of any parcel into more than three parcels, or consideration of zoning variances in the city of Georgetown.**

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved to postpone this motion to allow more time for everyone to get a better understanding of this ordinance. No one seconded.

Mayor Doyle called for the vote for the motion as stated on the agenda. Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
AYES:	Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker
NAYS:	Bruce Carl, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Erin Ethridge

8. FINANCE

- A. Motion to approve the FY2026-2027 Budget Calendar.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

9. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

- A. Motion to approve the purchase of a New Altec LR8-60E70 Tree Bucket Truck and make payment to Altec Industries in the amount of \$232,238.00.**

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

- B. Motion to approve a contract in the amount not to exceed \$151,430.00 to Utility Technology Engineers-consultants (UTEC) for electric engineering services for the Black River Road Widening project.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

10. POLICE

- A. Motion to approve by resolution a 15th Judicial Circuit Traffic Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement and to authorize the Chief of Police to execute it.**

None moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	None
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Motion to approve two quarterly payments to SCMIT in the amount of \$193,228.00 for workers' compensation insurance.

Council Member Erin Ethridge moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

B. Motion to Approve payment in the amount of \$877,244.00 to SCMIRF Semi Annual billing for liability insurance.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Bruce Carl

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier said there was an evaluation done for the electrical system that will be useful for staff and future projects. Mr. Whittier gave an update on the King Street parking lot. Mr. Whittier congratulated the Finance department for receiving the highest award for government financial reporting for the 35th year in a row.

13. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of December 11, 2025 and December 18, 2025 City Council meetings.

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Jay Doyle
NAYS:	Hobson Milton, Sharon Melton, Jessie Walker

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

15. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng requested to work with staff to establish a Youth Advocacy Council. She said this would be for high school students to learn leadership skills and work closely with City Council. She has requested a spotlight non-profit organizations in the community at the monthly council meetings in the near future. Mayor Doyle suggested the public comments on the agenda be put together as one item at the front of the meeting.

A. Public Comment Placement on the Agenda

Mayor Doyle asked for a Motion to direct staff to revise the ordinance to change the regular meeting agenda to combine the two public comments into one at the front of the meeting.

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

B. Youth Advocacy Council (High School Students)

Mayor Doyle asked for a motion to direct staff to establish a Youth Advocacy Council for the city.

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

C. Monthly Nonprofit Spotlight

Mayor Doyle asked for a motion to direct staff to work on adding a monthly nonprofit spotlight to the future council regular meeting agenda.

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	
MOVER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
SECONDER:	Council Member Erin Ethridge
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

D. City Council may take action on items discussed.

16. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Doyle stated the department monthly reports are available for review in the agenda packet.

A. Building Monthly Report

1. Building Department Monthly Report Statistics - December 2025
2. Keep Georgetown Beautiful Monthly Report - December 2025

B. Electric Department Monthly Report

1. Electric Department December 2025 Report

C. Engineering Department Monthly Report

1. Engineering Department December 2025 Report

D. Finance Department Monthly Report

1. Finance Department Current Project December 2025 Report
2. Finance Department GovDeal December 2025 Report
3. Finance Department Grant Summary December 2025 Report
4. Finance Department Open PO December 2025 Report
5. Finance Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Cost December 2025 Report
6. Finance Department HDL Active Businesses December 2025 Report
7. Finance and IT Department November 2025 Report
8. Finance Department Budget Performance November 2025 Report

E. Fire Department Monthly Report

1. Fire Department December 2025 Monthly Report

F. Fleet Services Monthly Report

1. Fleet Services DECEMBER 2025 Report

G. Human Resources Monthly Report

1. Human Resources Monthly Report Jan 2026

H. Municipal Court Monthly Report

1. Municipal Court December 2025 Monthly Report

I. Planning & Community Development Monthly Report

1. Planning Department Monthly Report - December 2025
2. Main Street Monthly Report - December 2025
3. Kaminski House Monthly Report - December 2025

J. Police Department Monthly Report

1. Police Department December 2025 Report
2. Police Department December 2025 Report Statistics

K. Public Works Monthly Report

1. Public Works December 2025 Monthly Report

L. Risk Management Monthly Report

1. Risk Management December 2025 Monthly Report

M. Water Utilities Monthly Report

1. December 1, 2025 thru December 3, 2025
2. December 3, 2025 thru December 10, 2025
3. Utility Report Monthly

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

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Wesley Gibson. Mr. Gibson gave his support for the Mayor and City Council. He requested that the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed to focus on the West End and prevent gentrification.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)(2) and (5) to discuss appointment(s) for**

the city's Boards & Commissions, to receive legal advice on procedural and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, and to receive legal advice concerning a contract for the proposed sale of property in the City.

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

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

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
SECONDER:	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
AYES:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:50pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

19. APPOINTMENT

None

20. ADJOURNMENT

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

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Council Member Bruce Carl
SECONDER:	Council Member Hobson Milton
AYES:	None

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 02/19/26