



**EMERGENCY MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 – 3:00 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tempore Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Sheldon A. Butts
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Edward S. Kimbrough, Jr.
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Paul A. Gardner, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney - via conference call
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Miss Suzanne Abed-El-Latif, HR Manager
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Mr. Tim Chatman, Streets and Sanitation Manager
Mr. Will Cook, Water Utilities Director
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Superintendent
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Mr. Rick Martin, Building Official/Zoning Administrator
Mrs. Cindy Owens, Municipal Court Clerk
Mrs. Gloria Bromell-Tinubu, Economic Development Director
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department

MEDIA

Georgetown Times - Mr. David Purtell
GAB News - Mr. Scott Harper

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Jack M. Scoville, Jr. called the Emergency Meeting of City Council to order at 3:00 pm. He announced the purpose of this meeting is to update the community in regards to Hurricane Irma.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Paul Gardner rendered the invocation. Mayor Scoville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. BRIEFING ON HURRICANE IRMA PREPARATIONS

Mr. Paul Gardner stated City staff, along with the County and other partners in the State have been actively preparing all week for this event. He provided cards with updated contact information for the City's elected officials and essential staff. Based on Governor McMaster's declaration yesterday, today the Mayor has declared a Proclamation of Emergency. This allows Council Members who may not be able to travel to an Emergency Meeting called by the Mayor to attend the meeting via conference call. Such meeting(s) will be noticed to the public media for physical or call-in attendance. In the event such a meeting is called, Mr. Gardner provided instructions on how to connect by phone.

The National Weather Service has reported Irma will be a major hurricane affecting the entire state of South Carolina. Landfall is projected near the South Carolina/Georgia border and will cut a northwesterly track through the midlands with hurricane force winds and tropical storm winds in the upstate.

The Governor has issued a statement for citizens to begin leaving now. Because some shelters are not currently ready, evacuations will begin 10:00 am Saturday. Mr. Gardner stated when preparing for the storm, we follow a procedure. The National Incident Management System is developed by FEMA and is a proven method of managing such a crisis. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division in Columbia coordinates with all counties. Mr. Sam Hodge, Director of Georgetown County Emergency Management, is here today to answer any questions. We all work in concert in a unified command module. Efforts are not duplicated and all bases are covered. When an incident occurs it receives direct attention. Administrators, Department Heads, essential staff and some elected officials have participated in NIMS.

The gravity of this storm has caused us to consider a secondary EOC at the County and City level. It is being considered this building could not be safe based on the size of the storm. We are preparing as if this will be a catastrophic storm and ask the public to do the same. Departments have been busy stockpiling supplies that will be needed to manage our way out of the storm. The Fire Department will be cooking every meal. Staff is preparing to protect the City's assets; vehicles and equipment. Essential personnel have been identified. Additional electrical contractors are on standby. The Water and Sewer Departments are ensuring the catch basins and fallouts are cleared as much as possible. Building and Planning has been checking worksites for unsecure objects and notifying contractors. Finance has increased credit limits on department credit cards and will have cash on hand, if needed. Sandbags will be distributed tomorrow at the old City Hall beginning at 10:00 am. Six per household or business within the City limits.

Mr. Gardner stressed the importance of knowing your zone and urged the public to

prepare to evacuate. Law enforcement and the National Guard will be on the roads to guide them out of the affected area. The Georgetown County EMD Website and Facebook page will be the source of information. The City Facebook pages will be sharing the information being pushed out by Georgetown County Emergency Management. The public can sign up to receive alerts using the CODE RED system. If this becomes a mandatory evacuation residents will be highly encouraged to leave and take important documents with them.

Mr. Sam Hodge said CODE RED is an app that can be downloaded on your phone and will connect you to a certain area. You will receive notifications when alerts are issued for your area. Mr. Gardner noted the Governor has made a request to close all schools in all counties Monday and Tuesday. A shelter will be at Andrews Elementary School and Pleasant Hill Elementary. Pickup zones for transportation will be at the Food Lion in Maryville, Tractor Supply and St. Cyprians in the West End. Mr. Hodge stated no cots or blankets will be pre-deployed before an event. Anyone going to a shelter should bring any items needed including medications. The shelters are equipped with generators. Meetings are held every morning with DSS, the school district and their food service and Salvation Army. They are prepared to open the shelters once the orders are given. Mr. Hodge stated at a 2:00 pm press conference today the Governor ordered a medical evacuation. The public is encourage to leave tomorrow, but we should expect to see evacuation orders for Saturday morning. Normally the county requires two types of identification for re-entry. Council Member Butts asked about information dissemination. Mr. Gardner said the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division Website and Facebook page is the primary source of information. The City will be sharing what they are pushing out. The City's telephone system is based in the Cloud and we will have the ability to operate via phones. Our goal is to move to a unified phone bank staffed by City employees who will have up-to-date information. Discussions among Council and staff followed.

Mr. Gardner presented Mrs. Debra Bivens with a floral arrangement for all she did for the City while serving as City Administrator during his 30 day retirement.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Scoville adjourned the Emergency Meeting at 3:48 pm.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

Date Approved: 10/19/17