

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 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

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

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 5:30pm 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

Mayor Doyle asked for everyone to bow their heads in a moment of silence for Civil Leader Jesse Jackson and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Ed Benton. Mr. Benton requested mayor and council reconsider approving the zoning moratorium. He said the city needs developers to invest in the city and if this is approved, it will do the opposite.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

None

6. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to hold a public hearing prior to taking action on the second reading of this ordinance.

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to approve second 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 Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton
Council Member Bruce Carl stated "it is important for us to realize that a process has been done and it appears that there are people now who do not care how the process was done but it needs to be noted that many people put hard work and much hours into a plan. I look forward to everyone on council understanding what that plan is to move us forward."

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

7. FINANCE

A. **Presentation of the FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by Mauldin & Jenkins, CPA's and Advisors.**

Mr. David Irwin from Mauldin & Jenkins presented the annual comprehensive financial report for the city's FY2025 financial & compliance audit. Mr. Irwin explained the purpose of an audit and what is included. He pointed out that the city has won the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report certificate for over 30 consecutive years. Mr. Irwin gave an overview of the different financial statements that are used. He reviewed the General Fund revenue and expenditures. Mr. Irwin explained the analysis of the fund balance and the purpose of having a strong fund balance. He gave an overview of the Enterprise funds activity that includes electric, water & wastewater, stormwater, and waste management.

8. ENGINEERING

A. **Motion to authorize staff to transfer funds from GL 0031.16.00.9000.3300-WTP Roof Repairs Project #1612 to a new project for Water Admin Building Metal Roof Replacement in the amount of \$45,000.**

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

B. **Motion to approve the proposal and make payments to Carolina Furnishing and Design Company for new office furniture in the Municipal Building complex for a total contract amount of \$113,033.76.**

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:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

- C. Motion to authorize staff to file Project Questionnaire Package to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) seeking funding assistance to conduct a pilot study to detect the presence of emerging contaminants (PFAS/PFOS) at the Water Treatment Plant. The estimated cost of the pilot project is \$737,550.**

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

- D. Motion to approve the revised proposal and to make an award to Insituform Technologies, LLC for sanitary sewer and sewer manhole rehabilitation work on S. Fraser Street (in front of the former Steel Mill) for a total contract amount of \$387,043.00. Work includes mobilization and demobilization, traffic controls, bypass pumping, Cure in Place Pipe of 12-in. and 15-in sewer lines, brick manhole repairs and lining.**

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

9. WATER UTILITIES

- A. Motion to approve purchase of a 2026 F-250 4x2 supercab truck using the combined CIP budgeted funds for a total not exceeding \$63,996.50.**

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. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Motion to amend the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2, Sections 2-31 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown extending the public sign-in sheet to be completed between 5-5:30pm.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton
Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

- B. Motion to approve first reading as amended of an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2, Sections 2-31 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown**

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier gave an update on the new city hall. He said the exterior wall treatments are completed and they are working on furniture selection. He said the projected completion date is at the end of June. He said some employees from the city electric department were able to assist Newberry with the winter storm that recently came through South Carolina.

12. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of January 15, 2026 council meeting.

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, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Milton asked for an update on the utility billing request he made to change it to 30 days. Mrs. Vermeland and Mr. Whittier stated they are working on this matter.

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

15. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Doyle 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

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

None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss appointments to the City Employee Grievance Committee and to the City Boards/Commissions.

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

The Regular meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

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

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:34pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

18. APPOINTMENT

A. Motion to appoint Ardella Garrett; Amy Skidmore; Freddie Darby; Debra Rouse; Ben Allen; Blair Cribb; Brandon Cardena and alternates Genise Prior and Braxton Walton to the City's Employee Grievance Committee.

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. Motion to appoint Charles Cole and Gordon Ray to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor Jay Doyle moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Regular meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 03/19/26