

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MARCH 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  
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department  
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager  
Deputy Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department  
Ms. Jennifer Boyer, Planning & Community Development Director  
Mrs. Katie Badgett, Human Resources 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**

Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Smalls, Sr. rendered the invocation and Mr. Matthew Castle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Doyle recognized Mrs. Kim Shell. Mrs. Shell stated she attended the Planning Commission meeting for the South Island Road property that is on the agenda tonight. She said if the rezoning request is granted it could open future issues.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Dan Stacy. Mr. Stacy raised concerns with agenda item 6.B. and stated there needs to be further review before taking action and he requested more clarification and possible provisions.

**5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Mrs. Vermeland introduced Ms. Allison Lindy for the Finance department. Mr. Whittier introduced Ms. Jennifer Boyer as the new Planning & Community Development Director.

**6. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance rezoning approximately 8.2 acres, located at 2902 S Island Rd., owned by William Degan, from Low Density Residential (R1) to High Density Residential (R4).**

Mayor Jay Doyle moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton. Mayor Doyle made a motion to postpone this item until there is more information provided by the requestor.

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved to Postpone
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Jay Doyle
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Sharon Melton
<b>AYES:</b>	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

**B. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending the City of Georgetown Unified Development Ordinance Article XVIII: Off-Street Parking Sections 1801 and 1810 to re-include parking requirements for office spaces and clarify parking requirements within the Core Commercial (CC) Zoning District.**

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

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

**7. FINANCE**

**A. Motion to approve a one-year contract extension with Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC to provide audit services.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng  
Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

**8. ELECTRIC UTILITIES**

**A. Motion to approve upgrades to Front St underground infrastructure phase 4 project and award Sumter Utilities in the amount of \$631,489.00.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

**9. POLICE**

**A. Motion to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Mutual Aid Narcotics and Vice Enforcement between Georgetown Police Department and Georgetown County Sheriff's Department.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

## 10. PUBLIC WORKS

- A. Motion to approve the purchase of a garbage truck for the Waste Management division of Public Works from Amick Equipment in the amount of \$377,241.44.**

Mayor Jay Doyle moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton. Mayor Doyle made the motion to postpone until additional financing information is provided so they can consider leasing or direct purchase.

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved to Postpone
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Jay Doyle
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Hobson Milton
<b>AYES:</b>	Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker
<b>NAYS:</b>	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge

## 11. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Motion to approve second reading 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 Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

## 12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier reported the Maryville water phase 2 project will begin soon. He stated the Historic District Stormwater improvement project should be completed by next month. Mr. Whittier said the city has been nominated for the "Best Small Town" contest

with USA Today along with 20 other cities in the country and encouraged everyone to go online and vote for the city.

### **13. MINUTES**

#### **A. Motion to approve minutes of February 19, 2026 council meeting.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

### **14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council Member Milton asked for an update on City Hall. Mr. Whittier stated the project is moving along and it is still anticipated to be completed by the end of June and staff should be moved in by the end of August.

### **15. NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Tempore Walker requested the city to have a second opinion on a financial audit. Mayor Doyle stated he would like to look into conducting an audit on the city utilities. Mayor Doyle requested that council approve items after staff approval regarding items with the city's boards & commissions.

### **16. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

- A. Electric Department Monthly Report**
- B. Engineering Department Monthly Report**
- C. Finance Department Monthly Report**
- D. Fire Department Monthly Report**
- E. Fleet Services Monthly Report**
- F. Human Resources Monthly Report**
- G. Municipal Court Monthly Report**
- H. Building, Planning & Community Development Monthly Report**

- I. Police Department Monthly Report**
- J. Public Works Monthly Report**
- K. Risk Management Monthly Report**
- L. Water Utilities Monthly Report**

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

Mayor Doyle recognized Ms. Marilyn Hemmingway. Ms. Hemmingway said she would like to speak about utility bill costs. Ms. Hemmingway stated the previous administration raised utility rates in double digits and the burden fell on low-income residents. She requested the new administration to learn and do what needs to be done to make the city a better community.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Sheldon Butts. Mr. Butts stated something needs to be done to assist low-income and fixed income residents to pay the high electric bills and asked what the city is going to do about it.

**18. 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 Boards/Commissions and to discuss employment for a position in the Police department.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

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

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

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

Executive Session adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:35pm

**C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

## 19. APPOINTMENT

**A. Motion to reappoint Dell Omega Grant to the Arts & Cultural Commission.**

Council Member Sharon Melton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

**B. Motion to appoint Dr. Jamie Saunders Powell to the Keep Georgetown Beautiful Board.**

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

## 20. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Stephanie Buccione  
City Clerk

Date Approved: 04/16/26