EMERGENCY MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 17, 2020 – 10:30 AM
CONFERENCE CALL
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

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 Brendon M. Barber, Sr.
Council Member Tupelo Humes
Council Member Carol R. Jayroe
Council Member Al Joseph
Council Member Hobson H. Milton
Council Member Clarence C. Smalls

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tempore Rudolph A. Bradley

ALSO PRESENT
Dr. Sandra E. Yúdice, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, Engineer
Mrs. Debra Bivens, Director of Finance
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department
Mr. Will Gunter, Water Utilities Director
Mr. Alan Loveless, Director of Electric Utilities
Chief Kelvin Waites, Georgetown Police Department

ABSENT
Mrs. Gladys Rutledge-Livingston, Human Resources/Risk Manager
Ms. Angela Rambeau, Director of Planning and Community Development
Mr. Isaac Williams, Fleet Superintendent

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Brendon M. Barber, Sr. called the Emergency Meeting of City Council to order at 10:30a.m. 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. UPDATE COVID-19 AND STATE OF EMERGENCY

Mayor Barber stated the first press release was completed. The press release states in order to protect our City employees, all lobbies and public entrances to Municipal buildings are closed to the public. The drive thru and drop box are to be used at City Hall for the public to pay bills and submit applications or correspondence with Building & Planning and other City departments. Mayor Barber said Tidelands Health Waccamaw has reported their first confirmed case to the virus but it is unclear if the patient is a resident of the City or County. Mayor Barber said that he was notified that all thirty one AME Churches in the Georgetown area have postponed services, meetings, and events until further notice. Mayor Barber requested that all elected officials communicate with City staff through email or telephone only to protect everyone involved.

Mayor Barber recognized Fire Chief Charlie Cribb. Chief Cribb recommended meeting in groups of ten or less people, practice social distancing, and using good personal hygiene by washing your hands frequently. He said to avoid touching surfaces and then touching your face. You should sneeze or cough into your elbow or a tissue and disinfect frequently to avoid the virus spreading. Chief Cribb stated CDC recommends to avoid visiting nursing homes.

Mayor Barber recognized Police Chief Kelvin Waites. Chief Waites said officers are frequently wiping down surfaces in their patrol cars and have been given hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray to keep everyone safe. He said they are handling non-emergency calls by telephone. Chief Waites stated officers will be monitoring Tidelands Health Care Center on North Fraser Street by Food Lion because they are going to start testing for the virus. They will only be testing residents who have been prescreened by MUSC and given an appointment. Chief Waites said his staff is following protocol and the guidelines set by the CDC to keep everyone safe.

Mayor Barber recognized City Finance Director, Mrs. Debra Bivens. Mrs. Bivens confirmed that the lobby at City Hall is closed but the drive thru remains open to the public. She said signs have been posted on the City Hall doors that provide phone numbers to reach staff in the Building & Planning and Finance Departments. She stated per direction of the Governor, the City would not conduct utility shut offs due to nonpayment. She stated the City is waiving credit card fees so the public can pay their utility bills online without a fee.

Mayor Barber recognized City Administrator, Dr. Sandra Yúdice. Dr. Yúdice said they are exploring options with the IT Department to conduct the next Council Meeting virtually through GoToMeeting. She said the trash pick up schedule is running as normal. She said sanitation workers have been provided sanitizer and are wearing gloves and masks. Discussions followed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Emergency Meeting of City Council.

Mayor Barber adjourned the Emergency Meeting at 10:59am.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 04/16/20