

**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP  
OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 9, 2026 — 5:00 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 Walker  
Council Member Bruce Carl  
Council Member Erin Ethridge  
Council Member Sharon Melton  
Council Member Hobson 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  
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utilities Director  
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer  
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director

**2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Mayor Doyle called the Special Meeting of City Council to order at 5:00pm 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. FINANCE**

**A. Presentation from Mauldin & Jenkins for an operational audit of city utilities**

Mayor Doyle introduced Mr. David Roberts. Mr. Roberts gave a presentation via Zoom. He said that he leads the Government Advisory Practice and it is separate from the audit/assurance practice. He stated that they have over 25 years experience in serving

federal, state, and local governments nationwide. Mr. Roberts said their focus is government utilities and they specialize in assessing and transforming government operations. He said they have helped clients achieve many government industry awards for transformation and innovation. Mr. Roberts stated they would start with an operational assessment focusing on operations, service delivery models, organization, governance, business processes, use of technology, communications, reporting, and customer service. He said the next step would be identifying what is working well, what needs improvement, and areas for potential concern. Mr. Roberts stated the objectives are to understand leadership's vision and goals for the future; identify the areas throughout the city that are doing well and the areas that need improvement; develop recommendations to improve city operations; and create a strategic roadmap to implement the recommendations. He explained the proprietary COMPASS methodology that they use for operational and performance assessments.

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Motion to adjourn Special Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and to receive legal advice related to a potential appellate claim and related legal strategy.**

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

The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

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

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Bruce Carl
<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

The Executive Session adjourned and Special Meeting reconvened at 6:50pm.

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

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

**E. Motion to authorize the hiring of outside counsel to represent the BZA and direct the city attorney to pursue administrative relief.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**A. Motion to Adjourn the Special 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 Special meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Stephanie Buccione  
City Clerk

Date Approved: 05/21/2026