

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2026 — 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
2222 HIGHMARKET STREET
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA
AND LIVESTREAM:**



<https://www.facebook.com/cityoftown/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker
Council Member Bruce Carl (left at 5:55pm)
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Sharon Melton
Council Member Hobson Milton
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Jay Doyle

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
Mr. Isaac Walton, Fleet Supervisor

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker 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. Jason Coker rendered the invocation and Mayor Pro Tempore Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker recognized Mr. Buddy Hucks. Mr. Hucks said he is one of the owners of the Tarbox property. He requested that he would like to defer any action taken on agenda item 7.C. until they can set up a time to meet with city council to share the housing development plans they have for the property.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker recognized Mrs. Kim Shell. Mrs. Shell shared documents with council members from a Planning & Community Development agenda item at the November 20, 2025 City Council meeting that lists the Tarbox residential area could not be rezoned to R-4 because it does not comply with the future land use map under the points to consider. She pointed out that the other document she shared with council is the agenda from the March 24, 2026 Planning Commission meeting. She said on this agenda there was a future land use map amendment request to rezone the area within Cannon St., Front St., and St. Janes St. from Waterfront Commercial to Historic District Residential, but it was denied. She requested that agenda item 7 C. is not approved because it is not in compliance with the future land use map.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

None

6. PROCLAMATION

A. A Proclamation proclaiming May 2026 as Lupus Awareness Month in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker recognized and read the proclamation.

7. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve second 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 Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

- B. 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).**

Ms. Boyer stated they received an email from the applicant requesting to withdraw their application and to not proceed at this time.

- C. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance rezoning approximately .71 acres, located at 5 Cannon St., owned by Tarbox 3, LLC, from Waterfront Commercial (WC) to High Density Residential (R4).**

Ms. Boyer said Mr. Hucks spoke earlier in the meeting during public comments asking to defer this request until a workshop can be held to share information about the development project.

- D. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 7, Sections 7-8, and 7-112; Chapter 9, Section 9-1; Chapter 11, Section 11-26; Chapter 14, Footnotes; Chapter 17, Section 17-19; Chapter 20, Section 20-7.5; Chapter 21, Sections 21-82 and 21-85 of the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances.**

Council Member Hobson Milton made a motion to amend the current motion.

- 1. Motion to table this item until further information is provided.**

Council Member Hobson Milton made the motion to table agenda item 7. D. until further information is provided, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

8. ENGINEERING

- A. Motion to approve proposal and make payments to PMC, the furniture vendor, to furnish and install new furnishings in the City Hall building and Council Chambers for a not-to-exceed amount of \$371,272.00. The furnishing package includes office furniture, conference tables, book cases, chairs, file cabinets, whiteboards, reception area sofa, and desk accessories.**

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

9. 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.**

Mrs. Simmons confirmed that the funds for this truck are in the current budget and a letter of intent to purchase was approved by the previous council and sent to the vendor. Mrs. Crosby stated that any repercussions of the city backing out on the previous letter of intent would be up to the vendor. Council Member Hobson Milton made a motion to amend the current motion.

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

Council Member Hobson Milton made a motion to deny purchase of a garbage truck for the Waste Management Division of Public Works from Amick Equipment in the amount of \$377,241.44., seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

**Mayor Pro Tempore Walker abstained from voting. In the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances, Article II, Division 1, Section 2-18 Voting Requirements b) Every member of the council present shall vote on every question except when required to refrain from voting by state law. When a council member declares a potential conflict of interest, he shall submit a written statement describing the conflict as required in section 8-13-700 (B) of the S.C. Code of Laws. In the event a council member abstains from voting, but does not have a potential conflict of interest, an affirmative vote in favor of a motion shall be recorded.

2. Motion to reconsider the decision to deny the purchase of a garbage truck.

Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker made a motion to reconsider the decision that was made to deny the purchase of a garbage truck, Council Member Hobson Milton seconded

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

3. 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.

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

10. ADMINISTRATION

A. Motion to approve a Resolution of City Council adopting an ADA Access Policy

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier stated the city water distribution team is fully staffed and able to take on a new project in Maryville. He said the plans have been submitted to the state and we are awaiting their approval. Mr. Whittier said SCDOT has already approved their portion of the project. He said handling small projects in-house will be more cost-effective than hiring a contractor. He said the historic district stormwater project on Orange and Front Streets has been completed. Mr. Whittier reported the city placed 10th out of the 20 cities nominated in the "Best Small Town" contest that was held by USA Today.

12. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of March 19, 2026 City Council meeting.

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

14. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng announced a couple of events that will be taking place in the city next month. She said Palmetto Giving Day is for non-profit organizations and they will be taking donations at the Kaminski House and online on May 5-6. She said the "Coalition to End Poverty" event will be held on Saturday, May 9th at the Friendship Place at 12pm and lunch will be provided.

15. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker 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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss appointments/reappointments to the City Boards/Commissions and to receive quarterly legal update from the city attorney on pending cases and cases adjudicated since last update.

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

The Regular meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

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

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:00pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 05/21/2026