

**SPECIAL MEETING/BUDGET WORKSHOP
OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 30, 2026 — 4:00 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 M. Walker
Council Member Bruce Carl
Council Member Erin Ethridge
Council Member Sharon Melton
Council Member Hobson H. Milton

MEMBERS ABSENT

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
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 Special Meeting of City Council to order at 4:00pm 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. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Building and Planning Permit Fees. Consideration of amendments to the current fee structure regarding building, planning, and zoning related applications.

Ms. Boyer presented the proposed permit fee changes to Building, Planning, and Zoning. She said the goal is to cover the costs the city endures for staff to review applications and plans. She said new fees include a flat rate for sandwich board signs and tree removal. She stated the tree removal fee would be \$5 per removed tree and this would go into a city fund to go towards planting new trees and beautifying the city. Ms. Boyer said removing the short-term rental fee structure from the UDO would be beneficial for any future amendments to those fees. She stated they would also like to remove horse drawn carriage fees and political and real estate sign fees from the UDO.

4. ELECTRIC UTILITIES

A. ChargePoint Stations Pricing Recommendations

Mr. Courtemanche presented information on ChargePoint that is included in the proposed in the next fiscal year budget. He stated that ChargePoint is a company specializing in EV chargers for electric cars and has approximately 45,000 locations nationwide. He said the city currently has two locations, one at the Orange Street parking lot and the other is at the Cleland Street parking lot. He pointed out that the costs associated with the chargers are covered by our existing rates, but the city is considering implementing a fair and equitable charge for customers to use the stations. Mr. Courtemanche stated this fee will help cover energy costs, network fees, and operational expenses. He stated over the last 12 months, 8.742 MWh of energy was consumed by the EV stations, which equals a cost of \$1,099 in energy used at the city's commercial rate of .125 cents per Kwh. He said the annual maintenance plan and warranty on each unit is approximately \$890,000. He said the recommended EV charging fee structure would be based on an energy usage fee of \$0.2251 per Kwh, a charging session fee of \$0.85 per session, and an overstay fee of \$3.00 per hour after 60 minutes of completed charging. He explained the revenue would be paid to the city once a month from ChargePoint and said they charge a 10% fee for administering the program.

5. FINANCE

A. Review anticipated revenues and proposed expenditures for FY2027 budget.

Mrs. Vermeland stated there were some adjustments made to the budget from the prior budget workshop held on April 16th. She presented the proposed budget is

\$57,268,071.00. She said this proposed budget shows a 5% increase over the current fiscal year budget. She said the grants that the city applied for and have already been approved or it is highly likely the city will be approved for have been included in the budget. She explained that the city must include the grants in the budget because the city must show the funds coming in and the expenses going out.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Special Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1)(2) to discuss an appointment of the Municipal Court Judge position and to discuss negotiations relating to a proposed forensic audit for the city and receipt of related legal advice.**

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

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

The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

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

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and the Special Meeting reconvened at 6:10pm.

- C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- D. City Council may take action on items discussed in Executive Session.**

7. APPOINTMENT

- A. Motion to appoint Richard Todd as Municipal Recorder for the City of Georgetown.**

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

B. Motion to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate forensic audit services regarding the purchase of city hall and the new municipal complex building.

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:	Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker
NAYS:	Bruce Carl, Erin Ethridge

8. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion to Adjourn the Special 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, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 05-21-26