

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MAY 21, 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  
Council Member Erin Ethridge  
Council Member Sharon Melton  
Council Member Hobson H. Milton  
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie M. Walker  
Council Member Bruce Carl

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator  
Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Deputy City Administrator  
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney  
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer  
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk  
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician  
Mr. Braxton Walton, IT Technician  
Deputy Chief Nelson Brown, Georgetown Police Department  
Chief Charlie Cribb, Georgetown Fire Department  
Ms. Amy Skidmore, Georgetown Fire Department Office Manager  
Ms. Jennifer Boyer, Planning & Community Development Director  
Mrs. Katie Badgett, Administration & Human Resources Director  
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer  
Mrs. Pam Gaddy, Water Utilities Director  
Mrs. Natrona Simmons, Public Works Director  
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director

## **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**

Pastor Sam Livingston rendered the invocation and Mr. Sheldon Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Nick Robinson. Mr. Robinson stated concern about the Kaminski House funds being removed from the city's proposed budget.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mrs. Kim Shell. Mrs. Shell requested that funds be put back into the city's proposed budget for next fiscal year that were allocated to the Kaminski House and in the operations agreement that has been in place with the city since 2013.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Steve Williams stated concern regarding funds that were removed from the city's proposed budget to assist the historical Kaminski House.

Mayor Doyle made an announcement regarding the Mayor Community Advisory Group. He said if anyone is interested in being considered for the group, please see the City Clerk or take a flyer with the QR code to sign up.

## **5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Whittier introduced Ms. Elizabeth Tucker as the Deputy City Administrator.

Mrs. Badgett introduced Ms. Joanna Lombardozzi as a Community Development Coordinator.

## **6. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- A. 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 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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

**7. FINANCE**

- A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance to adopt a budget and raise revenue for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, for the fiscal year ending June 30,2027 (FY2027).**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

- B. Motion to approve a Resolution to Establish a Utility Payment Plan Policy for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

**8. ENGINEERING**

- A. Motion to approve proposal and make payments to PMC to furnish and install audiovisual (A/V) equipment at the new City Hall building and Council Chambers for a not-to-exceed amount of \$165,452.76. The work**

**includes system design and programming, equipment procurement, tech installation, integration, testing, training, and handover.**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

- B. Motion to authorize staff to file an EDA grant application seeking construction funding assistance for the following two CIP projects: 1) WTP Sedimentation Basin Rehabilitation and New Disinfection System and 2) Stormwater Pump Upgrades.**

**The total estimated cost of the project is \$8,232,400, of which \$6,585,920 is requested from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the non-EDA share amount of \$1,646,480, representing 20% of the total project cost, will be funded by the City of Georgetown.**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

## **9. PUBLIC WORKS**

- A. A Proclamation proclaiming May 17-23, 2026 as National Public Works Week in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.**

Mayor Doyle presented a Proclamation to Mrs. Simmons for the Public Works department.

## **10. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- A. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$91,739.00 to SCMIT for Worker's Comp Insurance.**

Council Member Erin Ethridge moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

**11. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Motion to approve renewal of agreements with HTC for the city's telephone system.**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Jay Doyle

**B. Motion to approve and authorize the City Administrator to sign an intergovernmental agreement for the Community Development Block Grant Project**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

**C. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance authorizing the sub-lease of public property located at 2104 Lincoln Street, Georgetown, SC (portion of parcel no. 05-0003-004-00-00) to the Low County Veterans Group.**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

## 12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier said Santee Cooper has notified the city of the wholesale power rate increase that will take place over the next two years. He said the first increase will take place in February 2027 and the second increase will take place in February 2028. The first increase will be a little over 10% and the second increase will be 8% for the city. Mr. Whittier said the city will meet with Santee Cooper to discuss these increases. Mr. Whittier stated the Municipal Complex Building renovation project is moving along and should be ready for furniture by the end of June. He said the Arbor Day Foundation awarded the city the "Tree City USA" award for 2025.

## 13. MINUTES

### A. Motion to approve minutes of April 9, April 16, and April 30, 2026 City Council meetings.

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

## 14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Milton asked for an update on the 30-day billing cycle. Mrs. Vermeland stated it would be difficult to change all of the billing cycles at once to a 30-day billing cycle. Council Member Milton requested a council workshop be scheduled to discuss this information.

## 15. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Obeng stated that she and Mayor Pro Tempore Walker recently participated in a community clean-up event. She said the amount of trash that was collected was alarming. She encouraged all residents to get involved and help out. Council Member Milton said the county and city should be working together for upcoming storm preparation in providing sandbags for the community.

## **16. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

- A. Building Monthly Report**
- B. Electric 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**

## **17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)(2) and (5) to discuss appointments for the city boards/commission and the Georgetown Housing Authority Board of Directors; to discuss a release of an appointment for the City of Georgetown and to receive legal advice regarding zoning, and for discussion of matters relating to the proposed location or expansion of businesses served by the public body.**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

Executive Session adjourned and Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:40pm.

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

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

**18. APPOINTMENT**

**A. Motion to reappoint Tomas Langley to the Georgetown Housing Authority Board of Directors.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Defeated
<b>MOVER:</b>	Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Council Member Sharon Melton
<b>AYES:</b>	None
<b>NAYS:</b>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

**B. Motion to reappoint Burt Shell to the Community Appearance Board.**

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>	Erin Ethridge, Tamika Williams-Obeng, Sharon Melton, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

Stephanie Buccione  
City Clerk

Date Approved: 06/18/26