

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2026 — 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM
2222 HIGHMARKET STREET
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA
AND LIVESTREAM:**



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

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
Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

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, Network Administrator
Mr. Braxton Walton, IT Technician
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
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utilities Director
Mrs. Pam Gaddy, Water Utilities 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, except for first responders, so as not to interrupt the meeting.

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Keith Davis rendered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. The purpose of the hearings is to allow citizens to express their views regarding:(i) the City's proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget; and(ii) the proposed adoption and adjustment of certain municipal fees, including Electric Vehicle (EV) charging fees and certain building, planning, zoning, permitting, inspection, and development-related fees.**

1. Open Public Hearing

Mayor Doyle opened the public hearing and stated no one signed up to speak.

2. Close Public Hearing

Mayor Doyle closed the public hearing.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Walter Gibson. Mr. Gibson said his electricity at his restaurant was turned off and he lost a bunch of food. He said his bill was paid. Mayor Doyle asked for his phone number to follow up.

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Mark Bayer. Mr. Bayer spoke in favor of the Pride Month Proclamation. He stated visibility matters and it does not take away anything from anyone. Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Brendon Barber, Sr. Mr. Barber spoke in favor of the Low Country Veterans. He said they have provided over \$34M in benefits to local veterans. He stated they partner with the Friendship Place and Helping Hands. He asked Council members for their support.

Mayor Doyle recognized Ms. Delores Gibson. Ms. Gibson stated that the people of Georgetown should get a right to vote on a Pride Month Proclamation and she requested that instead of the city proclaiming Pride Month, they should vote for life, peace, and prosperity.

Mayor Doyle recognized Ms. Brandi Barnett. Ms. Barnett stated that she wanted to present her documents to the city in person. She said the documents include records starting in 2023 and is with regard to a utility billing error. She said the billing dispute has affected her life personally and with her home-based employment. She stated if the city does not respond within 180 days, she will proceed with legal counsel. She submitted a hard copy of her records to the city attorney.

6. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

A. Oath of office for Police Chief Nelson E. Brown

Mayor Doyle administered the oath of office to Police Chief Nelson E. Brown.

B. Public Works employee - Aaron McGill

Mayor Doyle and Mrs. Simmons presented a plaque to Mr. Aaron McGill and recognized him for his dedicated service to the city and to the Public Works department for over 25 years.

7. PROCLAMATION

A. A Proclamation proclaiming July 3, 2026 as America 250 and 250 years of Postal Service Day in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Mayor Doyle proclaimed July 3, 2026 as Postal Service Day as they celebrate 250 years.

B. A Proclamation proclaiming June 2026 as Pride Month in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Mayor Doyle proclaimed June 2026 as Pride month in the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

8. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Motion to approve second 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 moved, seconded by Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

9. FINANCE

A. Motion to approve second 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).

Mrs. Vermeland stated there has been 1 revision since the first reading last month. She said at the first reading the redlined millage rate for FY2026-2027 was incorrect due to an administrative error. She said it was listed as a current rate of 133.90, but the correct current millage rate is 129.60. She said this rate includes 3.8 debt service mills. She confirmed this error has been corrected in the ordinance presented for second reading tonight. She stated the city received a letter from the state after the first reading last month that stated the city had a population increase of 0.17% and a consumer price index

increase of 2.63%. She stated that pursuant to the SC code of laws Section 6-1-320, the combined allowable millage increase for FY2026-2027 is 2.8%. Mrs. Vermeland said the revised current millage rate for FY2026-2027 is 137.8% and includes 3.8 debt service mills. Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

10. POLICE

- A. Motion to approve first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 3 “Animals and Fowl”, Article I “In General”, Section 3-1 “Definitions” and Article II “Dogs, Cats and Pets”, Section 3-23 “Restraint” and adding Section 3-23(c) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Georgetown.**

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

Mayor Doyle 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, Jay Doyle, Hobson Milton, Jessie Walker

11. PUBLIC WORKS

- A. Motion to approve landscape contract services from Waccamaw Landscaping, LLC, in the amount of \$130,465.00 for the Constitution Park project.**

Mayor Doyle suggested that council consider postponing this project until a later time.

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

12. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Motion to approve second 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 Tamika Williams-Obeng moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

- B. Motion to approve the revised Employee Handbook as presented during the June 18th Council Meeting.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

13. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Whittier said that a county representative informed him that the U.S. Corp. of Army Engineers has selected a contractor for the dredging of the inner harbor and work will start in mid-July and should last approximately five weeks. He said they are also presenting next week at the county council meeting and they will hold a public meeting in the near future. Mr. Whittier stated the city has been informed by the SC Department of Public Safety that the city was awarded \$296,768. for a grant for the School Resource Officer program for the FY26-27 school year. Mr. Whittier recognized the Electric Utility

department for their efforts in replacing over 150 wood utility poles in the city. He said they worked with a consultant to determine what poles needed replaced. He thanked city staff and elected officials for their efforts and hard work on establishing and approving tonight's budget for next fiscal year.

14. MINUTES

A. Motion to approve minutes of May 21 and May 28, 2026 City Council meetings.

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Milton asked for an update on information on a 30-day utility billing and if the county is going to have a sand machine available for city residents. Mr. Whittier stated there will be a city workshop next week to review and discuss a 30-day billing cycle.

Council Member Obeng requested the city and county councils have a joint meeting like we did in the past. She said it would be beneficial since there is a new mayor and council members.

Mayor Doyle stated he would like to have the first meeting next month for the Mayor's Community Advisory Committee.

Mayor Pro Tempore Walker stated she recently participated in a cleanup on Merriman Road and noticed the stormwater drains behind Food Lion were full. She requested these be cleaned out before the storm season begins. Mr. Whittier said that he would follow up with staff.

16. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Doyle stated he and Chief Brown have been working with Willowbank residents on their concerns with traffic speeding through their neighborhood. He said they found out today that SCDOT has approved the traffic safety measures recommended and they will move forward with putting them in place.

Mayor Doyle said he is working with several organizations to put a weatherization program in place for residents. He said this program will help citizens lower their utility bills and reduce electric usage.

17. 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**
- 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**

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1)(2) to discuss appointments to the City Boards/Commissions and for the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.**

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

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

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

Council Member Bruce Carl moved, seconded by Council Member Erin Ethridge

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

Executive Session adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:25pm.

C. NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

19. APPOINTMENT

A. Motion to appoint Laura Cameron to the Arts & Cultural Commission.

Council Member Sharon Melton moved, seconded by Council Member Hobson Milton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

20. ADJOURNMENT

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

Council Member Hobson Milton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jessie Walker

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

The Regular meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Stephanie Buccione

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 07/23/26