

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2026 — 5:00 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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Council Member Tamika Williams-Obeng

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scott Whittier, City Administrator
Ms. Elizabeth Tucker, Deputy City Administrator
Mrs. Cindy Thompson, Public Information Officer
Ms. Stephanie Buccione, City Clerk
Mr. Nick Ard, IT Technician
Mr. Braxton Walton, IT Technician
Mr. Orlando Arteaga, City Engineer
Mrs. Pam Gaddy, Water Utilities Director
Mr. Ryan Courtemanche, Electric Utilities Director
Mrs. Kathy Vermeland, Finance Director

2. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

3. WATER UTILITIES

- A. Motion to amend the agenda to add a motion to proclaim a condition of Moderate Drought in the City of Georgetown, finding an emergency exigent circumstance exists necessitating action.**

Mayor Jay Doyle moved, seconded by Council Member Sharon Melton

Mayor Doyle called for the vote.

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

B. Motion to proclaim a state of Moderate Drought in the City of Georgetown.

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

4. FINANCE

A. Utility Billing Policy Review and Discussion

Mayor Doyle recognized Mrs. Vermeland. Mrs. Vermeland explained the current billing schedule process and stated there are four billing cycles throughout the month. She reviewed the customer assistance programs that have been implemented by the utility billing department. Mrs. Vermeland stated that most customers pay their utility bill on time and a small percentage reach the cut-off stage. She presented a 30-day billing cycle option and pointed out the benefits and challenges. She said some of the benefits would be additional customer payment time; potential reduction in complaints; better alignment with monthly income cycles; and enhanced customer flexibility. She said some of the challenges would be delayed cash receipts; increased accounts receivable balances; reduced time for corrections and collections; and operational and staff impacts. Mrs. Vermeland compared billing schedules and pointed out that the city has the lowest reconnection fee in the state. She stated the policy options are to maintain the current billing schedule; modify due date only; adopt a 30-day billing cycle; and increase customer outreach. Discussions followed.

5. ENGINEERING

A. WWTP-Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR) #1Upgrades

Mayor Doyle recognized Mr. Orlando Arteaga. Mr. Arteaga introduced Ken Orie from Bolton & Menk. Mr. Orie gave a visual overview of the city wastewater treatment plant. He explained the construction process and stated the typical construction cycle takes over five years to complete. Mr. Orie presented the findings from the 2025 report

and explained the physical and financial recommendations to improve the wastewater treatment plant. He said the to repair Basin 1 and restore treatment capacity would cost approximately \$5M and \$10.7M to eliminate redundant points of failure and pumping and optimize the treatment process. Mr. Orie pointed out that the current annual electrical cost to operate the plant is over \$400,000 and will only increase. Discussions followed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Stephanie Buccione

Stephanie Buccione
City Clerk

Date Approved: 07/23/2026