

**SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC  
JUNE 28, 2007**

**Notices of this meeting have been made in accordance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.**

A Special Meeting of City Council was held this date in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Lynn Wood Wilson presiding.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

	Mayor Lynn Wood Wilson	
Councilmember Brendon M. Barber, Sr.		Councilmember Jack M. Scoville, Jr.
Councilmember Rudolph A. Bradley		Councilmember Clarence C. Smalls
Councilmember Paige B. Sawyer, III		Councilmember Peggy P. Wayne

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mr. Steven E. Thomas, City Administrator  
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney  
Mrs. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Maintenance Superintendent  
Major Johnnie Deas, Georgetown Police Department  
Mr. Samuel Green, Street Crew Leader  
Mrs. Katrina Lawrimore, Director of Kaminski House Museum  
Mr. Alan Loveless, Electric Utility Director  
Mrs. Jessica Miller, Director of Finance  
Mr. Lane Mixon, Manager of Water/Wastewater/Stormwater  
Mrs. Sabrina Morris, Director of Development  
Chief Joey Tanner, Georgetown Fire Department  
Mr. Keith Wilson, Keep Georgetown Beautiful Executive Director

**NEWS MEDIA**

Georgetown Times – Scott Harper  
Sun News – Kelly Fuller

Mayor Wilson opened the Special Meeting of City Council at 5:30 PM.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Pro Tem Barber rendered the invocation. Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Wilson asked Chief Joey Tanner to lead us in prayer honoring the fallen firefighters in Charleston.

Mayor Wilson asked that all non-emergency electronic devices and cell phones be turned off during the Council Meeting.

Mrs. Jessica Miller requested approval to issue check to Georgetown County for approximately \$85,000 for repayment of the City's portion of the ISG tax refund that was paid by the County on the City's behalf in June 2007.

**COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE ISSUANCE OF CHECK TO GEORGETOWN COUNTY FOR APPROXIMATELY \$85,000 FOR REPAYMENT OF THE CITY'S PORTION OF THE ISG TAX REFUND THAT WAS PAID BY THE COUNTY ON THE CITY'S BEHALF IN JUNE 2007, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER.** Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Sawyer asked if this had to do with the steel mill bankruptcy. Mrs. Miller said ISG appealed their assessments and the Department of Revenue ruled in their favor. The County paid the City's portion back to ISG and this is reimbursement for that payment. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Approve Issuance Of Check To Georgetown County For Approximately \$85,000 For Repayment Of The City's Portion Of The ISG Tax Refund**

Mrs. Miller presented second reading on an ordinance to amend the water utility rates contained in the City Clerk's Official Record of Utility Rates, Deposits and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges for the City of Georgetown, SC.

**MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING ON AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER UTILITY RATES CONTAINED IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICIAL RECORD OF UTILITY RATES, DEPOSITS AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY.** Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. **COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO AMEND TO RAISE THE WATER RATE TO 50 PERCENT, SECONDED BY**

**COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY.** Mayor Wilson asked Mrs. Miller to comment. She stated in any budget process staff looks at every rate. She said out of city customers do pay more for the base rate; however, it is very difficult to compare our rates with Georgetown County Water and Sewer or Rural Water because the rate structures are not the same. The City charges a flat per 1,000 gallon charge regardless of usage. The other entities have escalating rates. There is operation and maintenance on the system for customers outside the City which includes increase cost for employees, increase cost for gas, increase cost for electricity and it has been some time since the rates have been compared. Mr. Scoville said Council has a duty to generate what funds we can from proprietary accounts when dealing with non-citizens. He just thinks that 100 percent is too much too soon. Mayor Pro Tem Barber stated this was discussed at the first budget workshop, the budget is balanced right now and questioned where the difference will be made up...will it be on the citizens of Georgetown? Mrs. Miller said there are two choices: (1) increase the rates to the citizens of the City of Georgetown or (2) take it out of the cash that is used to fund capital improvements. Mr. Barber said we are a business and this will create a shortfall...businesses do not operate like that. Services cost more nowadays and we are responsible for operation and maintenance that has to be calculated in. Councilmember Bradley said he is coming to the City Administrator's defense. Sometime perception can have a negative impact on the receiver as well as the sender. The term annexation was used but not in a threatening manner and for the record he wants the listeners to understand that Mr. Thomas was just presenting the different circumstances surrounding...he was not threatening because he can't make you annex anyway. Mr. Bradley asked Mrs. Miller once the rate is set can it be raised again within the budget year. Mrs. Miller said at any given time Council can make the choice to increase rates. Mayor Wilson had asked Mr. Thomas to research the matter and present his findings. He presented a few observations and clarifications. In the early 1990's a number of residents of Belle Isle had experienced problems with their wells. In 1993 City Council agreed to extend City water services to the Belle Isle area through contracts with individual property owners. He wanted to clarify a statement that was mentioned tonight: something is being called a tap that is in reality not only a tap fee but also a line extension. Currently a tap fee is simply the cost of actually putting the tap in the ground. The developer is responsible for the line work. Back then there was some pro rata formula worked out whereby the residents were

paying not only for the tap fee but also for the cost of installation of the lines. He said property owners who signed the contracts also agreed to annex into the City if the City ever initiated an annexation effort. Belle Isle customers have paid essentially the same rates as city residents except for the base rate. Councilmember Sawyer stated one of the Rotary four-way tests is; will it build good will and better friendship. He does not think this will happen by increasing the water rates by 100 percent. Mayor Wilson said another of the 4-way tests is; is it fair to all concerned. He said if we allow this to happen the citizens, the taxpayers, of the City of Georgetown have got to make up the difference...that is not fair to the people who elected us. We have got to do what's best for the people of Georgetown. Mayor Wilson called for the question on the amended motion. **COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS BARBER, AND BRADLEY, VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-3.**

**COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING ON AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER UTILITY RATES CONTAINED IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICIAL RECORD OF UTILITY RATES, DEPOSITS AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC, AS AMENDED, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS.** Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question on the amended motion. **COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS BARBER, AND BRADLEY, VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-3.**

Mrs. Miller presented second reading on an ordinance to amend the wastewater utility rates contained in the City Clerk's Official Record of Utility Rates, Deposits and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges for the City of Georgetown, SC.

**COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING ON AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES CONTAINED IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICIAL RECORD OF UTILITY RATES, DEPOSITS AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY.** Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mrs. Miller said the City has eight out of city commercial customers. She stated it cost

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Amend Water  
Rates for Outside  
City Customers As  
Amended by Mr.  
Scoville (to 50%  
increase)

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Amend  
Wastewater Rates  
for Outside City  
Customers

the City \$5 million plus to operate the water and wastewater systems every year. This is not just not recovering capital; it is the every day operation and maintenance of those systems. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS BARBER, BRADLEY, SCOVILLE AND SMALLS VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER AND WAYNE VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-2.**

Mrs. Miller presented second reading on an ordinance to amend the tax millage for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 for the City of Georgetown, SC, to the extent of the increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers. The CPI, 3.2%, equates to 2.62 mills.

**COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING ON AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAX MILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2008 FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC, TO THE EXTENT OF THE INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER.** Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS BARBER, BRADLEY, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Amend Tax  
Millage by CPI

Mrs. Miller presented second reading on an ordinance to adopt a budget and raise revenue for the City of Georgetown, SC for the FY ending June 30, 2008.

**COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING ON AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET AND RAISE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN SC FOR THE FY ENDING JUNE 30, 2008, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER.** Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Adopt a Budget  
and Raise  
Revenue

**COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AND GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 30-4-70(a)(1) TO DISCUSS POLICE CHIEF APPLICATIONS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY.** Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Enter Executive  
Session

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL (6) JUNE 28, 2007

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

**COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO REOPEN SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Reopen Special Meeting**

The Special Meeting was reopened at 6:29 PM.

Mayor Wilson announced that no formal action was taken in Executive Session.

**COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Adjourn Special Meeting**

The Regular Meeting of City Council was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Ann U. Mercer  
City Clerk

**DATE APPROVED: 07-19-07**  
**VERIFYING INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_**

