

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC
OCTOBER 25, 2007**

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

The Regular 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	
Mayor Pro Tem 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
Mr. Paul A. Gardner, Chief of Police
Mrs. Katrina Lawrimore, Director of Kaminski House Museum
Mr. Alan Loveless, Electric Utility Director
Mrs. Jessica Miller, Director of Finance
Mrs. Sabrina Morris, Director of Development
Mr. Bill Johnson, Assistant Fire Chief
Mr. Keith Wilson, Keep Georgetown Beautiful Executive Director

NEWS MEDIA

Georgetown Times – Scott Harper

Mayor Wilson opened the Regular Meeting of City Council at 5:33 PM.

Call to Order

Councilmember Sawyer rendered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation and Pledge

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

Mayor Wilson opened the Public Comment Section at 5:35 PM.

Public Comments

Ms. Toni Pennington addressed Council concerning Item 10B, the rezoning of approximately .41 acres owned by Stewart Richardson. She said Mr. Richardson has always owned this property and questioned how the property was changed from General Commercial to a Planned Development. The change to rezone to Planned Development was applied for without his consent. She said there was a contract for the property to be sold; however, he never signed anything giving anybody permission to change the zoning to a PUD. The dates have passed and the contract was not fulfilled. Mr. Richardson has no use of his property as a Planned Development. The plans called for a tennis court to be located on the property. This will not serve him any purpose. He has a business that can go back into this property but cannot use it as long as it is zoned as a tennis court. Ms. Pennington said the pending lawsuit has nothing to do with whether or not Mr. Richardson's property should be zoned General Commercial or as a PUD. She pointed out more than six months have passed since this item has been changed to a PUD. Regulations and standards state that if something is changed, construction must begin. No construction has begun and it is supposed to revert after six months. She asked Council, when considering this, to look at the fact that it was illegally changed without her client's consent from General Commercial to a PUD and more than six months have passed and it should revert back to General Commercial because the PUD had not even been started.

Ms. Toni Pennington

Mayor Wilson recognized Mr. David Hood and said he noticed the subject for discussion being a personnel matter and could not allow this to be discussed in Public Comment Section. Mr. Hood said he didn't know that it was a personnel matter...it involves insurance coverage. Mayor Wilson said it relates to a city employee and upon legal opinion, he is not going to allow comments. Mayor Wilson suggested that Mr. Hood schedule a meeting with Mr. Thomas.

Mr. David Hood

The Public Comment Section closed at 5:47 PM.

City Council viewed the character trait of the month video on Thoroughness.

Mrs. Annette Fisher updated City Council on what's happening at the Chamber of Commerce, giving them a list of upcoming events for November and a new resource guide that represents the community. She welcomed any feedback from Council. As for marketing, 'Meet George' is the main slogan of the Chamber's new advertising campaign and a new shop at home campaign 'Love Where You Live' will hopefully encourage locals to be tourist in their own town. After her presentation she encouraged Council to consider committing more dollars to the marketing plan.

Mrs. Cindi Howard presented the Electric Utility Department with the 3rd Quarter Departmental Safety Award. Mr. Loveless accepted the trophy on behalf of his Department. Mr. Loveless said he appreciated Council's recognition and most of all he appreciate every single employee of the Electric Department. People don't realize how dangerous their work is; working with 12,000 volts of electricity in the palm of their hands, if they aren't completely focused, has the potential for devastating results. Mr. Loveless will present the award to his employees in the morning.

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for second reading to amend the approved Planned Development District "The Plantation at Winyah Bay" to allow for a marina (having not more than 56 slips) as an allowed use.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AMEND THE APPROVED PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT "THE PLANTATION AT WINYAH BAY" TO ALLOW FOR A MARINA (HAVING NOT MORE THAN 56 SLIPS) AS AN ALLOWED USE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Mayor Wilson stated before any action is taken on Item 10B, he asked that the City Attorney request an opinion from the South Carolina Ethics Commission concerning City Council's right to vote on the Stewart Richardson rezoning request.

Public Comments Closed

Character Trait Video

Ms. Annette Fisher Chamber of Commerce Update

3RD Quarter Safety Award

2ND Reading – Amend PD District Plantation at Winyah Bay to Allow for a Marina (no more than 56 slips)

MAYOR WILSON MOVED TO TABLE SECOND READING TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY .41 ACRES OWNED BY STEWART RICHARDSON LOCATED AT 600 CHURCH STREET FROM PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) UNTIL THE CITY RECEIVES A WRITTEN OPINION FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Table 2nd Reading-
Stewart
Richardson
Rezoning Request

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for first reading amend Zoning Ordinance Article VI to allow for the establishment of a Public Service District and further amend Article VII Section 714 of the ordinance to allow for provisions governing said District.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE VI TO ALLOW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT AND FURTHER AMEND ARTICLE VII SECTION 714 OF THE ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR PROVISIONS GOVERNING SAID DISTRICT, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

1st Reading –
Allow for Public
Service District

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for first reading amend Zoning Ordinance Article III and Article X to allow for the establishment of area, yard and height requirements and signage requirements for the Public Service District (PS).

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE X TO ALLOW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AREA, YARD AND HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS AND SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT (PS), SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

1st Reading –
Amend Zoning
Ordinance

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for first reading to amend Zoning Ordinance Article XVI Section 1601 to include the Public Service District (PS) within the Overlay District for main corridors.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE XVI SECTION 1601 TO INCLUDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT (PS) WITHIN THE OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR MAIN CORRIDORS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

**1st Reading –
Amend Zoning
Ordinance**

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for first reading rezoning approximately 4.06 acres owned by Georgetown County Government located at 430 Fraser Street from Low Density Residential (R-1) to Public Service District (PS).

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING REZONING APPROXIMATELY 4.06 ACRES OWNED BY GEORGETOWN COUNTY GOVERNMENT LOCATED AT 430 FRASER STREET FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT (PS), SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

**1st Reading -
Rezoning**

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for first reading rezoning approximately 15.6 acres owned by Georgetown County School District and the Georgetown County Government located at 1918 and 2018 Church Street from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to Public Service District (PS).

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING REZONING APPROXIMATELY 15.6 ACRES OWNED BY GEORGETOWN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY GOVERNMENT LOCATED AT 1918 AND 2018 CHURCH STREET FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) TO PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT (PS), SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

**1st Reading -
Rezoning**

Mrs. Morris present an ordinance for first reading rezoning approximately 4.7 acres owned by Georgetown County School District and the Georgetown County Government located at 400 Kaminski Street from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to Public Service District (PS).

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING REZONING APPROXIMATELY 4.7 ACRES OWNED BY GEORGETOWN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY GOVERNMENT LOCATED AT 400 KAMINSKI STREET FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) TO PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT (PS), SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

**1st Reading -
Rezoning**

Mrs. Jessica Miller presented the plaque for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for Fiscal Year 2005/2006.

**Certificate of
Achievement**

Mrs. Miller presented a Customer Appreciation plaque from New World Systems.

**Customer
Appreciation
Plaque**

Councilmember Wayne was recused because she is the director of Harborwalk.

**Mrs. Wayne
Recused**

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE APPLICANTS TO RECEIVE FY08 A-TAX FUNDING AS RECOMMENDED BY THE A-TAX COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS.

**Approve A-Tax
Funding**

Mrs. Miller presented a quote and scope of work from Coastal Structures in an amount not to exceed \$85,000 for City Hall renovations. She said there are issues which include violations of fire and safety codes as well as rotten boards and peeling shutters. Mr. Thomas told Council money will not be spent unnecessarily and if there is a savings in one area the funds will be applied where there is need. He said the major focus will be on the exterior of the building.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE QUOTE AND SCOPE OF WORK FROM COASTAL STRUCTURES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$85,000 FOR CITY HALL RENOVATIONS, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER.

Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Barber stated this renovation needs to be done right, wisely spend what is needed, don't try to cut corners and remodel for ten to fifteen years. Mrs. Miller said if we find there is something going on that we were not aware of that needs to be corrected or added to the scope of work, it

will certainly be brought to Council. Councilmember Sawyer questioned replacement of the tile and cabinets. Mrs. Miller said the tile in the Finance Department break room and bathroom is in bad shape and the cabinets are not sturdy. At present the kitchen units are all-in-one stove, sink, refrigerator and there is no hood over the stove. Councilmember Smalls questioned lighting in the rotunda and any additional renovations that may be needed. Rotten wood on the exterior will be replaced with a surface the contractor has recommended. It is not vinyl or wood but has the appearance of wood. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Approve renovations to City Hall

Chief Paul Gardner noted Item 12A concerning use of city vehicles has been deferred.

Item Deferred

Chief Gardner requested approval to purchase an unmarked vehicle from Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$18,760.00. This is a budgeted item from Fund 86.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF UNMARKED VEHICLE FROM LOVE CHEVROLET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,760.00, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Approve Purchase of Unmarked Vehicle

Chief Gardner requested approval to purchase an unmarked vehicle from Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$18,134.00 to replace a vehicle totaled in a 2006 automobile accident. This is not a budgeted. The proposal is to use insurance and grant proceeds to purchase the vehicle.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF UNMARKED VEHICLE FROM LOVE CHEVROLET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,134.00 TO REPLACE A VEHICLE TOTALED IN A 2006 AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Approve Purchase of Unmarked Vehicle Replace Totaled Vehicle

Chief Gardner requested approval of a budget amendment to the General Fund match expense for \$9,930.00 and Federal Grant expense for \$18,134.00 for the purchase of a vehicle.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL FUND MATCH EXPENSE FOR \$9,930.00 AND FEDERAL GRANT EXPENSE FOR \$18,134.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Approve Budget Amendment

Chief Gardner noted Items 12E and 12F have been deferred.

Items Deferred

Mr. Thomas presented an ordinance for second reading to amend Chapter 6, Elections, Section 6-1 by deleting in its entirety and replacing with Section 6-1 through Section 6-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina. He noted that Section 6-4(a) has been changed since first reading to reflect January 1st as the time for taking office. If term time began in November this would shortchange retirement benefits.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING, AS IS, TO AMEND CHAPTER 6, ELECTIONS, SECTION 6-1 BY DELETING IN ITS ENTIRELY AND REPLACING WITH SECTION 6-1 THROUGH SECTION 6-5 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Barber agreed that retirement benefits would be lost. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

2nd Reading – Amend Chapter 6, Elections, Section 6-1 by Deleting in its Entirely and Replacing with Section 6-1 through Section 6-5 of the Code

Under the City Administrator report, Mr. Thomas reminded Council (1) Make a Difference Day is Saturday, October 27, 2007 9am - 12pm beginning in Ben Cooper Park, lunch will be served to the volunteers after the cleanup; (2) the employee appreciation picnic is tomorrow from 12pm – 2pm and (3) retreat will be held Friday, November 9, 2007 at the Kimbel Lodge, Hobcaw Barony. He asked Council to forward any additional issues they may have for the agenda at the retreat.

City Administrator Report

Mr. Thomas said Mr. Scoville has asked that Council consider using A-tax or Hospitality fee money to pay for some statues in city parks recognizing public figures. Mr. Scoville made reference to the bronze statues in Greenville and said from a tourist attraction standpoint, statues along with information as to their importance in the community, would enhance the parks and be educational tools.

Mr. Thomas asked Council to entertain a proposal from Captain Jim Arnold from the Georgetown Police Department. This does not require a vote or an expenditure of funds. Captain Arnold said the Federal Department of Homeland Security allocated funds directed at law enforcement specifically to purchase equipment. Monies have been allocated to subcontractors through the country. The contractor GPD would be working with is out of Charleston, South Carolina is charged with the responsibility to go to local law enforcement agencies, meet with representatives and discuss the purchase of new equipment for the furtherance of and in the name of homeland security. The equipment would be of no cost to the City. The City's cost would be the time in evaluating the equipment and how it works. Homeland Security wants to use GPD's evaluation and develop a catalog for law enforcement throughout the entire country. They intend to provide local law enforcement with the capability to make our city and county a safer place to live and work. The equipment Georgetown is considering is the automated license plate recognition system, ALPRS. Several very sophisticated cameras would be placed on light poles throughout the City and take photographs of all license plates that come in view of the cameras. A similar system will be installed in two police vehicles. Every morning at 4am all DMV and NCIC files are downloaded automatically and sent to the police department, the police car pulls up beside an antenna on the outside of our building. That information is wirelessly downloaded into a computer in the car and the stationary cameras. The cameras read the license plates and match information against the database. If a plate is wanted within one to two seconds the camera sends an alert to the dispatch center and a unit is sent to that area. The cameras do not capture speeding or red lights. Georgetown Police Department would be the first agency in South Carolina to be using the system. The equipment will be purchased, installed and maintained by the contractor for two years. After an initial 90-day evaluation conducted by Captain Arnold, the equipment belongs to the City of Georgetown. Captain Arnold answered questions from City Council.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2007, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Minutes – Special Meetings
09/27/07**

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL AND GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 30-4-70(a)(1) TO DISCUSS CITY ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE.

Enter Executive Session

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO REOPEN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER AND CARRIED 6-0.

Reopen Regular Meeting

Councilmember Bradley was out of the room.

The Regular Meeting was reopened at 7:50 PM.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 6-0. Councilmember Bradley was out of the room.

Adjourn Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of City Council was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: 11/15/07
VERIFYING INITIALS: _____

