

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC
FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

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		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. Miles B. Hadley, Interim City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Mr. Paul Gardner, Chief of Police
Mr. Sterling Geathers, Public Works Director
Mr. Alan Loveless, Electric Utility Manager
Mrs. Jessica Miller, Finance Director
Mr. Lane Mixon, Public Water Utilities Director
Mr. Steve Stack, Assistant Director of Development
Mr. Joey Tanner, Fire Chief
Mr. Isaac Williams, Mechanic II
Mr. Keith Wilson, Keep Georgetown Beautiful Director

NEWS MEDIA

Georgetown Times – Tommy Howard

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL (2) FEBRUARY 19, 2009

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

Call to Order

Fire Chief Joey Tanner rendered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation and Pledge

Mayor Wilson asked that all cell phones be turned off or changed to vibrate.

Mayor Wilson recognized Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Holland who live in Belle Isle. Mr. Holland is with SCANA and a former city councilmember from Florence, South Carolina.

Mayor Wilson opened the Public Comment Section and recognized Mr. Marty Tennant.

Public Comment Section

Mr. Tennant spoke against the proposed ordinance that would not limit the number of American or South Carolina flags. He said the current ordinance (1970) limits the number of governmental flags that one parcel of land can have to three (3) flags. This proposed ordinance will make the display of any number of American or State flags permissible in the City of Georgetown. He asked Council to limit any parcel of land to three flags, without any reference to any type of flag.

Mr. Marty Tennant

Mayor Wilson recognized Mr. Jeepy Ford. Mr. Ford told Council in America, people should be able to fly as many American flags as they want and the same for those living in South Carolina. He stated the reason Parrish Motor Company displays the American flags is because they sell American products and it is important for people to buy American.

Mr. Jeepy Ford

Ms. Grace Gasper with the Coastal Conservation League announced the Technical College of the Low Country in Beaufort, South Carolina is hosting a seminar on sustainable development in coastal South Carolina. It is within driving distance, a very reasonable registration fee and has great speakers addressing some timely issues regarding growth, economic development and some of the challenges in coastal South Carolina. She passed out information to Council and encouraged them to attend.

Ms. Grace Gasper

Mayor Wilson announced the character trait of the month is forgiveness: clearing the record of those who have wronged me and not holding a grudge.

Character Trait of the Month

Mrs. Jessica Miller introduced Mr. Bob Harper from Harper, Poston and Moree. Mr. Harper stated his firm performed an independent audit for the City of Georgetown, prepared a Management Letter for Council and this year there is a new letter that we have to provide to the Council Members that outlines the findings, etc. found during the course of doing the audit and an Executive Summary. He stated this was a clean audit with no exceptions, no qualifications; after which he briefly reviewed the Executive Summary which included the statement of net assets, statement of activities, governmental fund type revenues and expenditures and the enterprise funds. Councilmember Wayne asked about the Management Letter; Mrs. Miller said she has that for Council. Mr. Harper offered to answer any questions and invited Council to contact him after they have had time to review the documents.

**Mr. Bob Harper –
Executive Summary
of CAFR**

Mayor Wilson thanked Council, the Department Heads, staff and the Finance Department for a great year.

Ms. Sabrina Morris presented a request for first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances Chapter 5 Article VI, Section 5-101 through 5-110 to establish guidelines for dwelling units unfit for Human Habitation within the City.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 5 ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5-101 THROUGH 5-110 TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR DWELLING UNITS UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION WITHIN THE CITY, SECONDED BY MAYOR WILSON. Ms. Morris stated this is a detailed ordinance, some changes have been made and she requested another workshop before second reading. She said in this ordinance the demolition of a home rests with Council. Staff would come before Council and request money to be placed for demolition of structures, if it is condemned. No one would be evicted from or required to move from their residence. This is for structures that are abandoned, dilapidated and have concerns with safety or rodent infested. After the Construction Board of Appeals reviewed the request, it could be added that Council must approve. Mayor Wilson asked what the current method of operation is for tearing down dilapidated homes. Ms. Morris said there is currently nothing in place without this ordinance being approved or an ordinance being

**Failed Motion –
Establish
Guidelines for
Dwelling Units Unfit
for Human
Habitation**

revised and approved. Mayor Wilson said there are houses that need to come down but we have no way of taking them down. He said what the Mitney Project is trying to do would go hand-in-hand with this ordinance and he wholeheartedly supports it. Ms. Morris said a copy of the ordinance was sent to the Mitney Project, along with a book listing unsafe structures that staff has recognized. She said they support the ordinance as written. Councilmember Smalls said he would prefer this ordinance be tabled until another date when the new City Administrator is on board. Mayor Wilson suggested giving first reading and then set up a workshop when the new administrator arrives. We need to get this out of the way, it is holding things up. It was brought up before and no action was taken and the properties are getting more and more dilapidated. Councilmember Bradley said he has no objections to having a demolition ordinance but he is not inclined to go on a first reading when there are some doubts with the ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said when this ordinance was first discussed he had some concerns regarding resources. He mentioned areas along the southeastern coast where there were neighborhoods in decay. A collaborative effort between the city, the county and the financial institutions was made to revitalize these communities. Councilmember Sawyer pointed out several homes in the community that have been damaged by fire or by acts of nature and are unfit for habitation. He said the City is behind on doing anything about this and he thinks first reading with a workshop would help solve the problem now instead of putting it off and letting the homes continue to deteriorate. Councilmember Scoville asked that a workshop be scheduled as soon as possible after the administrator is on board. He requested that Mitney Project representatives attend and that maybe Mr. Barber could contact some people in the financial community to see if they could come. Mayor Wilson called for the question. MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED AGAINST. The motion failed 2-5.

Ms. Morris presented a request for first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Sections 407.2 (4), 1012 (A & B), 1013, 1013 (5,G) 1014, and 1015 to allow for the Director of Development or his or her designee to approve signs located within the Historic District of Georgetown.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN ZONING ORDINANCE SECTIONS 407.2 (4), 1012 (A & B), 1013, 1013 (5,G) 1014, AND 1015 TO ALLOW FOR THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE TO APPROVE SIGNS LOCATED WITHIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF GEORGETOWN, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Councilmember Bradley wanted to know if we have the legal authority to do this, or is this the responsibility of the Architectural Review Board. He thinks the ARB establishes their own guidelines and asked for clarity to make sure the process is correct. Mrs. Elise Crosby said she was at the Planning Commission meeting when they recommended not taking away that power from the ARB. She answered Councilmember Bradley by saying City Council absolutely has the ability or power to make a change in the ordinance. The guidelines are not in place without Council enacting them. Mayor Wilson asked if this arose in order to expedite some things. Ms. Morris said there have been several issues with signs having to wait more than a month, sometimes two months, to get in place for new businesses. Councilmember Scoville said the guidelines are very clear on what is allowed and not allowed. The thinking is that if it is clear that it is allowed; why not give the staff the authority to approve the sign. Councilmember Sawyer said he agrees with the proposed change in the ordinance but wants the ARB to approve or disapprove before a decision is made. Following more discussion, Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Ms. Morris presented a request for first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article X: Sign Regulations, Section 1009 sub-section (E) to not regulate the number of official United States flags or official South Carolina flags within the City of Georgetown.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE X: SIGN REGULATIONS, SECTION 1009 SUB-SECTION (E) TO NOT REGULATE THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL UNITED STATES FLAGS OR OFFICIAL SOUTH CAROLINA FLAGS WITHIN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said the definition needs to be clarified and asked if this

1st Reading - Amend Zoning Ordinance Sections 407.2 (4), 1012 (A & B), 1013, 1013 (5,G) 1014, and 1015 to Allow for the Director of Development or His or Her Designee to Approve Signs Located within the Historic District

1st Reading - Amend Zoning Ordinance Article X: Sign Regulations, Section 1009 Sub-section (E) to Not Regulate the Number of Official United States Flags or Official South Carolina Flags within the City

was about flags on poles, not in print. Ms. Morris said that is correct. Councilmember Scoville said he was going to vote against the change because the Flag Code states that under no circumstances should the American flag ever be used for any commercial proposes. Councilmember Bradley said we should not be a government that restricts businesses when they are honoring a joint patriotism. Councilmember Wayne said there is a flag etiquette, the flag should be respected and not be on the ground or floor. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SAWYER, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1.**

Ms. Morris presented a request for first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article IV of the General Provisions Section 409 to require all dumpsters within the city limits to meet minimum standards set forth in said section.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A WORKSHOP MEETING ON THIS PARTICULAR ITEM. He said there are many points that Council needs to consider and he does not think the City is ready to adopt this ordinance as presented. **COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.** Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SAWYER, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR WILSON VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1.**

Schedule Workshop Meeting to Discuss Amending Zoning Ordinance Article IV Section 409 re. Minimum Standard Requirements for all Dumpsters in the City

Ms. Morris presented a request for first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article IV of the General Provisions Section 410 to require all non-conforming dumpsters within the city limits to conform to the guidelines set forth in Section 409 of the ordinance or as closely as possible to the ordinance depending on existing conditions within one (1) year of the passage of said section.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO HAVE A WORKSHOP ON THIS PROPOSED ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Schedule Workshop Meeting to Discuss Amending Zoning Ordinance Article IV Section 410 re. Non-conforming Dumpsters in the City

Ms. Morris presented a request for first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances by deleting Chapter 8, Flood Damage Prevention and Control and replacing said Chapter with a new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Staff recommends approving first reading and scheduling a workshop prior to second reading.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES BY DELETING CHAPTER 8, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND REPLACING SAID CHAPTER WITH A NEW FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson said a workshop will be held before second reading. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

1st Reading – Flood Ordinance

Mrs. Jessica Miller requested approval of a five (5) year lease proposal with Branch Banking and Trust Company, with an interest rate of 2.85% and a total payout amount of \$846,635.55, to be utilized for Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements and a Residential Sanitation Truck.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE A FIVE (5) YEAR LEASE PROPOSAL WITH BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY, WITH AN INTEREST RATE OF 2.85% AND A TOTAL PAYOUT AMOUNT OF \$846,635.55, TO BE UTILIZED FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS AND A RESIDENTIAL SANITATION TRUCK, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Councilmember Smalls asked why we would purchase a sanitation truck if there is a possibility of changing to once a week garbage pickup. Mrs. Miller stated one of the trucks is pretty old, but we could entertain that entire conversation together...the once a week pickup and the residential sanitation truck. Councilmember Sawyer questioned the wastewater treatment plant improvements. Mrs. Miller said this is the short term improvements that we needed to perform based on the consent order from DHEC. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve 5 Year Lease Proposal with BB&T to be Utilized for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and a Residential Sanitation Truck

Police Chief Paul Garder stated that currently we are covered by Charleston Crime Stoppers. The Sheriff, Police Chiefs of Andrews and Pawleys Island along with himself have begun discussions of

forming a Crime Stoppers of Georgetown County. This will be funded through private donations and would form a 501c3 corporation. He is asking for Council's support of this concept and to spend some man hours on going forward with it.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO GO ON RECORD SUPPORTING CRIME STOPPERS OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Go on Record to Support Crime Stoppers of Georgetown County

Chief Gardner requested approval to purchase a 2009 Chevrolet Impala from Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$19,050. This is under State contract and is a budgeted item in the Seized and Forfeited Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASE 2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA FROM LOVE CHEVROLET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,050, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Chief Gardner said there has been a realignment in the Department. Officer Teressa Walker who was a Community Services Officer will now be a Juvenile Crime Investigator and a plain car is needed for her. One of the older patrol cars will be discontinued. Councilmember Wayne thanked Chief Gardner for the police presence around town. She said this has really helped security in the neighborhoods and business communities. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Purchase of 2009 Chevrolet Impala from Love Chevrolet

Chief Gardner said March 9th is the 15th anniversary of the death of Spencer Guerry and there will be a prayer breakfast that morning at 8:00 am in his honor. Mayor and Council will receive an invitation.

15th Anniversary of Death of Spencer Guerry

Mr. Sterling Geathers requested approval to purchase a John Deere 1435 24hp Diesel Front Mower with 62" Rear Discharge Mower in the amount of \$16,020.37 plus sales tax and approval of budget amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF A JOHN DEERE 1435 24HP DIESEL FRONT MOWER WITH 62" REAR DISCHARGE MOWER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,020.37 PLUS SALES TAX AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT, SECONDED BY

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Councilmember Smalls asked Mr. Geathers why he wanted this particular mower. Mr. Geathers said this lawnmower would be safer in some of the areas that need to be cut throughout the City. He feels the zero turn type is unsafe in the Historic area where grass needs to be cut between the street and sidewalk. He said the steering wheel type would be safer. Mr. Hadley said this was brought to Council two months ago, at which time Council requested it be brought back when it was closer to mowing season. Councilmember Sawyer asked where the money would come from to pay for the mower since it is not budgeted. Mr. Hadley said it would have to come from the fund balance. Mayor Wilson said he is in favor of lawnmowers, but he is not in favor of paying \$16,000 because one person wants a steering wheel. He thinks the City can buy two lawnmowers for the price of this one and with proper training our folks can ride the zero turn mowers safer than ones with a steering wheel. Councilmember Sawyer said if the City can get two mowers for the price of one, he would agree with the Mayor and make that a motion. **COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY WITHDREW HIS SECOND ON THE MOTION.**

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO BUY TWO ZERO TURN LAWNMOWERS FOR THE SAME PRICE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Councilmember Bradley expressed concerns about the maintenance cost per vehicle listed. He feels this cost is exaggerated and would like to see some corrections made. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Purchase of 2 Zero Turn Lawnmowers

Mr. Lane Mixon requested approval of contract from Thomas Bone Construction in the amount of \$55,000 for Abandoned Vessel Removal Project Phase II. The City received a grant from SCDHEC-OCRM and our portion of the cost will be \$13,750.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE CONTRACT FROM THOMAS BONE CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,000 FOR ABANDONED VESSEL REMOVAL PROJECT PHASE II, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Councilmember Sawyer asked Mr. Bone if the project would be completed by May 1st. Mr. Bone answered yes. Councilmember Wayne said she was glad to see a local person

Approve Contract from Thomas Bone Construction in the Amount of \$55,000 for Abandoned Vessel Removal Project Phase II

get the bid. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Mr. Alan Loveless requested approval of a 10-year lease agreement with Santee Cooper for the installation and maintenance of an emergency generator at City Hall in the amount of \$1,222.00 per month. Lengthy discussions followed. Mrs. Crosby informed Council the director of Risk Management pointed out this contract as presented has an indemnity clause, Section 19.1, which keeps the City from executing. Discussions continued and it was determined that Mr. Mixon is in great need of a generator. Several Councilmembers expressed concerns of leasing rather than purchasing a generator. Councilmember Smalls said he would like to table this until the City receives comparisons, Council concurred.

Mr. Miles Hadley presented second reading of an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Georgetown, South Carolina, Chapter 2 Administration; Article III Officers and Employees; Division 3 Administrator to include Sec. 2-88 Residency Requirements.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION; ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; DIVISION 3 ADMINISTRATOR TO INCLUDE SEC. 2-88 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Councilmember Smalls stated he would hate to make this requirement. He does not have a problem with Belle Isle or Wedgefield. Councilmember Sawyer said he would prefer the administrator live within the confines of the City of Georgetown. Councilmember Bradley stated he does not feel inclined to put that kind of restriction on the city administrator. Councilmember Scoville said property values have plummeted and there are plenty of real nice houses in Georgetown. After the recent controversy with Mr. Thomas, he feels the citizens demand that the new administrator be a full time resident. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER, SCOVILLE AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY AND SMALLS VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-3.**

Discuss Lease Agreement with Santee Cooper for the Installation and Maintenance of an Emergency Generator at City Hall

2nd Reading to Amend Chapter 2 Administration; Article III Officers and Employees; Division 3 Administrator to include Sec. 2-88 Residency Requirements

Mr. Hadley presented an engineering contract for approval with AECOM/HSMM in the amount of \$118,500 to design an RDP EnVessel Pasteurization process at the existing Georgetown County Compost Facility. Costs would be divided among regional partners with the City's portion being \$35,368.58.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR APPROVAL WITH AECOM/HSMM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$118,500 TO DESIGN AN RDP ENVESSEL PASTEURIZATION PROCESS AT THE EXISTING GEORGETOWN COUNTY COMPOST FACILITY. COSTS WOULD BE DIVIDED AMONG REGIONAL PARTNERS WITH THE CITY'S PORTION BEING \$35,368.58, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mr. Mixon explained the partnership paid for an engineer to evaluate different alternatives. At present we are composting, mixing sludge with wood chips. The engineer gathered data and determined the RDP process was the most cost effective over the long run. In order to move forward with this process we have to have an engineer design and submit plans to DHEC to obtain permits to build a facility at the county landfill. This is the proposal presented tonight. Before any construction contracts are awarded, this would come back to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Barber asked for clarification to Councilmember Scoville's question; 'if the City commits to the \$35,368 engineering contract and decides not to go with their construction, can we use the study for a possible second option site? Mr. Mixon answered "certainly." Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Engineering Contract with AECOM/HSMM to Design an RDP Process at County Compost Facility

Mr. Hadley presented a request from the Mitney Project to waive the electric, water and sewer utilities for the building located on the corner of Merriman and Front Streets for a period of six months for construction purposes.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE MITNEY PROJECT TO WAIVE THE ELECTRIC, WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES FOR THE BUILDING LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF MERRIMAN AND FRONT STREETS FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Councilmember Scoville asked about the cost. Mr. Hadley said the last utility bill for that building was between \$200-\$300. Councilmember Sawyer said he is all for the Mitney

Approve Request from Mitney Project to Waive Electric, Water & Sewer Utilities for the Building Located on the Corner of Merriman and Front Streets for a Period of Six Months

Project and will be glad to help as an individual and a businessman but as a councilmember he cannot see committing our City to waive these fees. Councilmember Bradley said there is always an exception to the rule. Government is for the sole purpose of serving the people. When there are people who take the time and effort to volunteer their valuable time to better the lives of the people we are sworn to serve, he does not see a problem. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said Council made a commitment when we became partners in the proposal for the grant. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1.**

Mr. Hadley presented a request from the United Methodist Relief Center for consideration of (1) invitation to the City to become a partner in the Georgetown Housing Partnership, (2) city to appoint a board member to represent the City of Georgetown (3) endorse and support Georgetown housing Partnership's programs and initiatives and (4) refund on an annual basis permitting fees paid to the City.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE REQUESTS FROM THE UNITED METHODIST RELIEF CENTER FOR CONSIDERATION OF (1) INVITATION TO THE CITY TO BECOME A PARTNER IN THE GEORGETOWN HOUSING PARTNERSHIP, (2) CITY TO APPOINT A BOARD MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN (3) ENDORSE AND SUPPORT GEORGETOWN HOUSING PARTNERSHIP'S PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES AND (4) REFUND ON AN ANNUAL BASIS PERMITTING FEES PAID TO THE CITY, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Councilmember Bradley recused himself from any discussion due to the fact he is a member of the United Methodist Relief Committee. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Councilmember Sawyer said as an individual and a member of the United Methodist Church he can help with this project but as a councilmember he cannot go along with this request. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER VOTED AGAINST. COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY WAS RECUSED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-1-1.**

Approve Requests
from United
Methodist Relief
Center

Mrs. Cindi Howard announced the 2008 Annual Departmental Safety Award goes to the Water Department. She congratulated Mr. Mixon and everyone in the department.

**2008 Annual
Departmental Safety
Award**

Mrs. Howard announced the City Electric Department was presented a Safety Award at the Hometown Legislative Action Day in Columbia yesterday.

**Electric Department
Presented Safety
Award**

Mr. Hadley informed Council February 2009 is Cities Mean Business Month.

**Cities Mean
Business Month**

During the Interim City Administrator Report Mr. Hadley updated Council on (1) **Playground Improvement Project:** \$50,000 is budgeted in Non-Departmental for playground improvements. The Bayview Playground has been identified as the park with the most critical needs and new equipment will be purchased for around \$40,000. A flyer was sent out to residents and we received several responses. We are currently working on quotes received for fencing at Baruch Park. Installation is estimated to take place hopefully by the end of April. (2) **Harborwalk Improvements:** Prior to replacing the decking on the harborwalk we need to assess the structural integrity of the piles, caps, deckings, etc...We have asked for and received a proposal for structural inspection/assessment services from Collins Engineers in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.

**Interim
Administrator
Report**

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL FROM COLLINS ENGINEERS FOR STRUCTURAL INSPECTION/ASSESSMENT SERVICES OF THE HARBORWALK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Approve Proposal -
Collins Engineers
For Structural
Inspection/Assessm
ent of the
Harborwalk In An
Amount Not To
Exceed \$12,000**

(3) Upcoming Special Events: (known – either permitted or already contacted the City regarding the event) 2/21/09 28th African American Annual Parade – Front Street; 3/8/09 Impact Weekend – Georgetown Youth Ministries – Front Street in and near Francis Marion Park (musical performances and speeches); 4/18/09 – March for Babies – March of Dimes; 4/25/09 5K Cervical Cancer Awareness Family Fun Race; 5/2/09 – Annual Georgetown Rotary Shag Festival on King Street. **Budget concerns.** **(4)** Once a week sanitation pick up would save gas, time and effort. We could use the time for better on the street

trash collection, mowing and beautification. **(5)** We're restricting travel; holding any additional capital expenditures and we have a hiring freeze.

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO GIVE FIRST READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO GO TO ONCE A WEEK GARBAGE PICKUP IF AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT IS REQUIRED, IF NOT THEN BY RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATOR, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER AND SCOVILLE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION FAILED 3-4.

**Failed Motion –
Once a Week
Garbage Pickup**

(6) Upcoming City Council/Department Head Budget & Goal Setting Retreat location – date is 3/20 – 3/21. Councilmember Scoville requested Council to reconsider going to Wampee. Even though the cost is fairly nominal it sends the wrong message to the staff and to the taxpayers. Councilmember Sawyer agreed with Mr. Scoville. Mayor Pro Tem Barber, Mayor Wilson and Councilmember Wayne were in favor of going to Wampee. Mayor Wilson said the consensus is to go to Wampee.

Mr. Hadley said CSX will begin work on the cross ties a week from Monday. Traffic will be rerouted for two or three days.

Mr. Hadley asked for Council's permission to apply for a Fire Prevention Grant in the amount of \$75,000. The City's match would be \$3,750 which would come out of next year's budget.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE GRANT SUBMISSION FOR FIRE PREVENTION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0**

**Approve Grant
Submission For Fire
Prevention Grant in
the Amount Of
\$75,000**

Mr. Hadley announced City Council voted at the 4:30 PM Special Meeting prior to this Regular Meeting, to negotiate a contract with Chris Eldridge, the current City Administrator in Pickens, for the city administrator position.

**Negotiate a
Contract with Chris
Eldridge, for City
Administrator
Position**

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2009 AS CITIES MEAN BUSINESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0**

**Proclamation -
Cities Mean
Business Month**

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETINGS OF CITY COUNCIL DATED 01/06/09; 01/08/09; 01/15/09; 02/10/09; 02/11/09 AND REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL DATED 01/15/09, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0**

**Approve Minutes -
Special Meetings
dated 01/06/09;
01/08/09; 01/15/09;
02/10/09; 02/11/09
and Regular
Meeting Dated
01/15/09**

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 30-4-70(A)(1) TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENT TO COAST RTA BOARD AND 30-4-70(A)(2) DISCUSS PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AND RECEIVE 4TH QUARTER LEGAL UPDATE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Adjourn Regular
Meeting and Enter
Executive Session**

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO REOPEN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Reopen Regular
Meeting**

The Regular Meeting was reopened at 8:45 PM.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPOINT MR. JOE LAZZARA TO THE COAST RTA BOARD, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Appoint Mr. Joe
Lazzara to Coast
RTA Board**

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

Adjourn Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: 04/16/09
VERIFYING INITIALS: _____

