

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC
APRIL 16, 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. Chris Eldridge, City Administrator
Mrs. Elise Crosby, City Attorney
Ms. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Maintenance Superintendent
Mr. Paul Gardner, Chief of Police
Mr. Sterling Geathers, Public Works Director
Mrs. Cindy Kinder, Interim Kaminski House Director
Mr. Alan Loveless, Electric Utility Manager
Mrs. Jessica Miller, Finance Director
Mr. Lane Mixon, Public Water Utilities Director
Ms. Sabrina Morris, Director of Development
Mr. Joey Tanner, Fire Chief
Mr. Keith Wilson, Keep Georgetown Beautiful Director

NEWS MEDIA

Georgetown Times – Tommy Howard
Sun News – Kelly Marshall

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

Call to Order

Pastor Ricky West of Messiah Baptist Church 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 opened the Public Comment Section and recognized Mr. Joe Lazzara, Council's newly appointed member to the Coast RTA Board. Mr. Lazzara introduced himself to Council and gave an in-depth account of his background and experience. He gave each Councilmember with a copy of the Georgetown Public Transportation Initiative and reviewed the information.

Public Comment Section

Mr. Joe Lazzara

Mayor Wilson announced the character trait of the month is virtue. The moral excellence evident in my life as I consistently do what is right.

Character Trait of the Month

Mayor Wilson recognized three Marines and asked them to come forward. Commandant Herb Bailey introduced Detachment Sr. Vice Commandant Don Corinna and Detachment Judge Advocate Vincent Syndab. He then requested City Council's approval of a proclamation proclaiming May 16, 2009 as Marine Corps League Day in Georgetown. They are planning a day of fun and will be serving dinner all day.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 16, 2009 AS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DAY IN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson called for the question. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

Proclamation – Marine Corps League Day

Mayor Wilson thanked the Marines for their service to this great Nation.

Chief Gardner presented Mayor and City Council with the United Methodist Relief Center 2009 Recognition Award. Three weeks ago he attended a dinner hosted by the United Methodist Relief Center, on behalf of the City. The City and County both received an award for the building of the Elderly Transport. This was the

United Methodist Relief Center Annual Award

first municipality and county to have taken on an ET project together.

Ms. Sabrina Morris presented a Resolution declaring the Week of May 3-9, 2009 as Building Safety Week in Georgetown.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WEEK OF MAY 3-9, 2009 AS BUILDING SAFETY WEEK IN GEORGETOWN, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Resolution –
Building Safety
Week**

Ms. Morris requested Council defer action on the Flood Damage Prevention ordinance tonight. She said a Public Hearing is required before second reading and this will be held before the next Regular Meeting at 5:00 PM. Council agreed to defer.

**Defer 2nd Reading
on Flood Ordinance**

Ms. 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 WAYNE 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, OPTION II, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. The difference between Option I and Option II is Option II allows for a lien. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said as a City we have to collaborate with our financial partners because the Mitney Project alone cannot bear the burden of trying to help redevelop and help with the restoration of dwellings that need to be redone. Councilmember Wayne asked if there would be extra money in the budget next year for this ordinance to be enforced or are funds currently available. Ms. Morris said money has been requested in the upcoming budget. 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.**

**1ST Reading –
Guidelines for
Dwellings unfit for
Human Habitation**

Mrs. Jessica Miller presented for approval a budget amendment in the amount of \$35,370 for an engineering contract with AECOM/HSMM to design a RDP EnVessel Pasteurization process at the existing Georgetown County Compost Facility. Council granted approval to proceed at the February 2009 Regular Meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,370 FOR AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT WITH AECOM/HSMM TO DESIGN A RDP ENVESSEL PASTEURIZATION PROCESS AT THE EXISTING GEORGETOWN COUNTY COMPOST FACILITY, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SAWYER, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTE IN FAVOR. MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1.**

Approve Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$35,370

Mrs. Miller presented for approval a budget amendment in the amount of \$16,467 for the purchase of two (2) lawnmowers. This purchase was approved by Council at the February 2009 Regular Meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,467 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) LAWNMOWERS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$16,467

Mrs. Miller presented for approval the FY 08/09 Accommodations Tax funding as recommended by the ATAX Advisory Committee. This included Georgetown County Museum \$1,340 for ads in Florence Morning News; Harbor Historical Association \$6,000 for 20th annual Wooden Boat Show and \$7,200 for floating docks for boat show; International Paper Baseball Classic \$4,000 for advertising expenditures for the SC High Schools Baseball Tournament; Kaminski House \$2,200 for Made in the Shade Concert series and Winyah Auditorium Corporation \$25,000 for seating for Auditorium.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE FY 08/09 ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDING AS RECOMMENDED BY

THE ATAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Councilmember Sawyer recused himself because his wife is employed two days a week as a part-time employee at the Georgetown County Museum. Councilmember Wayne stated Harborwalk receives Atax funds, although they are not included in this recommendation, and asked if she should recuse herself or vote. Mayor Wilson called on the City Attorney. Mrs. Crosby said Harborwalk is not a beneficiary of this vote and she did not see a conflict with Councilmember Wayne voting. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTE IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER WAS RECUSED. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1.**

Approve FY 08/09 ATAX Funding as Recommended by ATAX Committee

Mrs. Miller presented for approval a Resolution which establishes an Identify Theft Policy in compliance with recent federal and state legislation and regulation. This is the Red Flag rules legislation that requires the City to protect an individual's personal information on their utility accounts, personnel records, etc.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION WHICH ESTABLISHES AN IDENTIFY THEFT POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH RECENT FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Resolution to Establish Identify Theft Policy

Mr. Alan Loveless told Council the new one-man bucket truck they approved at last month's meeting is in the parking lot if they would like to see it after the meeting.

Mr. Loveless requested approval of contract with G&W Electric Company for purchase of electric substation equipment in the amount of \$135,200. This will replace the equipment on all eight of the City's distribution feeders in both substations. The existing oil circuit breakers in the Georgetown and Maryville substations and the relays that control them are 30 plus years old. In the past few years there have been some minor mechanical failures in this equipment. Because of the age of the equipment; these minor problems could very easily become major problems. He feels it is time to replace the equipment with modern, oil-free vacuum

equipment with electronic controls. This is a budgeted item for substation upgrades.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH G&W ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC SUBSTATION EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$135,200, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Contract with G&W Electric Co. for Electric Substation Equipment

Mr. Sterling Geathers requested approval of bid from Ballard Iron Works, Inc. in the amount of \$8,285.56 to refurbish recycle trailer. Funds are budgeted.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE BID FROM BALLARD IRON WORKS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,285.56 TO REFURBISH RECYCLE TRAILER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mr. Geathers stated there will be no service lost. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Bid from Ballard Iron Works, Inc. to Refurbish Recycle Trailer

Mr. Chris Eldridge presented a revised personnel policy on Rehiring of Former Employees which will replace the current policy Number 23. This was discussed at the April 8th workshop and addresses some of the issues City Council had with hiring or rehiring of retired employees. There have been no changes. Staff has spoken with two labor attorneys, Mike Malone and Michael Ott and they felt this was the best way to address the issue. It does require that all positions are advertised in-house and outside as well. Current employees will have an opportunity to move up to that position and the retiring employee would have the opportunity to apply. This will remove the expectation of being rehired, if an employee chooses to retire. He stated there is no mandatory retirement age.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE A REVISED PERSONNEL POLICY ON REHIRING OF FORMER EMPLOYEES WHICH WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT POLICY NUMBER 23, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Revised Personnel Policy #23 – Rehiring of Former Employees

Mr. Eldridge presented a Resolution to Buy Local Buy Fair. The City will focus our departments to purchase, when at all possible, inside the City limits. This Resolution will also encourage businesses within the City of Georgetown and Georgetown County.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION WHICH ENCOURAGES BUY LOCAL BUY FAIR, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Resolution – Buy Local Buy Fair

Mr. Eldridge presented a Resolution declaring April as Fair Housing Month.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Resolution – April as Fair Housing Month

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL DATED 03/10/09 AND REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL DATED 02/19/09. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Approve Minutes - Special Mtg. Dated 03/10/09 and Regular Mtg. 02/19/09

Mayor Wilson noted the monthly department reports are included in the agenda binder.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO RECEIVE A LEGAL BRIEFING AND DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO ATAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY APPEARANCE BOARD, 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 6:05 PM.

Mayor Wilson left at 6:15 PM.

Mayor Wilson Left the Meeting

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO REOPEN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY

Reopen Regular Meeting

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Pro Tem Barber called for the question. **THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

The Regular Meeting was reopened at 7:32 PM.

Mayor Pro Tem Barber announced no formal action was taken in Executive Session.

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO REAPPOINT STEELE BREMNER, AMY SPROWLES, MEG TARBOX AND REBECCA MYRICK-SMITH TO THE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Pro Tem Barber called for discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Barber called for the question. **THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

Reappoint Ms. Bremner, Sprowles, Tarbox and Myrick-Smith to ATAX Committee

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS AND CARRIED 6-0.

Adjourn Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: 05/21/09
VERIFYING INITIALS: _____

