

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GEORGETOWN
DECEMBER 14, 2006**

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 Peggy P. Wayne
Councilmember Paige B. Sawyer, III

Councilmember Clarence C. Smalls was absent from the meeting.

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Steven E. Thomas, City Administrator
Mrs. Ann U. Mercer, City Clerk
Mr. Elise F. Crosby, City Attorney
Mr. Glen Dixon, Fleet Maintenance Superintendent
Mr. Jimmy Edwards, Sanitation Supervisor
Chief Dan Furr, Georgetown Police Department
Mrs. Lynn Griffith, IT Director
Mrs. Katrina Lawrimore, Director of Kaminski House Museum
Mr. Alan Loveless, Electric Utility Director
Mrs. Jessica Miller, Finance Director
Mr. Lane Mixon, Manager of Water/Wastewater/Stormwater

NEWS MEDIA

Mr. Scott Harper, Georgetown Times
Ms. Aliana Ramos, Sun News

Mayor Wilson called to order the Regular Meeting at 5:30 PM.

Call to Order

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

Invocation and Pledge

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

Mayor Wilson asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in the Public Comment Section. There was no response.

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

Character Trait of the Month Video

Mayor Wilson announced that Councilmember Scoville has recused himself from voting on Item 7A due to the fact that he learned yesterday a client of his is an investor in the Company seeking to acquire the property being discussed. Councilmember Scoville provided a written recusal statement to the City Clerk and left Council Chambers before discussions began.

Councilmember Scoville Recused from Item 7A

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance to rezone approximately 12 acres of land on Charleston Highway owned by C2G2, LLC from General Commercial to Low Density Residential for a proposed single family subdivision requiring 10,000 square feet per lot. This would go to the Planning Commission for approval.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 12 ACRES OF LAND ON CHARLESTON HIGHWAY FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) TO LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1), SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS CARRIED 5-0.**

2nd Reading – Rezone C2G2, LLC Property 12 Acres

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance to establish policy and direction regarding fair housing within the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH POLICY AND DIRECTION REGARDING FAIR HOUSING WITHIN THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS CARRIED 5-0.**

2nd Reading – Fair Housing

Mrs. Morris presented a request to hire a building inspector in the Building and Planning Department.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF A BUILDING INSPECTOR IN THE BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS CARRIED 5-0.**

Approve Hiring of Building Inspector

Mrs. Morris presented a budget amendment for \$25,000 to cover the

cost of the additional position for one half of the budget year.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 TO COVER THE COST OF THE ADDITIONAL POSITION FOR ONE HALF OF THE BUDGET YEAR, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 5-0.**

Approve \$25,000 Budget Amendment for Additional Building Inspector

Councilmember Scoville returned to Council Chambers.

Mr. Lane Mixon presented an ordinance for second reading to establish water and wastewater impact fees for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND IMPOSE WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPACT FEES AS DIRECTED IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS TITLE 6, ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 1 SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE ACT FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 6-0.**

2nd Reading – Water & Wastewater Impact Fees

Mr. Mixon presented an ordinance for second reading to amend the water tap fee and meter installation fee. He pointed out one change that needs to be made in the ordinance and stated there is no request to change the wastewater tap fee. The current wastewater tap fee for a ¾ inch meter is \$900, not \$850, and will remain the same.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATER TAP FEE AND METER INSTALLATION FEE CONTAINED IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICIAL RECORD OF UTILITY RATES, DEPOSITS AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 6-0.**

2nd Reading – Increase Water Tap Fee

Mr. Jimmy Edwards presented a request to purchase two knuckle boom trucks in the amount of \$198,675.40 from Burns Automotive. This is under state contract.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE REQUEST

TO PURCHASE TWO KNUCKLE BOOM TRUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$198,675.40 FROM BURNS AUTOMOTIVE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Extensive discussion among Council followed. Concerns included whether or not this equipment would be able to pick up the debris because of all the trees, overhead utility wires, its size, vehicles parked on the side of the street and other factors. Councilmember Scoville wanted to know if the trucks were purchased by the City would there be a problem selling them if it turns out not to be effective. Mr. Thomas said they are used quite frequently and that would not be a problem. He reviewed for Council what was discussed during the budget process. The City would be moving from three pieces of equipment in the road with upwards of four to five employees working that equipment, to one piece of equipment with one or two employees. The system would be more cost effective, more efficient and safer. There would be less exposure. Employees would be trained to operate the equipment. If the transition is approved, every employee will make it through with a different position in the Public Works Department. He proposed when an employee is trained to become a knuckle boom operator they be considered for additional pay. Mr. Thomas told Council he would like to be given the opportunity to give it a shot and see how it works and make it successful. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said he is not against progress; however, he feels this is a cumbersome piece of equipment. Mr. Thomas said this equipment is extremely flexible. If this is approved tonight, the City will continue to collect debris in the same manner until all the training is complete and eventually there would be less manpower required and employees would be reassigned to the grounds maintenance department. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said the Public Works Department is understaffed and he is concerned about reassigned manpower.

Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SAWYER AND SCOVILLE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED 4-2.**

Approve Purchase of 2 Knuckle Boom Trucks

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,000 TO COVER EXPECTED COST OF TWO KNUCKLE BOOM TRUCKS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SAWYER AND SCOVILLE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION**

Approve \$11,000 Budget Amendment to Cover Cost of 2 Knuckle Boom Trucks

WAS CARRIED 4-2.

Mr. Thomas asked Mayor and Council for their consideration in creating a committee to facilitate the development and adoption of a special events policy. He said the current permitting process needs to be updated to help regulate and properly manage special events. Councilmember Wayne said she did not see a reason for having a special events committee telling the committee associated with each special event what to do. Mr. Thomas said the intent would be an ad hoc committee put together by Mayor and Council for a short period of time to give input. Mayor Wilson said there are liability issues that need to be addressed. Councilmember Bradley said we need a policy to protect the City and he likes the idea of a committee. He understands the committee will be made up of people involved in the festivities. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said the City needs a policy to govern special events. If we don't have one, we leave the doors open for legal suites against the City. Staff recommends the creation of a Special Events Committee to analyze, research and present to City Council, the best process, practice and ultimately the best policy to fit the City's needs. Councilmember Wayne volunteered to be on the Committee. Council's consensus was to name Councilmembers Bradley, Sawyer and Wayne to serve on the committee. Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Thomas to provide names of individuals representing the specific event(s), law enforcement and any other department or agency that would be involved.

**Discussion of
Special Events
Policy**

Mr. Thomas told Council the Morgan Park project committee has requested and received proposals from qualified consultants to perform planning and archaeological services for the Morgan Park project. Staff recommends approving the Committee's recommendations of Mr. Kenneth B. Simmons, a landscape architectural planner, in the amount of \$20,000 and Wilbur Smith and Associates in the amount of \$9,300. The total amount would be covered by funding the task force has received to date through a grant from a private developer and the Bunnelle Foundation grant. There was no objection from Council.

**Approve
Proposals from
Kenneth B.
Simmons & Wilbur
Smith for Services
to be Rendered at
Morgan Park**

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL DATED NOVEMBER 16, 2006 AND PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING DATED NOVEMBER 27, 2006, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 6-0.**

**Minutes – Regular
Mtg. 11/16/06 and
Public Hearing &
Special Mtg.
11/27/06**

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND GO INTO EXECUTIVE

SESSION PURSUANT TO 30-4-70(S)(2) TO RECEIVE A LEGAL UPDATE ON PENDING CLAIMS AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROPERTY ACQUISITION, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 6-0.

Adjourn Regular Meeting and Go into Executive Session

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Mayor Wilson left Executive Session at 7:10 PM.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO REOPEN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 5-0.

Reopen Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of City Council was reopened at 7:14 PM.

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

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 5-0.

Adjourn Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of City Council was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
Certified Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED: 01-18-07
VERIFYING INITIALS: _____