

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC
MAY 15, 2008**

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
Ms. 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, Finance Director
Mr. Lane Mixon, Manager of Water/Wastewater/Stormwater
Mrs. Sabrina Morris, Director of Development
Mr. Joey Tanner, Fire Chief
Mr. Keith Wilson, Keep Georgetown Beautiful Executive Director

NEWS MEDIA

Georgetown Times – Tommy Howard
Sun News – Kelly Fuller

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL (2) MAY 15, 2008

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 non-emergency electronic devices and cell phones be turned off during the Council Meeting.

Mayor Wilson opened the Public Comment Section at 5:32 PM, and recognized Mr. Dan Stacy. Mr. Stacy represents the land owners of items 9A, 9B and 9C and said he will be available to answer any questions Council may have concerning these matters.

Public Comments

Mr. Dan Stacy

Mayor Wilson recognized Ms. Mary Prince, Marketing Manager for Southern Cable, she is here to represent them in their interest concerning the franchise petition on the agenda. They feel there is already effective competition here in the Georgetown area. Currently there are two operators splitting customers in Georgetown. When another operator is added, the pieces of the pie are decreased. If Southern Cable has to downsize, employees may lose their jobs. Southern Cable operates within the City limits, their employees live here and all company vehicles are registered in Georgetown County. She asked Council to take notice that they are locally owned and operated and committed as a local company to stay vested in the community and do the very best job they can.

Ms. Mary Prince

Mayor Wilson recognized Mr. Richard Izzard who addressed Council concerning his house on 1908 Front Street. He asked why he hasn't had a chance to repair his house. The City removed the meter off my house and gave me a notice of unsafe structure stating property is in desperate need of repair or removal. He stated he has a company that is willing to do the work on his house if the City will grant the permit.

Mr. Richard Izzard

Mayor Wilson recognized Mr. Kenny Mitchum. Mr. Mitchum stated he did not have any comment at this time unless there were any legal questions on the cable franchises; however he did ask that if it becomes necessary he be given the right to speak.

Mr. Kenny Mitchum

Mayor Wilson recognized Mr. Brent Groome from Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Mr. Groome said HTC has over 900 customers served with voice and data services in Georgetown. The two competitors, Timer Warner and Southern Cable, have the ability to

Mr. Brent Groome

deliver multiple services. They did not have to request permission from Council to provide voice services; however, today the structure requires HTC to request permission to provide cable services. His objective is to position HTC to compete on a level playing field. If HTC continues to grow and receive continued support needed to offer cable TV services inside the city limits of Georgetown they will locate an office here in 2009 if budgeted. In summary, HTC is looking for a level playing field, the ability to continue providing services for their customers and to add additional services. It has more to do with the technology, with fiber being able to deliver both voice, video and data services. They cannot utilize that investment today because they're limited to just providing voice and data. Mr. Groome is seeking Council permission to provide cable as well.

The Public Comment Section closed at 5:40 PM.

Mayor Wilson announced the character trait of the month is Wisdom. Seeing and responding to life situations from a perspective that transcends my current circumstances.

Ms. Sabrina Morris introduced Matt Millwood, GIS Specialist and Major Johnnie Deas introduced Officer Aaron Lynn.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 17-23, 2008 AS NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Sawyer said this has nothing to do with Safe Boating Week but he has noticed a new abandoned boat at East Bay Park and noted that our waterway into Georgetown is the most scenic entrance we have. He added there are still abandoned boats in the river with people living on them with dogs, and one with a chicken. Every morning new garbage bags, brought in by the boaters, have been placed in the trash cans by the Harborwalk; some boaters have vehicles that take up parking places that could be utilized by citizens who are paying taxes in our City. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Mr. Steve Thomas told City Council HTC generated a request for reconsideration. A few months ago City Council, on second reading, denied a state issued certificate of franchise for Horry Telephone Cooperative on file with the Secretary of State's office. Once the request came in for reconsideration, Mr. Thomas called

Public Comments Closed

Character Trait of the Month

New Employees

Proclamation – National Safe Boating Week

Ms. Holcombe once again at the Office, and basically all they need is, if Council changes or amends what is on file at the Secretary of State's office, she will send a new application that would require signatures or signature based on your approval.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO DENY FIRST READING ON AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CONSENT TO HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR FRANCHISE FOR CABLE SERVICE AND SETTING FRANCHISE FEE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Sawyer stated in his business way of thinking he cannot understand why HTC wants to come and compete, but in his heart he cannot morally deny the opportunity for a company to come in and do business in Georgetown. Councilmember Scoville said he was going to vote against the motion, and before second reading, have some questions answered. Mayor Wilson called for the question. COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER AND SCOVILLE VOTED AGAINST. The motion failed 3-4.

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING ON AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CONSENT TO HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR FRANCHISE FOR CABLE SERVICE AND SETTING FRANCHISE FEE, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Barber stated he does not want to impact anything that is going to take away jobs from Georgetown County. Clarification needs to be made in regard to the type of impact Horry Telephone Cooperative will have as far as their 900 customers being served. He said the effective competition could be a win-win situation and was going to vote in favor of first reading; however, he wants to know the impact from a level playing field, if HTC came in and serviced potential new customers. Mayor Wilson called for the question. Councilmember Wayne said HTC is located in Horry County, their trucks are in Horry County and their employees are from Horry County. Mr. Groome stated *if* they are successful in Georgetown they made build an office here and she does not see where this is going to affect employment in the City of Georgetown. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER AND SCOVILLE VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED**

1st Reading – HTC, Inc. Franchise for Cable Service in Georgetown

AGAINST. The motion carried 4-3.

Ms. Morris presented first reading of an ordinance accepting the petition from East Rosemont Limited Partnership to annex approximately 28 acres of property located on Fraser Street further declaring zoning applicable thereto.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PETITION FROM EAST ROSEMONT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY 28 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON FRASER STREET FURTHER DECLARING ZONING APPLICABLE THERETO, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Bradley asked about this being futuristic; Ms. Morris said the ordinance pertaining to the sign is just for that particular parcel. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

**1st Reading –
Annex 28 Acres
Rosemont Limited
Partnership**

Ms. Morris presented first reading of an ordinance rezoning approximately 28 acres owned by East Rosemont Limited Partnership located on Fraser Street from Low Density Residential (R-1) to General Commercial (GC).

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REZONING APPROXIMATELY 28 ACRES OWNED BY EAST ROSEMONT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP LOCATED ON FRASER STREET FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC), SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

**1st Reading –
Rezone 28 Acres
Rosemont Limited
Partnership**

Ms. Morris presented first reading of an ordinance to amend the City of Georgetown zoning ordinance to allow for a Special Overlay Sign District for East Rosemont Development.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE, FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR A SPECIAL OVERLAY SIGN DISTRICT FOR EAST ROSEMONT DEVELOPMENT, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Scoville asked if this *special* overlay sign district, is going to be any different than

**1st Reading –
Allow for Special
Overlay Sign
District for East
Rosemont
Development**

other overlays. Ms. Morris answered it will; there will be larger signs. The reason for the addition of the special overlay district in the sign ordinance, is to look at signage on a large scale. This particular parcel is approximately 28 acres. Other than the signage, all other provisions of the Overlay District will apply. The Planning Commission and staff were opposed to the pylon signs and the developer is willing to redraw so there will not be pylons. Staff recommends that (1) the monument signs on Summit Street not be internally illuminated, rather illuminated from the ground, (2) monument signs on Tract A be 96 square feet for a sign face and Tract B be 87 square feet based on the size and linear frontage of those two parcels. Staff feels it is appropriate that the temporary promotions signs follow in line with the new guidelines of the Sign Ordinance which is five times per year for 15 days each event. Councilmember Scoville asked for staff to compare what this Lowe's is proposing with the Lowe's in Mt. Pleasant before second reading. Councilmember Smalls asked about other individuals who have come to Council concerning problems with signs. Ms. Morris said the two in question will come before Council next month for approval and will be for everywhere in the City. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION AS THE ATTACHMENT TO THE ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Mrs. Jessica Miller presented an audit proposal submitted by Harper, Poston and Moree, PA for approval. Packets were mailed to all who had previously done auditing for the City in the past and advertised the RFP quite sufficiently. Only one responsive bid was received. Councilmember Wayne asked if there was not a rule that you have to change auditors every so often. Mrs. Miller stated the recommendation is to put it out to bid. We would not want to stay with the same auditor without attempting to give other auditing firms the right to come in and do business with the City as well. There is no law that says we have to change.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO ACCEPT AUDIT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY HARPER, POSTON AND MOREE, PA, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Amend Motion to Include Staff's Recommendation as Attachment to Ordinance to Allow for Special Overlay Sign District for East Rosemont Development

Accept Audit Proposal from Harper, Poston and Moree, PA

Mrs. Miller presented the street sweeping contract with Southco Sweeping in the amount of \$66,000. She offered to answer any questions relating to the financial impact. Mr. Thomas said he spoke with Mr. Turner from North Myrtle Beach and they had gone from a contractor to buying their own equipment. He indicated he had been very pleased overall with the contract work that had been done; however, they decided to operate their own equipment and dedicate one day a week for maintenance on the equipment. Mayor Wilson said he would like to defer this matter to the budget meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO DEFER THE STREET SWEEPING CONTRACT UNTIL COUNCIL HAS ALL THE BUDGET MEETINGS, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson called for the question. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.

Defer Street Sweeping Contract

Mr. Thomas presented an ordinance for first reading to amend Article II, Division 2, Sections 2-30. Appearance of Citizens. and 2-31 Agenda, Order of Business and Regular Meetings. The Municipal Association suggests a two minute time limit per speaker; however, after some study it appears in our area most allow five minutes per speaker. Georgetown County's method of allowing public comment seems very logical. Each speaker will be limited to no more than five minutes. If there are more than six speakers, time allotted will be reduced to allow all speakers to present within the 30 minute period. No speaker may yield his/her allotted time to another speaker and several citizens present to address the same issue will be encouraged to choose a spokesperson for the group. Mr. Thomas modified the proposed ordinance to reflect the County's approach to public comment at council meetings. He also addressed the agenda changes listing agenda items and City Administrator report.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MADE A MOTION TO DENY FIRST READING TO AMEND ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2, SECTIONS 2-30. APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS. AND 2-31 AGENDA, ORDER OF BUSINESS AND REGULAR MEETINGS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mr. Thomas answered questions relating to citizens requesting to be placed on the agenda. He said any citizen may request any member of Council to present their matter to the Mayor or City Administrator to be added to the agenda. Councilmember Sawyer can only remember one public comment section going past 30

minutes and did not see the need to change the ordinance. Councilmember Wayne said if a citizen takes the time to come to the Council meeting and wants to speak, they should be allowed to speak even if it runs over the 30 minutes. Councilmember Bradley said hearing from the citizens benefits him being a public servant. Mayor Wilson called for the question. COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS SAWYER AND SCOVILLE VOTED AGAINST. The motion failed 3-4.

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FIRST READING TO AMEND ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2, SECTIONS 2-30. APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS. AND 2-31 AGENDA, ORDER OF BUSINESS AND REGULAR MEETINGS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the questions. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SAWYER, SCOVILLE AND SMALLS VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE VOTED AGAINST.** The motion passed 6-1.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WACCAMAW HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS CONSORTIUM, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

During the City Administrator Report Mr. Thomas announced (1) we are waiting to hear from the Corps of Engineers regarding the mooring buoys; (2) the City will begin to identify the owners of the abandoned boats in the waters around the City; (3) we have just learn Mr. David Drayton, Sr. has resigned after serving 45 years on the Georgetown Housing Authority Board of Directors; (4) the City received a letter from Plantation Federal expressing their gratitude to Sergeant Burke for his training to their staff for the past two years; (5) Councilmember Wayne called about a residence on Emanuel Street that is very, very unsafe and the City may be taking emergency action on the situation; (6) reported on a one day trip to Washington, DC to meet with Senators Graham and DeMint and Congressman Brown to hand deliver stormwater project reports and requested \$4,000,000 in funds for the project. The City was told to

1st Reading - Article II, Division 2, Sections 2-30. Appearance of Citizens. and 2-31 Agenda, Order of Business and Regular Meetings

Resolution – Waccamaw Home Investment Partnerships Consortium

City Administrator Report

break down the funding needs based on the proposed expenditures so the legislators could more accurately seek the support from appropriate sources; and encouraged seek additional grant funding. Mayor Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Barber, Councilmembers Bradley, Scoville and Wayne, Mr. Steve Thomas and Mr. Lane Mixon traveled to Washington for these meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL DATED MARCH 20, 2008, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson called for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**Minutes – 3/20/08
Regular Minutes**

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 30-4-70 (a)(1) TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND 30-4-70 (a)(2) DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PROPERTY, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Adjourn Regular Meeting and Enter Executive Session

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

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

Reopen Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reopened at 7:29 pm.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVE TO APPROVE APPOINTMENTS OF MS. THELMA SPEARS AND SUSAN HIBBS TO A-TAX COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Appointments to A-Tax Committee

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

Adjourn Regular Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL (10) MAY 15, 2008

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.



Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: 06/19/08
VERIFYING INITIALS: AM