

**SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC  
JUNE 10, 2008**

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

A Special 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  
Major Johnnie Deas, Georgetown Police Department  
Mr. Sterling Geathers, Public Works 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  
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

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL (2) JUNE 10, 2008

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

**Call to Order**

Mayor Wilson rendered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Wilson asked that all cell phones be turned off or placed on vibrate during the Council Meeting.

Mayor Wilson asked if there were any objections from Council to allow a 30 minute public comment section; there were none.

Mayor Wilson opened the Public Comment Section at 5:32 PM.

**Public Comments**

Ms. Susan Hibbs, Mr. Fred Hoelscher, Ms. Jeanette Ard, Ms. Debbie Thomas, Ms. Meg Tarbox Ms. Geraldine Jayroe, Mr. Hunter Lawrimore, Ms. Eileen Johnson and Ms. Rhonda Morris all expressed their concerns regarding the Kaminski House Museum. They feel the Museum is an anchor to both Front Street and Georgetown and urged Council not to cut that budget, close the store nor reduce the employees and operating hours. The Kaminski House was a gift to the City and is one of the few attractions that is open on Sundays. It is a jewel that draws tourism to Georgetown. A Museum shop is the cornerstone to any Museum. One of the speakers said the visitors center is not open on Saturdays for Sundays. Many tourists feel welcome by the Kaminski House and it is important that there is a place to be greeted in Georgetown on weekends. Numerous locals as well as visitors enjoy concerts, weddings and other special events at the Kaminski House and the Stewart-Parker House. The Museum is an historical landmark and houses some of the most treasured furniture ever made. One stated, it is Council's responsibility to preserve what Mrs. Julia Kaminski left the City.

The Mayor closed the Public Comment Section at 5:50 PM and entered the Special Meeting of City Council.

**Public Comments Closed**

On behalf of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee, Mrs. Jessica Miller presented a proposed list of applicants to receive FY 08 A-Tax funding. The list included, Downtown Business Association, Georgetown County Library, Georgetown County Museum, Harbor Historical, Kaminski House Museum and Swamp Fox Players.

**COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO APPROVE LIST OF APPLICANTS TO RECEIVE FY 08 ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDING AS RECOMMENDED, SECONDED BY PEGGY WAYNE.** Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

**Approval of A-Tax Funding**

Mr. Steve Thomas commented that at the last budget workshop staff presented Council with seven major issues to address in conjunction with consideration and approval of this year's budget. Three of these issues which include the 24-hour Police Department front desk operations, the frequency of residential garbage pickup and the concept of debt millage have been previously considered by Council. What is new this year includes the wage and compensation plan update, the Kaminski House Museum operations, the idea of contracting street sweeping and the complete privatization of the commercial sanitation business. Staff has spent many hours reviewing these issues and continues to stand by the recommendations made previously. It is the responsibility of staff to determine and recommend the most efficient and effective means of providing City services to our residents. It is Council's, sometime unenviable, task to be able to gauge the community's needs and desires and determine the most efficient way to provide the service, even if it is not the most effective way. Staff will continue to identify and recommend other changes to Council in the spirit of greater efficiency and effectiveness. Some success has been realized in the area of sanitation which the implementation of the grapple truck for yard debris and side-loader for residential garbage. The ultimate goal is to generate funding within the existing budget without increasing taxes and fees to be applied towards other projects and initiatives that Council deems worthy to pursue.

**Budget Review**

For clarification, Mayor Wilson asked Mrs. Miller how long staff has been working on the budget. Mrs. Miller said staff has been working on the budget since January, but studying the departments even longer. Mayor Wilson wanted to stress to the public this is no flippant decision; it has been carefully thought out. Mrs. Miller reviewed the fact sheet for the Kaminski House Museum presented at the last budget workshop. The City received \$706,285 in Hospitality and Accommodations Funds and 44% of that total goes towards the operation of the Kaminski House. The total cost to operate the Stewart Parker House was \$26,336. The cost of operating the store was \$28,238 with budgeted revenue of \$7,200. Councilmember Sawyer asked Mrs. Miller for a list to include the

number of times the Stewart Parker House has been rented for social events and non-profit groups. Mr. Thomas added any savings that may be realized, would stay in the Hospitality Fund and go towards hospitality and tourist related ventures, not the wage and compensation plan. These are two completely separate funds. Mrs. Miller said she is aware the Kaminski House is not here to make money. Several options were offered up to try and close the gap on the amount of money being lost in order to free up some funding for other things Council wants to do. Councilmember Wayne expressed her opposition to reducing services at the Kaminski House and made a recommendation to leave the Museum as it is right now. Mayor Pro Tem Barber stated both the Hospitality and Accommodations Funds have to be used to help fund or maintain other tourism projects such as the drainage project, restoration of the Winyah Auditorium, Harborwalk repairs, a celebrated entranceway into Georgetown. We need to work together and if operating with volunteers is the way, we need to do that.

**COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO LEAVE THE KAMINSKI HOUSE MUSEUM AS IS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER.**

Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mrs. Miller noted the numbers on the slide are the very same as the last meeting, the loss for this year is \$314,000, the ten year loss is a little over \$2,000,000, the minimum proposed changes would save \$93,000 a year that could be used for other projects. Mayor Wilson stated we are trying to cut back, not close the Kaminski House Museum. Councilmember Scoville said the hospitality and accommodations funds do not have to be used for the other projects: they can be funded by the General Fund. He expressed concerns about the store losing so much money and wanted this turned around; charges for rentals too low; and a web page for the Kaminski House. He said he was going to vote in favor of the motion but wants this revisited next year. This is a very expensive proposition; the citizens have spoken and they are willing to keep putting money into the Museum, but he wants to see some changes made between now and next year. Councilmember Bradley stated he is yielding to the motion. He expressed concern that the Kaminski House Museum has not been advertised as it should have been. Councilmember Sawyer stated he would like to have the number of times the Stewart Parker House has been rented for social events and non profit groups. Along with Councilmember Scoville, he has received phones calls and visits from several people regarding keeping the Kaminski House open. He stated he was all for keeping the Kaminski House open with more use of volunteers and a reduction of operational expense;

therefore he will vote against the motion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED IN FAVOR. MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER VOTED AGAINST.** The motion passed 4-3.

Leave Kaminski  
House in Budget  
As Is

MAYOR WILSON MOVED TO ELIMINATE THE COST OF THE PART TIME HELP AT THE KAMINSKI HOUSE AND STAFF SOLELY ON VOLUNTEERS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Bradley asked for an opinion from the City Attorney on the motion. Mrs. Crosby stated the Mayor has made another motion and City Council is certainly welcomed to vote this motion. Mayor Pro Tem Barber asked Mrs. Miller where she would find the money to balance the budget since the \$93,125 was not included. Mrs. Miller said something will have to be cut. She will add the expenses back in and see what the shortfall is in the Fund, then come back to Council with the shortfall and they will make the decision on the cuts. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SCOVILLE, SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED AGAINST.** The motion failed 3-4.

Mrs. Miller reviewed information requested by Councilmember Scoville on the debt millage verses the operating lease. The debt millage on \$458,000 worth of capital will require 12.5 mills. The bond would be issued, as soon as the tax revenue comes in on that debt millage, it is paid off. The interest paid is minimal. The operating lease, with interest on top of that, will require 13.6 mills. Payments begin after the first year and we will need \$10.90 on each \$100,000 home. Operating lease will cost taxpayers more over the course of time because of the interest. Discussions followed.

**COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE DEBT MILLAGE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE.** Mayor Wilson called for the question. **MAYOR WILSON, MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER AND COUNCILMEMBERS BRADLEY, SAWYER AND SCOVILLE VOTED IN FAVOR. COUNCILMEMBERS SMALLS AND WAYNE VOTED AGAINST.** The motion passed 5-2. Councilmember Wayne stated she was not voting for the motion because she had some questions that she needed answered and was not allowed to ask.

Approve Debt  
Millage

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF TO CEASE COMMERCIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mrs. Miller noted discussions at the last workshop were, if Council is in favor of making this move, this would not happen on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff would come to Council at the beginning of the fiscal year with the start of the plan, contacting other vendors, giving our business customers using the City a transition time to a private vendor. **COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF TO CEASE COMMERCIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2009, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY.** Mayor Wilson called for the question. **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.

**Cease Commercial Waste Management Operations No Later Than 7/1/09**

Councilmember Smalls stated there were items included in the debt millage that he does not think are needed and he 'does not want to debt tax the citizens to be buying vehicles; the City has a ton of vehicles.' Mrs. Miller said Council has the discretion to pull any capital out of the budget that they do not want to fund and now is the time to let her know. **COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO REMOVE THE THREE POLICE VEHICLES FROM THE BUDGET.** The motion died for lack of a second.

**COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR STREET SWEEPING SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR AND RE-EVALUATE NEXT YEAR TO SEE HOW WELL IT IS PROGRESSING AND IF IT IS SATISFACTORY EXTEND FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME AND IF NOT GO BACK TO THE CITY PROVIDING THE SERVICE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER.** Mrs. Miller does not think a one year contract will be an issue. She will speak with the vendor about this. Councilmember Bradley asked Mrs. Miller if a new street sweeper is in the Debt Millage, she answered new street sweeper is not in the budget at this time. 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 AGAINST.** The motion passed 4-3.

**Street Sweeping Contract**

Mr. Thomas told Council having a 24-hour front desk at the Police Department is not serving any useful purpose. If someone comes in and needs help, the front desk employee cannot leave their area to assist. They would have to pick up the phone and call 911 to have an officer dispatched to help. Mr. Thomas thinks the City can make better use of the same funds within the Police Department by putting additional officers out on the street if necessary. He reiterated it is his and staff's responsibility to bring these issues to Council's attention.

**COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO CLOSE THE FRONT DESK OPERATIONS AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PER THE RECOMMENDATION, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER.** 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 AGAINST.** The motion passed 4-3.

**Close 24-Hour  
Front Desk  
Operations at the  
Police Department**

Mrs. Miller told Council the Wage and Compensation Plan is in the budget. It will cost the City approximately \$198,000 more than just a straight 4% merit across the board. The cost to the City with fringes is a little over \$600,000. There is no merit included. Mr. Thomas said the average is about 5%; however, some of the employees will receive significantly more than that if approved. In many cases entry level positions, particularly police and fire, will be moved to the new entry level. Primarily, these are the employees who would be receiving upwards of 20 or 25% just to get them to the bottom of the new range. This does not require any fee or tax increase.

**COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO IMPLEMENT THE WAGE AND COMPENSATION PLAN AS PRESENTED BY STAFF, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY.** Councilmember Sawyer stated the public safety employees have been underpaid for a number of years and said this would be great compensation for them, to bring them up to a salary higher than what they are getting now. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **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 Wayne wanted to go on record saying she 'cannot justify this much of a raise when the state and the county is not giving this kind of a raise and they're cutting back everywhere and we're not cutting

**Approve Wage  
and Comp Plan**

back at all.' Mayor Wilson echoed Mr. Barber stating we have been good stewards of our dollars and he (Mayor Wilson) is personally delighted to see our employees get a decent increase.

Mr. Thomas asked Council to entertain a motion to give the City an opportunity to implement the once a week garbage pickup for a period of six months and devise a plan to make it successful.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MADE A MOTION TO IMPLEMENT THE ONCE A WEEK GARBAGE PICKUP ALONG WITH THE SAME DAY PICKUP FOR YARD DEBRIS AND RECYCLING FOR A SIX MONTH TRIAL PERIOD, SECONDED BY MAYOR WILSON. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Scoville said 'I think it's just too much, we've done a lot tonight and a lot this year and I would like to defer this until next year.' 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.

**COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING OF OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008, SUBJECT TO THE AMENDMENTS MADE TONIGHT, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE.** Mayor Wilson called for the question. **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.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – FY  
08/09 Budget**

**COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING TO AMEND CHAPTER 5, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS ARTICLE II, BUILDING CODE SECTION 5-16 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY.** Mayor Wilson asked Ms. Morris to comment. Ms. Sabrina Morris said that based on Mr. Gary Wiggins recommendation from LLR, the new ordinance states new updates from LLR will be automatically renewed, Council will not have to keep approving a new ordinance based on changes or updates to the State laws. Councilmember Scoville asked about the Energy Conservation Code, the International Residential Code and the International Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Steve Stack, the City

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading –  
Amend Chapter 5,  
Article II Section  
5-16 of Code**

Building Official, stated the International Residential Code (IRC) is strictly for residential single family dwellings, two stories. The International Building Code (IBC) is for commercial. The Energy Conservation Code is what is looked at when the air condition HVAC work is completed; new laws are more stringent. Councilmember Scoville asked if people would be forced to become more energy efficient. Mr. Stack said this will not cost the homeowner or business more money; it is the manner of installation, proper sealing of the connections and such. The Property Maintenance Code covers dilapidated homes and structures and require to keep up to a livable standard. The International Existing Building Code covers a building built prior to the 2006, once we adopt it July 1, that would cover anything that is prior to '06. The Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities is an in-depth code that covers how it is sealed, how it breathes, which will tie into the HVAC Codes and Mechanical Codes. Councilmember Scoville asked for a copy of the codes to review before second reading. He said he does not want to get into a situation where the City is so far out ahead of any other community in the State on these codes. Mr. Thomas said this has been on a number of city and county agendas recently. Ms. Morris stated the wording in the ordinance under Section 5-16 was presented to the City by Mr. Wiggins. Councilmember Wayne wanted to know if a house is not up to code, will the City be able to give the owner a 30-day notice to move or make repairs; and where are they going to get the money. Mr. Stack stated this is a proper maintenance and corrective action code; there are agencies that can assist individuals. Councilmember Scoville asked that the City Attorney review all the proposed codes and report back to Council. Mayor Wilson called for the questions. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

**COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.**

Adjourn Special Meeting

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Ann U. Mercer  
City Clerk

**DATE APPROVED: 07/24/08**  
**VERIFYING INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_**

