

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GEORGETOWN, SC
FEBRUARY 21, 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
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 - Scott Harper
The Sun News – Kelly Fuller

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL (2) FEBRUARY 21, 2008

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

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Barber rendered the invocation. Mayor Wilson 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 recognized Mr. John Carr, Publisher of the Georgetown Times. Mr. Carr introduced his daughter, Catalina, who has been shadowing him today in the production of a newspaper. Mayor Pro Tem Barber added Catalina is part of the job shadowing program at Waccamaw Middle and other middle schools in the school district.

Mayor Wilson opened the Public Comment Section at 5:35 PM.

Public Comments

Mr. Donald O'Quinn spoke on behalf of the Winyah Cruisers and Harborwalk. The Winyah Cruisers was established in 1984 as a non-profit, family organization to entice younger and older people in the restoration of old antique and classic automobiles. They donate to numerous charities such as Outreach Farm, Tara Hall, Tidlands Hospice, Thornhill Farm, Winyah Rescue Squad, the Miracle League and DSS human services. He said they draw more participants during the Harborwalk Festival than any other time during the year, which draws more revenue for the City of Georgetown. The Cruisers have worked very close with Mrs. Peggy Wayne since 1995 showcasing these automobiles and trucks and he said they would like for the Harborwalk Festival to continue.

Mr. Donald O'Quinn

Ms. Eileen Johnson, a local and real estate agent in Georgetown, expressed her concerns about City public relations. She stated she is not satisfied with the way the City is being run and encouraged Council to make changes that would give Georgetown a positive image.

Ms. Eileen Johnson

Mr. Willie Singleton addressed City Council concerning code enforcement.

Mr. Willie Singleton

Ms. Jeanette Ard asked Council to consider from a business standpoint, the Sign Ordinance up for second reading tonight. She expressed concern over the neon sign regulations as well as the limit on the number of times a year a 'for sale' sign can be

Ms. Jeanette Ard

displayed: five times a year.

Mr. Normand Lebeau addressed Council on the Harborwalk Festival. He and his wife have worked at the Festival since 1997 and said it is very family oriented. He is in the Lions Club and stated their event at the Festival raises funds for their charities and stays in Georgetown. He expressed his hopes that the Harborwalk Festival will keep on going.

**Mr. Normand
Lebeau**

The Public Comment Section closed at 6:00 PM.

**Public Comments
Closed**

Mayor Wilson announced the character trait of the month is Deference. It was the consensus of Council to defer the character trait video.

Chief Paul Gardner introduced Patrol Team Four to City Council; Sergeant Steven Church, Corporal Jana Grubbs, Patrol Officers Jason Creson and Christopher White. He then read and presented a Certificate of Commendation to Corporal Grubbs for her exemplary performance on January 14, 2008 while performing her duties as a Georgetown Police Officer.

**Commendation –
Corporal Jana
Grubbs &
Recognition of
Patrol Team Four**

Mr. Alan Loveless introduced three new employees in training for line technicians, Andrew Blake, Kirk Wilson and Patrick Sports. Mr. Sterling Geathers introduced his new program support specialist, Natrona Simmons. Chief Joey Tanner introduced two new firefighters, Rebecca Creel and Benjamin Dye.

**Introduction of
New Employees**

Mr. Brent Grooms with HTC spoke to Council about their plans for the video franchise. He reviewed the some background on the Competitive Video Services Act passed in South Carolina two years ago. After the 1996 Telecommunications Act was passed, companies such as Verizon, HTC or others were allowed to expand beyond their traditional boundaries in the form of a competitive local exchange carrier, out of which HTCC was formed. They received a franchise to provide telecommunication services and to date have approximately 900 lines of voice and data in service today. As technology changed, the ability to pass voice over the internet became available. The Federal government ruled this was a data service and did not come under the same regulations as the telephone companies. Mr. Grooms stated their biggest concern is as they try to keep their customers, they are only allowed to provide two services, voice and data, while the competitors are allowed to provide three services. HTC wants to utilize their investment and

HTC

grow the customer base in Georgetown and retain their current customers. Their intention is to utilize the fiber they have, look for areas they can grow off of that fiber to get to customers. He pointed out Time Warner and South Coastal Cable both submit a three percent franchise fee. If approved by Council, HTC would be paying a five percent franchise fee. Mr. Grooms requested that Council amend the denial and allow HTC to obtain a franchise to provide services for the citizens of Georgetown. Mayor Pro Tem Barber pointed out the only request from HTC is to offer one additional service like the other two providers are currently providing. He said if the other two providers are allowed to offer three services, and HTC is excluded, Council needs to look at this carefully.

Mayor Wilson said Council will receive this as information and place the issue on the March agenda. Mr. Thomas reminded Council if they ever intend to entertain any change to any state issued franchise, an amended would have to receive two readings in the form of an ordinance. On file in Columbia, is Council's denial.

Mrs. Sabrina Morris presented an ordinance to second reading to amend the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance Article V: Application of Regulations, Section 511 Accessory Use, Building, Structure.

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AMEND THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE V: APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS, SECTION 511 ACCESSORY USE, BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Mayor Wilson told Mrs. Morris she is doing a great job.

Mayor Wilson recused himself from Item 8B. He represented Mr. Cardinale (8B) in the purchase of the property up for rezoning on Charleston Highway. Mayor Wilson turned the Chair over to Mayor Pro Tempore Barber and left the Council Chambers at 6:21 pm.

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for second reading to rezone approximately .37 acres owned by James Cardinale, Jr. located on the Charleston Highway from Low Density residential (R-1) to General Commercial (GC) and further amend the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the change.

2nd Reading –
Amend Zoning
Ord. Article V,
Section 511

**Mayor Wilson
Recused from
Item 8B**

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY .37 ACRES OWNED BY JAMES CARDINALE, JR. LOCATED ON THE CHARLESTON HIGHWAY FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) AND FURTHER AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REFLECT THE CHANGE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER. Mayor Pro Tem Barber asked for discussion. Mrs. Morris answered questions from Councilmember Bradley by stating the back portion of the property will remain residential and there will be no thru traffic from US 17 to the residential district. Mayor Pro Tem Barber called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 6-0-1.** Mayor Wilson was recused.

Mayor Wilson returned to Council Chambers and resumed the chair at 6:22 pm.

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for second reading to amend the approved Planned Development District "Cravens Grant" to allow for a marina building with parking and rezoning approximately 13.75 acres currently zoned Conservation Preservation to Planned Development.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AMEND THE APPROVED PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT "CRAVENS GRANT" TO ALLOW FOR A MARINA BUILDING WITH PARKING AND REZONING APPROXIMATELY 13.75 ACRES CURRENTLY ZONED CONSERVATION PRESERVATION TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT, SECONDED MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Scoville wanted to verify that the area added to the PDD will not be changed in any way. Mrs. Morris said it will remain Conversation Preservation; only the zoning will change. If there was ever a major change requested it would have to go before the Planning Commission and City Council. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 7-0.**

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for second reading to amend the City of Georgetown Zoning Ordinance by deleting Article X; Sign Regulations in its entirety and replacing said Article with a newly revised Article X: Sign Regulations.

2nd Reading –
Rezone .37 acres
on HWY 17 S to
GC, Amend Future
Land Use Map

Mayor Wilson
Resumed the
Chair

2nd Reading -
Amend Cravens
Grant PDD to
Allow a Marina
Bldg. with Parking
and Rezone 13.75
Acres from CP to
PDD

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING TO AMEND THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN ZONING ORDINANCE BY DELETING ARTICLE X; SIGN REGULATIONS IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING SAID ARTICLE WITH A NEWLY REVISED ARTICLE X: SIGN REGULATIONS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Bradley stated he can not agree to limit the neon signs to only 'open' and 'close.' Nor can he agree to limit the number of 'sale' signs per year. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said retail businesses have to look for the best way to move their products. If we get to a point where we begin to dictate what retailers do to sell their products then we are creating a sterile environment. He believes it is unfair to limit our retailers and business people in the area by not giving them the flexibility to market their product. Councilmember Scoville feels if there is no restriction on neon signs, they can become overloaded and distracting. He said the 'sale' signs have been changed from two to five a year. This was reached through compromise and discussion with the retail merchants who came to the workshop. He said the reason we have an historic district, a good (proposed) sign ordinance, an historic overlay and zoning ordinance is to try to keep Georgetown a unique community. Councilmember Sawyer agreed with Councilmember Scoville. He said in the ordinance as presented at the last workshop, neon signs are allowed on interior walls and the only neon signs on the window are Open, Close, ATM. The neon signs presently on the windows will be grandfathered in. Mayor Wilson called for the question. Mayor Wilson and Councilmembers Sawyer, Scoville and Smalls voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tem Barber and Councilmembers Bradley and Wayne voted against. **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 4-3.**

2nd Reading on
Newly Revised
Sign Regulations

Mrs. Morris presented an ordinance for first reading to rezone two parcels totaling approximately .84 acres owned by Melvin Huell, Sr. located on Merriman Road from General Commercial (GC) to High Density Residential (R-5).

COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST READING TO REZONE TWO PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY .84 ACRES OWNED BY MELVIN HUELL, SR. LOCATED ON MERRIMAN ROAD FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-5), SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mrs. Morris answered Mr. Barber's questions stating this is the currently the parking lot for the funeral home. If

1st Reading –
Rezone 2 parcels
Owned by Melvin
Huell, Sr on
Merriman Road
from GC to R-5

anything is built on the property, the parking would have to be relocated within two hundred feet of the funeral home, or obtain a variance. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

Mrs. Jessica Miller requested three Councilmembers be appointed to serve on the Audit Proposal Review Committee. Mayor Wilson asked for names of those interested. Mayor Wilson and Councilmembers Bradley and Scoville will serve.

3 Councilmembers to Serve on Audit Proposal Review Committee

Mr. Keith Wilson presented the 2008 Keep America Beautiful litter index results. Each year we measure the City's progress towards achieving our goal of maintaining a beautiful, well kept, economically viable municipality by reducing litter. Volunteers are recruited to help with the litter index. By involving members of the community it helps raise the awareness and helps address the key issues of litter in the neighborhoods. The overall total shows a slight improvement from 2.0 in 2007 to 1.8 in 2008. The scale ranges from 1 to 4 with 1 being clean and 4 being extreme litter.

2008 KAB Litter Index

Mrs. Cindi Howard presented the 2007 SCMIT Occupational Safety Contest award to City Council. The City won first place in Division III for the state municipalities for our safety record. She expressed her gratitude to all City employees. Mr. Thomas congratulated all the employees and Cindi for coordinating all the safety efforts.

2007 SCMIT Occupational Safety Contest Award

Mr. Thomas presented an ordinance for second reading setting a franchise fee rate for cable service providers upon expiration or termination of an existing franchise for cable service.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE SECOND READING ON AN ORDINANCE SETTING A FRANCHISE FEE RATE FOR CABLE SERVICE PROVIDERS UPON EXPIRATION OR TERMINATION OF AN EXISTING FRANCHISE FOR CABLE SERVICE, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. **THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.**

2nd Reading – New Franchise Fee Rate

Mr. Thomas presented a request from the United Way of Georgetown County for an additional \$1,000 donation. The City currently gives \$1,000 and employees give on average between \$3,000 - \$4,000 through payroll deduction. This is not a budgeted item.

COUNCILMEMBER SMALLS MOVED TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE UNITED WAY OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000 DONATION, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Sawyer said it is a wise move to have the individual employee payroll deduction option and thinks the City is well represented with their donations to United Way. He pointed out different groups, Rescue Squad, Library and Kids Voting, have requested funding from the City in the past and been denied. He does not see the City donating another \$1,000. Mayor Pro Tem Barber agreed with Councilmember Sawyer. Mr. Thomas stated a number of organizations come under the umbrella of United Way. Mayor Wilson called for the question. Mayor Wilson and Councilmembers Scoville and Smalls voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tem Barber and Councilmembers Bradley, Sawyer and Wayne voted against. **THE MOTION FAILED 3-4.**

**Request for
Additional
Funding from
United Way Failed**

Councilmember Wayne recused herself from Item 11D because her daughter is on the board of the Booster Club and Item 11E because she is the Director of the Harborwalk Festival.

**Councilmember
Wayne Recused
from Items 11D &
11E**

Mr. Thomas presented a request from the East Bay Booster Club for \$2,500 for improvements at the East Bay Park concession stand and dugouts. Georgetown County and the Booster Club will contribute \$2,500 each.

COUNCILMEMBER SCOVILLE MOVE TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE EAST BAY BOOSTER CLUB FOR \$2,500 FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE EAST BAY PARK CONCESSION STAND AND DUGOUTS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Councilmember Scoville asked why the County doesn't pay for the improvements. Mr. Thomas said the requirements for running the programs and making changes have been passed along to the Booster Club from the County. Councilmember Bradley said the City has provided the County a facility and he is not in favor of approving this request. Councilmember Scoville said if there are safety issues in the dugout, they need to be addressed. If the City approves the request, he is going to insist that screens are in place. Mayor Pro Tem Barber said he is under the impression that when the lease for East Bay Park was signed with the County, the grant they (the County) received along with some other promises pertaining to maintenance and improvements of the facility, fell under the County. He thinks it is unfair to the Booster Club to come up with monies to make

improvements there when the lease falls on the County. Councilmember Sawyer said City residents are County residents also and are paying a county fee of which part goes to the Parks and Recreation Department to provide recreation for the youth and adults in our County. Secondly, he pointed out the County's Vision Plans which includes recreation. Councilmember Smalls said the County is not involved with the concession stands, it is the Booster Club doing this to have money to do things for the children. Mr. Thomas said the County has turned over a lot to the Booster Club, allowing the Club to collect revenues from concession sales and shirts. Mayor Wilson called for the question. Mayor Wilson and Councilmembers Scoville and Smalls voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tem Barber and Councilmembers Bradley and Sawyer voted against. Councilmember Wayne was recused. **THE MOTION FAILED 3-3-1.**

**Request for Funds
from East Bay
Booster Club
Failed**

Mr. Thomas handed out information provided by the Finance Department which included expenses generated by the Harborwalk Festival last year. To summarize, of the \$13,373.75, the portatoilets (\$1,000), which are budgeted every year, as well as the Business License revenue (\$2,300) could technically be netted out bringing the net City cost for Harborwalk to around \$10,000. After talking with staff, the Finance Department, the Festival representatives and Festival Director it was determined the amount the Festival could manage would be \$2,000. This year the Festival will end at 6:00 PM; there will be no street dance that the City must apply resources to until 11:00 PM or 12 Midnight. Because of this and other various reasons, Mr. Thomas has been able to eliminate a number of the employees that supported the Festival. He also spoke with the Festival Director about more volunteer support to take over some of the functions that have been provided by City staff in the past. Mr. Thomas said he has been able to bring the net cost to the City closer to \$3,500-\$4,000. He suggested to Council that he sit down with the Festival Director and Department Heads to trim expenses even more and come close to the \$2,000 that the Festival says they can afford to provide City services. Mr. Thomas said he wants to make sure we meet the intent and spirit of the Special Events Policy. After some discussion, Mayor Wilson directed Mr. Thomas to meet with the Festival Director and continue to work on the cost. Mayor Wilson stated no one is trying to shut down the Harborwalk Festival; the intent is to adhere to the Special Events Policy.

**Discussion -
Harborwalk
Festival**

Under the City Administrator report, Mr. Thomas said (1) Mayor Wilson, Cindi Howard and he attended a lunch meeting with Chamber of Commerce representatives in Columbia and were told by Senator McGill the City should have a commitment of almost \$4 million for the drainage project (no other details), (2) he asked Council to forward him any issues they would like discussed at the Budget Retreat, (3) a number of alumni with Winyah High School and the Youth Association that are working to place a plaque on the building. Mr. Thomas received a request for Council to consider authorizing staff to pursue bids on the plaque. It is estimated to cost about \$5,000. This is not budgeted, but would come out of the funds put in place for the auditorium. It was the consensus of Council that the Winyah Auditorium Board make this decision. Mayor Wilson said members need to be appointed to the Winyah Auditorium Corporation Board. The bylaws state the Mayor and Administrator will serve along with five members appointed by Council. Mayor Wilson offered to compile a list of names and bring back to Council for approval. (4) Mr. Thomas said a Proclamation will be prepared declaring February as Cities Mean Business Month. The Municipal Association is hoping for 100% participation from the State.

City Administrator Report

Councilmember Sawyer asked about the status of the Sanitation Ordinance. Mr. Thomas said this could be discussed at the Retreat. Mayor Wilson suggested a separate workshop on this matter.

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL DATED OCTOBER 11, 2007, REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL DATED JANUARY 17, 2008 AND CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP DATED JANUARY 31, 2008 SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAWYER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 7-0.

Minutes - Special Mtg. 10-11-07; Reg Mtg. 1-17-08 & Workshop 1-31-08

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 PERSONNEL ISSUES AND 30-4-70 (a)(2) DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND TO RECEIVE LEGAL UPDATE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRADLEY. 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 7:30 PM.

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

Reopen Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting was reopened at 9:18 pm.

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

COUNCILMEMBER WAYNE MOVED TO APPOINT ELIZABETH GIBSON, DON GLEWWE, KIZZIE LAWSON AND BOB SIZEMORE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION; CHRIS CLARK TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS; ANNE HARTIS, JANE LANE TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD; AND NANCY GLEWWE TO THE KEEP GEORGETOWN BEAUTIFUL BOARD, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BARBER. Mayor Wilson asked for discussion. Mayor Wilson called for the question. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 7-0.

Appointments to Planning Commission, ZBA, ARB & KGB

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

Adjourn Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Ann U. Mercer
City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: 03/20/08

VERIFYING INITIALS: _____

