

Georgetown County Council held a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the Howard Auditorium, 1610 Hawkins Street, Georgetown, South Carolina.

Present:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

Staff:	Jackie Broach, <i>Public Information Officer</i>	Theresa Floyd, <i>Clerk to Council</i>
	Angela Christian <i>County Administrator</i>	John D. Watson, <i>County Attorney</i>

Other staff members, members of the public, and representatives of the media were also present. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to newspapers, television, and radio stations, citizens of the County, Department Heads, and posted on the bulletin board in the historic Courthouse.

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM. Councilmember Everett Carolina gave an invocation, and all joined in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilor Raymond Newton moved for approval of the agenda. Councilor Everett Carolina offered a second on the motion. Upon a call for discussion from the Chairman, there was none.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation - Innovation Award

Walt Ackerman, Human Resources Director, announced to County Council that the Office of Elections and Voter Registration was nominated as a recipient of Georgetown County's "Innovation Award". Since 2012, Georgetown County has had a policy in place to recognize employees who create and introduce processes and projects that demonstrate innovation and result in reduced costs and/or increased efficiency for the county's benefit. In response to repeated requests from voters wanting to 'view' the tabulation process on Election night, the Office of Election and Voter Registration, working with the MIS Department, found and implemented a solution to allow the public to view tabulation, in real time by streaming to a monitor in the lobby. Members of Office of Elections and Voter Registration and the MIS Department were present during the meeting and received recognition.

Request to name the New Auditorium at the Georgetown Library

Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County Library Director, presented a recommendation on behalf the County Library Board to name the new auditorium at the Georgetown County Library in honor of Ms. Jean Flournoy Moody. Mr. McInvaill said Ms. Moody was civic minded, modest, and very frugal. After her passing she left

1.4 million dollars for her church, 1.4 million dollars to an orphanage, and another 1.4 million dollars to the Georgetown Library.

Councilor Raymond Newton moved for approval of the request to name the newly constructed auditorium at the main branch of the Georgetown Library as the “The Jean Flournoy Moody Auditorium”. Councilor Lillie Jean Johnson offered a second on the motion. Upon a call for discussion from the Chairman, there was none.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

PUBLIC COMENTS:

Chris Spigner

Ms. Spigner started off by introducing County Council to Josh, a student from Lexington Middle School. She was tasked to introduce this student with interesting things about Georgetown County. Ms. Spigner said that she was excited to be able to show this student that she is at a County Council meeting to fight for individuals to be able to board an eco-tourism boat and explore the precious Winyah Bay. She continued by stating that the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex has the infrastructure to support larger coastguard approved boats. She would like County Council to consider allowing the larger boats to use the complex in order to save eco-tourism in Georgetown.

John Sconyers

Captain John Sconyers, owner of *Aces up Fishing Charters* located in Murrells Inlet, started his business in 2004. For 20 years he has been working as a Captain, and until this point never experienced problems in Georgetown. Captain Sconyers stated that proposed amendments to the County’s boat ordinance would exclude him specifically from using public boat ramps as he has a 34-foot vessel. He spoke with his insurance agent who informed him that any paying client of his business is covered from the moment they step out of their car, until the moment they step back in. The County would not have to worry about coverage for any accidents with charter boat clients. All businesses with vessels that are over the stated limit will soon be out of business unless they sell their boats for smaller boats. He pled with County Council to take the length limit out of the ordinance and leave only the 6-pack boat, so his business can continue to operate as it has the last 20 years.

Eddie Lee

Mr. Lee, a member of Andrews Town Council, stated that in Andrews he represents the people as a whole no matter their ethnic background. He also stated that Andrews desperately needs EMS back as they are in need of it just as any other city.

Tammy Hoy

Ms. Hoy spoke regarding the proposed amendments to the County’s boat ordinance. She first mentioned that had it not been for estuary tours, she would have never been able to fully experience Georgetown County in all of its complexity. She asked County Council to consider amending the ordinance to allow larger vessels, such as tour boats, to continue to operate out of Georgetown.

Alex “B”

Alex started off with stating that the Capital Project Sales Tax Committee is not well balanced with only two black members and one woman. He stated that the one woman also holds a position on the Planning Commission, and that the projects being promoted by the CPST are not realistically able to happen.

William Cooper

Mr. Cooper spoke in opposition of Ordinance No. 23-45 to amend the Flexible Design District to allow for a shopping destination for the entire county. Mr. Cooper believes approval of this project would be premature before the approval of the encroachment application for additional access. He does not believe that the South Carolina Department of Transportation has received an application on this matter, and he also stated that it is hazardous to the residents in Parkersville. Mr. Cooper asked that County Council create a traffic plan that includes cars, cyclists, and pedestrians to make a safe traffic intersection for this project.

Dan Stacy

Mr. Stacy spoke on behalf of the property applicant regarding Ordinance No. 23-45. He stated that County Council previously approved this project back in 2015 for 35,250 ft. of multiple buildings. It was then modified by County Council in 2017 to allow a single building of 35,962 ft., and then modified back to the original plan in 2019. He informed County Council that the current building size being proposed is roughly 8000 ft. smaller than what is currently being permitted. He said the Planning Commission voted to pass this item with a 6 to 1 vote. He urged County Council to favorably consider the applications and noted his availability to address any questions they may have pertaining to this matter.

RESOLUTIONS / PROCLAMATIONS:

Resolution No. 24-01

Following a report from County Attorney, John D. Watson, pertaining to Resolution No. 24-01, discussion ensued among members of County Council. Councilor Raymond Newton moved for adoption of Resolution No. 24-01, a Resolution to Rescind Council's Prior Approval and Authorization to Create a Commission Pursuant to S.C. Code 4-10-300, ET. Seq. to consider proposals for funding Capital Projects within Georgetown County. Councilor Everett Carolina offered a second on the motion. Chairman Morant called for further discussion on the motion.

Councilor Everett Carolina stated that Resolution No. 24-01 was being presented to rescind County Council's recent action to appoint a Capital Project Sales Tax Committee as its recent submission of members for the upcoming CPST referendum fails to provide fair representation for Council Districts 3 and 5, which includes the Town and Municipality of Andrews. According to Councilor Carolina, the current Andrews Town Council members believe the current method does not provide representation for the Town. Councilor Carolina stated that the Town of Andrews has been “shut down” again.

Councilor Raymond Newton stated that 83% of the population in Council Districts 3 and 5 live outside of the Andrews Town Limits. Approximately 18,000 county residents live within these two Council Districts. This is not the way the Committee was compiled in 2014. He also stated that if he had known this was going to be the outcome of the initial vote for the CPST Committee, he would never have voted to support it. There was an understanding that if Council voted for the three requested CPST Committee members, those members would then vote to appoint a member from Andrews. That is not the case. He stated that this resolution should be passed in order to abolish the current CPST Committee immediately, as it does not seem right.

Councilor Bob Anderson asked County Attorney, John D Watson, if passing the proposed resolution would prevent the entire tax referendum from moving forward. He concurred. If the Committee is disbanded at this point, the County cannot move forward with a CPST referendum until the next general election (in two years). Chairman Louis Morant stated that the Committee is tasked with submitting a list of proposed projects, however, County Council can ultimately decide whether to move forward at that time.

Councilor Stella Mercado stated that the CPST Committee members from the Waccamaw Neck are multi-generational and originally from the western part of the county and that area would have representation. Councilor Raymond Newton stated that he believed the “process has been tainted” in regards to the western part of the county.

Councilor Newton requested that the vote be taken by roll call. The Chairman complied. The vote outcome was as follows:

In favor:	Bob Anderson Everett Carolina	Raymond Newton
Opposed:	Clint A. Elliott Lillie Jean Johnson	Stella Mercado Louis R. Morant

The motion failed for lack of a majority vote.

ORDINANCES-Third Reading:

Ordinance No. 23-38

Following a brief status report from County Attorney, John D. Watson, pertaining to Ordinance No. 23-38, Councilor Raymond Newton moved for the deferral of Ordinance No. 23-38, an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6 Section 6-3 of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Public Boat Landing Regulations. Councilor Everett Carolina offered a second on the motion. Chairman Louis Morant called for discussion on the motion.

Councilor Raymond Newton stated that the proposed amendments to this ordinance were no compete and his recommendation for deferral was to incorporate additional changes to Ordinance No. 23-38 because Council wanted to get it “right” the first time. No further discussion occurred.

In favor:	Bob Anderson Everett Carolina Clint A. Elliott Lillie Jean Johnson	Stella Mercado Louis R. Morant Raymond Newton
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Ordinance No. 23-42

Following a report from Planning Director, Holly Richardson, a motion was made by Councilor Clint Elliott for third reading approval of Ordinance No. 23-42, an ordinance to amend the Future Land Use (FLU) map for a 5.13-acre parcel, located at 999 Aviation Blvd, further identified as TMS #01-0447-00-00-00, from Industrial to Medium Density Residential. Councilor Everett Carolina offered a second on the motion. Upon a call for discussion from Chairman Morant, there was none.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

Ordinance No. 23-43

Councilor Raymond Newton moved for third reading approval of Ordinance No. 23-43, an ordinance to rezone (1) parcel totaling 5.13 acres located at 999 Aviation Blvd., identified as TMS# 01-0447-010-00-00, from Limited Industrial (LI) to 10,000 Square Feet Residential (MR-10). Councilor Clint Elliott offered a second on the motion. Upon a call for discussion from the Chairman, there was none.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

Ordinance No. 23-44

Councilor Stella Mercado moved for third reading approval of Ordinance No. 23-44, an ordinance to Authorize and Approve an Amended and Restated Agreement For the Development of a Joint Industrial and Business Park by and Between Georgetown County and Horry County with Property Located in Horry County (Ascott Valley Commerce Park); to Require the Payment of a Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes by Businesses and Industries Located in the Park; To Apply Zoning and Other Laws In the Park; To Provide for Law Enforcement Jurisdiction in the Park; and to Provide for the Jurisdiction of Park Revenues within the County. Councilor Clint Elliott offered a second on the motion. Chairman Morant called for discussion on the motion.

Councilor Stella Mercado moved to incorporate revised text into Ordinance No. 23-44 as outlined by the County Attorney. Councilor Clint Elliott offered a second on the motion. Upon a call for further discussion from the Chairman, there was none.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

The vote on the main motion was as follows:

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

ORDINANCES-Second Reading

Ordinance No. 23-45

Councilor Bob Anderson moved for second reading approval of Ordinance No. 23-45, an ordinance to amend the Pavilion Square Flexible Design District (FDD), a parcel located on the southwest corner of Highway 17 and Petigru Drive in Pawleys Island, identified as TMS #04-0161-016-00-00, to allow for a larger

retail store. Councilor Stella Mercado offered a second on the motion. Upon a call for discussion from the Chairman, there was none.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

ORDINANCES-First Reading:

Chairman Louis Morant read the following ordinances into the record by title only:

Ordinance No. 42-01 - To amend the Future Land Use (FLU) Map for 3 parcels, located at 46 Channel Bluff Avenue and 13236 Ocean Highway, identified as TMS# 04-0141-076-00-00, #04-0141-077-00-00 and #04-0141-078-00-00, from Medium Density Residential to Transitional.

Ordinance No. 42-02 – To rezone three parcels located at 13236 Ocean highway and 46 Channel Bluff Avenue in Pawleys Island, TMS#s 04-0141-076-00-00, #04-0141-077-00-00 and #04-0141-078-00-00, from 10,000 Square Feet Residential (R-10) and General Commercial (GC) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC).

MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – December 12, 2023

Councilor Clint Elliott moved to adopt the minutes of the County Council meeting held on December 12, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Raymond Newton. Upon a call for discussion from the Chairman, there was none.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Morant called for further business to come before County Council prior to adjournment. Councilor Everett Carolina stated that he would like to request County Council to research an Attorney General opinion needed on dual office holding as a future reference regarding those who are already serving on a current board and also serve on the Capital Projects Sales Tax Committee.

Being no further business, Councilor Stella Mercado moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Everett Carolina. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

In favor:	Bob Anderson	Stella Mercado
	Everett Carolina	Louis R. Morant
	Clint A. Elliott	Raymond Newton
	Lillie Jean Johnson	

Date

Clerk to Council