

Georgetown County Council held a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 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	Alma Sierra
	<i>Public Information Officer</i>	<i>Deputy Clerk to Council</i>
	Angela Christian J	John D. Watson,
	<i>County Administrator</i>	<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 5:30 PM. Councilmember Everett Carolina gave an invocation, and all joined in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Everett Carolina moved for approval of the agenda. 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	

SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Nonprofit Spotlight- Imagination Library

Natasha Brockington, Executive Director of Ms. Ruby's Kids, gave a presentation on behalf of *Imagination Library*. Ms. Ruby's Kids is an early literacy program serving families in Georgetown County. Currently, Georgetown County has a high poverty rate as well as a low literacy rate. To address these issues, the Bunnelle Foundation invited Dolly Parton's *Imagination Library* to the County in 2007. This is a book gifting program that gifts books to children from birth to the age of five. Children who sign up from birth have the opportunity to collect up to 60 free books. There are no income restrictions, so, any child is eligible to receive books. A total of 6,763 children in Georgetown County have received books since *Imagination Library* began locally in 2007.

Employee of the Quarter

Walt Ackerman, Director of Human Resources, announced that Joshua Drew from Midway Fire has been named Employee of The Quarter. Mr. Ackerman stated that Mr. Drew was instrumental in creating a "uniform store" for Fire Fighters and EMTs. It has had a great impact on the uniform purchasing process and has greatly helped reduce the budget. Along with helping the uniform process go much smoother, he

has also taken an active role in supporting the family of the Fire Fighter who passed in October of 2023. He has accomplished all of this as he was completing a course to become an advanced EMT.

Manager of the Year

Walt Ackerman, Director of Human Resources, announced that Michael Morris, Fire Marshal with County Fire/ EMS has been named Georgetown County's "Manager of the Year". Mr. Ackerman stated that Mr. Morris has the primary role of ensuring the safety of the citizens by making sure they are aware of fire safety needs, inspecting buildings, implementing fire codes, and does community outreach. Along with all of these duties, he also plays an important role in leading the volunteer staff. Mr. Morris does a fantastic job in every regard.

Employee Volunteer of the Year

Walt Ackerman, Director of Human Resources, announced William Shutzaberger from County Fire / EMS has been named Georgetown County's "Employee Volunteer of the Year". Mr. Ackerman stated that Mr. Shutzaberger has been employed with Georgetown County for the past 5 years, where he has advanced to the position of Lieutenant. Above and beyond his employment with Georgetown County, he has volunteered with Horry County for the past 8 years where he also holds Lieutenant Position. He mentors new recruits, teaches classes, and has helped transform the recruits into successful fire fighters.

Volunteer of the Year

Walt Ackerman, Director of Human Resources, introduced Carlos Aulet, who has been named "Volunteer of the Year". Mr. Ackerman stated that Mr. Aulet assists full time employees in County Fire / EMS by filling any and every roll that may be open. He is great at providing information and guidance to all who come his way. Along with being great help, he has bridged the gap between full-time and part-time employees with the endless experience he brings to the team.

Presentation of FY June 30, 2023, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Alan Thompson of Price, Scott, Adams & Company presented Georgetown County's FY23 Audit Report. Mr. Thomson stated that this was an unmodified "clean" report that carried no difficulties when it was created. He commended Georgetown County, Finance Director, Karis Langton, and her departmental staff for their assistance in providing necessary information need to conduct the audit. Following the report, both Mr. Thompson and the Finance Director responded to questions from members of County Council. Councilors requested to see three-year projections as well as comparisons with counties of a similar size in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guy Franolich

Mr. Franolich stated that he represents the Inlet Oaks Village and the community's request for more fire hydrants in their community. There are 170 units in this community and a total of three fire hydrants. In August of 2023, there was a fire and the woman whose unit burned down is still in the burn center in Augusta, Georgia. Mr. Franolich provided Council with a letter from the fire marshal in Murrells Inlet that states the community could benefit from more fire hydrants. Along with the letter, he brought a petition with the names of every owner in Inlet Oaks Village who is in support of this cause. Mr. Franolich pled with County Council to consider helping the Inlet Oaks Village with this issue.

Clarissa Tuten

Ms. Tuten spoke on the growing eco-tourism here in Georgetown County. While speaking about eco-tourism, she mentioned that other counties are looking to Georgetown County for access to the water

ways. In her opinion, this is something we can use to help save the estuaries here. This influx of tourists and tourism can help boost our economy and help us protect our estuaries if we can promote them by allowing access to our waterways for larger vessels. She ended her comments by requesting that County Council please update the County's Boat Ordinance pertaining to this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

Three matters on the consent agenda were previously approved by the virtue of the meeting agenda approval process:

Procurement #23-071 - Allison Hangar Apron and Taxi Lane Paving at Georgetown County Airport (GGE) - County Council approved the award of a contract to Green Wave Contracting related to Procurement #23-071 in the amount of \$185,150.

Procurement #24-0-04, Service agreement for Life Park & Lucas Medical Supplies or Midway Fire & Rescue – County Council approved a 5-year contract between Midway Fire / Rescue and Stryker Corp. in the amount of \$106,220.25.

Procurement #24-006, Carpet & Flooring Replacement at Georgetown Historical Courthouse – County Council awarded a bid to Bonitz Flooring in the amount of \$101,251.00.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Parks and Recreation Commission

Councilor Lillie Jean Johnson moved for the appointment of Jessie M. Walker to the Parks and Recreation Commission representing District 4. Councilor Stella Mercado offered a second on the motion. Upon a call for discussion from the Chairman, Councilor Johnson wanted to recognize Mr. Billy White, who passed over the summer. She thanks him for his endless service on this Commission and his dedication to the betterment of Georgetown County. There was no further discussion.

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

RESOLUTIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

Resolution No. 24-02

Following a report from the County Administrator, Angela Christian, pertaining to Resolution 24-02, Councilor Everett Carolina moved for adoption of Resolution NO. 24-02, a resolution for Establishment of Just Compensation Pertaining to Property Easements Necessary for the Lincolnshire Drainage Improvement Project. 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	

ORDINANCES-Third Reading

Ordinance No. 23-45

Upon a request from the property applicant, Councilor Stella Mercado moved to defer action on Ordinance No. 23-4, 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 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
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ORDINANCES-Second Reading

Ordinance No. 24-01

Following a brief status report from Holly Richardson, Planning Director, pertaining to Ordinance No. 24-01, Councilor Stella Mercado moved for second reading approval of Ordinance No. 24-01 to amend the Future Land Use (FLU) Map for 3 parcels, located at 46 Channel Bluff Avenue and 13236 Ocean Highway, Identified as TMS#s 04-0141-076-00-00, 04-0141-077-00-00 and 04-0141-078-00-00, from Medium Density Residential to Transitional. 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. 24-02

Following a brief status report from Holly Richardson, Planning Director, pertaining to Ordinance No. 24-02, Councilor Stella Mercado moved for second reading approval of Ordinance No. 24-02, 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). 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	

MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting – January 11, 2024

Councilor Lillie Jean Johnson moved to adopt the minutes of the County Council meeting held on January 11, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stella Mercado. 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	

LEGAL BRIEFING / EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Clint Elliott moved to enter into Executive Session to receive legal counsel/discuss legal matters and negotiations pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(2). 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
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County Council moved into Executive Session at 6:28 pm.

OPEN SESSION

Councilor Stella Mercado made a motion to return to Open Session at 7:31 pm. 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	

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Morant called for further business to come before County Council prior to adjournment. Being no further business, Councilor Clint Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Everett Carolina. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

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

Date

Clerk to Council