

A regular meeting of the Georgetown County Council was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at 5:30 PM in County Council Chambers.

Present:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	
Staff:	Thomas W. Edwards, Jr.	Jack Scoville, Jr.
	Theresa Floyd	

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 located in the lobby of the Courthouse.

Chairman Sel Hemingway called the meeting to order. Councilman Drayton gave an invocation and all joined in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The following changes were made to the agenda: addition of a bid for an ambulance, a proposed amendment to the West Georgetown Regional Wastewater Partnership Agreement, a report regarding the magistrate vacancy, and discussion of legalities involving the Murrells Inlet Dredging project in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton and seconded by Councilman Drayton to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The first thirty minutes of each County Council meeting is reserved for members of the public to address County Council. There were no public comments.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Morant to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2002. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was no discussion.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance #2002-24

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2002-24, authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2002, Of Georgetown County, South Carolina, in the Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$5,300,000; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bonds; Authorizing the Chairman of the County Council to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and other matters relating thereto. There were no public comments and Chairman Hemingway declared the hearing closed.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District Board

Councilman Swatzel made a motion to nominate Mr. Wesley Gordon for reappointment to the Murrells Inlet–Garden City Fire District Board. Councilman Hood seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Board

Councilman Swatzel made a motion to reappoint Mr. Dwain Patrick to the Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Board. Councilman Hood seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

Waccamaw Neck Architectural Review Board

Councilman Hood made a motion to reappoint Mr. Steve Goggans, Mr. Mike Redmond, and Mr. Lee Shoulette to the Waccamaw Neck Architectural Review Board. Councilman Hood seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton and seconded by Councilwoman Rudolph to adopt a Resolution declaring the month of May as "Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month". Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

No Ordinances were presented for second reading approval.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – By Title Only

The following Ordinances were introduced for first reading approval:

Ordinance #2002-25 – An Ordinance to make appropriations for ordinary County purposes for Georgetown County for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003; to provide for the expenditure thereof; and to provide revenues for the payment thereof.

Ordinance #2002-26 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee Agreement By and Between Georgetown County, South Carolina, and the SEFA Group, Inc. (Formerly South Eastern Fly Ash Company, In.) Providing for a Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes.

Ordinance #2002-27 - An amendment to the Official Zoning Map of Georgetown County to rezone 3 lots on the northwest corner of US Highway 17 and Martin Luther King Road from Office Commercial to Neighborhood Commercial.

Ordinance #2002-28– An Ordinance to amend the Conceptual Plan for the Belle Vue Planned Development to allow for the removal of 3,568 square feet of common area and transfer title of that area to an adjoining property owner.

Ordinance #2002-29– An Ordinance to amend the Conceptual Plan for Willbrook Planned Development to allow for an increase in the intensity of the property use, to divide one of the units, thereby increasing the number units to seven (7).

Ordinance #2002-30 - An amendment to the Georgetown County Zoning Ordinance Article III Definitions Section 363; Article IX, Sign Regulations.

Ordinance #2002-31 – An Ordinance to declare the Latoya Reed Head Start Center Located on 111 S. Congdon Street, Georgetown, South Carolina, consisting of buildings and grounds, as surplus property and to further authorize the sale of the same.

Ordinance #2002-32 - An Ordinance to provide for an Election in Georgetown County, South Carolina to determine the wishes of the qualified electors of the County with Reference to Whether the County Should keep its present form of county government (Council Form), or whether the County should adopt the Council-Administrator Form of Government.

Ordinance #2002-33 – An Ordinance to Authorize the Conveyance of a building on Screven Street known as the Harper Building, owned by Georgetown County, to the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce.

BIDS

Planning and Development - Consultant Services

Councilman Morant made a motion to award a bid for consultant services for the Planning and Development Department to Vismor, Ricketson and Associates in the amount of \$64,500. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion.

Chairman Hemingway recommended that the County look at options for countywide zoning, perhaps the best approach would be to follow the course set out in the Highway 701 area and continue to work on expansion of zoning as areas are identified which are receptive to it as opposed to “blanket zoning”.

Councilman Swatzel stated that although he agrees that the County Zoning Ordinance should be redeveloped, he had concerns about countywide zoning. Based on that, he would vote in opposition to this motion. Chairman Hemingway questioned whether the plan developed by these consultants would become “outdated” prior to implementation. Thomas Edwards, County Administrator, stated that all land use plans need constant review, but this will give the Planning Commission and planning staff a base to work with. Councilman Drayton stressed the importance of the “will of the people” as related to zoning issues. Councilman Hemingway agreed with Mr. Drayton.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	David Hood
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Johnny Morant
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph

Opposed: Tom Swatzel

Planning and Development – Engineering Firm for Industrial Park

Councilman Morant made a motion to authorize the negotiation of a contract with Davis & Floyd for engineering services related to development of the new Industrial Park. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

Emergency Medical Services – Ambulance

Councilman Charlton made a motion to award a bid for an ambulance to Taylor Made Ambulance in the amount of \$86,037. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

COUNCIL BRIEFING & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Status Report – Magistrate Vacancy

Chairman Hemingway stated that on May 7, 2002 he wrote a letter to Senator’s McGill and Ravenel requesting that they evaluate all alternatives in filling the current magistrate vacancy, including the

possibility of leaving the seat vacant. Being fully aware that County Council has no authority in the appointments of Summary Court Judges and/or the number of magistrate positions allotted to the County this was not a political maneuver, but a recommendation with an objective of determining if there may be more efficient and economical method of delivering magisterial services to the citizens of Georgetown.

Since that letter was written, Georgetown County Council has received correspondence from both South Carolina Chief Justice Jean Toal, and Georgetown County Solicitor regarding this matter.

In order to clarify obvious misinformation referred to by Chief Justice Toal and the Solicitor, a motion was made by Councilman Morant to authorize the Chairman of County Council to write a letter to Chief Justice Toal and Solicitor Hembree in order to clarify the official position of the Georgetown County Council regarding the vacant magistrate's position. County Council has taken no formal action to eliminate a magistrate position, nor has County Council initiated or discussed a proposal to increase the current magistrate's salary by dividing the salary of the vacant magistrate's position. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Lease Agreement with Blueprint Leadership Academy

Councilman Morant made a motion to authorize a lease agreement for the period of one (1) year with Blueprint Leadership Academy for space in Choppee Resource Center. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion.

Councilman Swatzel noted that the agreement calls for the Parks and Recreation Department to provide costs associated with utilities such as water and sewer, and electricity. He questioned whether a \$2.00 per square foot lease payment from this organization would assure that these utility costs would not be passed on to the taxpayers. The County Administrator, Thomas Edwards Jr., concurred. He said the amount provided for in the lease will cover the organization's share of costs, but will not make a profit. Councilman Hood questioned how the lease cost of \$2.00 per square foot had been established. Ernest Nance, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that this was established by estimating the cost to run the facilities previously.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

Andrews High School and Gym Facility

Councilman Drayton made a motion to authorize staff to contact the Georgetown County School District in order to seek long term lease agreements for the old Andrews High School facility and old Andrews School gymnasium to expand the County recreational services provided to that area. Councilman Morant seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

West Georgetown County Regional Wastewater Treatment System Service Agreement

Councilman Charlton made a motion to approve Amendment 2 (Paragraph 7.2) of the West Georgetown County Wastewater Treatment System Service Agreement. Councilman Morant seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. No discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	Tom Swatzel
	David Hood	

Scheduling of Budget Work Sessions

County Administrator briefly explained budget information provided to members of Council and reminded them of budget work sessions scheduled for May 21 and May 23.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Prior to discussion and voting on this issue, Councilman Swatzel requested to be recused due to a potential conflict of interest.

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton and seconded by Councilwoman Rudolph to move into Executive Session in order to discuss legal issues related to the Murrells Inlet Dredging Project. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. No discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	David Hood
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Johnny Morant
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph

OPEN SESSION:

Open Session resumed at 7:47 PM. Chairman Hemingway stated that while in Executive Session no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

As there was no further business to discuss, Councilman Charlton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Date Approved

Clerk to Council

