

A regular meeting of the Georgetown County Council was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at 5:30 PM in County Council Chambers.

Present: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Staff: Thomas W. Edwards, Jr. Theresa E. Floyd
 Jack Scoville, Jr.

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.

Vice Chairman Johnny Morant called the meeting to order. Councilman Drayton gave an invocation and all joined in the pledge of allegiance. Vice Chairman Morant noted that County Council Chairman, Sel Hemingway, was out of town and would not be in attendance at this meeting. Councilman Hood would also not be attending the meeting due to a schedule conflict.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The following changes were made to the agenda: Ordinance # 2003-21, a rezoning request for the Windsor Plantation Subdivision was withdrawn by the applicant, and two legal issues were added to the agenda to be discussed in Executive Session (one regarding an easement in the Ricefields Planned Development and the other regarding a communications tower issue).

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

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cliff Rusch

Mr. Rusch addressed County Council on behalf of the Waccamaw Neck Property Owners Association (WNPOA) regarding the proposed amendment to the Fire Protection Ordinance. The WNPOA realizes that changes are inevitable as a result of the change in the form of government of Georgetown County, however, the WNPOA hopes that the County will continue to rely heavily on the Midway Fire Department Board in light of the excellent service they have provided in previous years.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton to approve the minutes of the County Council Planning Session of February 18, 2003. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

A motion was made by Councilman Oakley to approve the minutes of the regular session of March 25, 2003. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Ordinance #2003-12

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2003-12 establishing fees for the purchase of GIS (geographic) data.

Mr. Eric Schmidt, a resident of Georgetown County and a GIS Consultant, asked County Council to defer third reading of this Ordinance. At a recent meeting of the Horry-Georgetown GIS Users Group, many of the members were unaware that this Ordinance was being proposed. The fee schedule contained in the Ordinance would put the small businesses that rely on this data at an economic disadvantage. Although they have expressed a willingness to pay some cost for the data, he asked County Council to reconsider the widespread ramifications of the fee schedule as currently proposed. He stated that he would be willing to meet with Planning and Development Director, Mr. Allen Burns, to discuss the issue further if Council would be willing to defer third reading.

There were no further public comments and Vice Chairman Morant declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance #2003-17

A public hearing was held on #2003-17, an Ordinance to establish street sign fees for named streets in Georgetown County, South Carolina. There were no public comments and Vice Chairman Morant declared the public hearing closed.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Accommodations Tax Committee

Councilman Drayton made a motion to reappoint Mr. Greg Smith to the Accommodations Tax Committee. Councilman Charlton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Councilman Morant made a motion, on behalf of Councilman Hemingway, to appoint Ms. Amanda Cannon to the Accommodations Tax Committee. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Airport Commission

Councilman Drayton made a motion to reappoint Mr. Sam Alston to the Airport Commission. Councilman Oakley seconded then motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Assessment Appeals Board

Councilman Drayton made a motion to reappoint Ms. Bettye Stafford to the Assessment Appeals Board. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Disabilities and Special Needs Board

Councilman Morant made a motion, on behalf of Councilman Hemingway, to nominate Ms. Susan Walters for reappointment to the Board of Disabilities and Special Needs. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Councilman Oakley made a motion to nominate Ms. Elizabeth Gardner for appointment to the Board of Disabilities and Special Needs. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Board Elections and Registration

Councilman Charlton made a motion, at the request of the members of the Elections and Registration Board, to reappoint Mr. Herb Bailey to serve a second term as Chairman of the Elections and Registration Board. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Councilman Charlton made a motion to defer action on the Election and Registration Board's recommendation not to fill an existing vacancy on the Board (in order to reduce the total seats on the board to seven (7) members by attrition) until such time that the County Attorney can research the State Statute to determine the board membership requirements. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Historical Commission

Councilman Morant made a motion, on behalf of Councilman Hemingway, to appoint Mr. Barry Price to the Georgetown County Historical Commission. Councilman Charlton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Councilman Oakley made a motion to appoint Ms. Elizabeth West to the Georgetown County Historical Commission. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Library Board

Councilman Charlton made a motion to appoint Ms. Helen Ralston to the Library Board. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Parks and Recreation Commission

Councilman Morant made a motion, on behalf of Councilman Hemingway, to reappoint Mr. Harry Coker to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Pilotage Commission

This issue was deferred pending a report from the Attorney General's Office.

RESOLUTIONS:

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

Councilman Drayton made a motion to adopt a Resolution declaring April 13 – 19, 2003 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance # 2003-11

Councilman Oakley made a motion to grant third reading approval of Ordinance # 2003-11 amending Ordinance # 2001-16 regarding Road User Fees. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Ordinance # 2003-12

Councilman Charlton made a motion to defer third reading approval of Ordinance # 2003-12 establishing fees for the purchase of GIS (geographic) data, until such time that the Planning & Development Director, could meet with Mr. Schmidt who spoke earlier at the public hearing. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Ordinance # 2003-13

Councilman Charlton disclosed a potential conflict of interest in his participation in discussion or voting on Ordinance # 2003-13 pertaining to the Harmony Development, and requested to be recused. Mr. Charlton's letter of request will be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting by reference.

Councilman Drayton made a motion to grant third reading approval of Ordinance # 2003-13, an amendment to the Official Zoning Map of Georgetown County to amend the Master Plan for the Harmony Development to remove all industrial uses located on the Sampit River and substitute in its place 18 single family lots with a 40-slip marina and associated amenities. Councilman Morant seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Thomas Earl Drayton Jerry Oakley
 Johnny Morant Helen Rudolph

Ordinance # 2003-17

Councilman Charlton made a motion to grant third reading approval to Ordinance #2003-17, an Ordinance to establish street sign fees for named streets in Georgetown County, South Carolina. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance # 2003-18

Councilman Oakley made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rudolph to grant second reading approval to Ordinance #2003-18, an Ordinance to rescind the ordinance that established the Georgetown County Real Estate Transfer Fee Ordinance and the Land Bank Commission. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Ordinance # 2003-19

Councilman Drayton made a motion to grant second reading approval to Ordinance #2003-19, an Ordinance to authorize the lease of property at the Choppee One Stop Health Center to the St. James Santee Family Health Center. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – By Title Only

The following Ordinances were introduced for first reading approval:

Ordinance # 2003-20 - An Ordinance to amend the 2002/2003 Operating Budget for Georgetown County in order to complete various capital projects in the General Fund and amend the Georgetown County Fire District 1 Budget for repairs to a fire truck.

Ordinance # 2003-22 – An Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Georgetown County to rezone approximately 6.2 acres on US Business 17 in Murrells Inlet, north of Lawton Hall Drive, from General Residential and Planned Development to Resort Residential and General Commercial to allow for development of the property.

Ordinance # 2003-23 – An Ordinance to amend the Conceptual Plan for the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort Planned Development to revert the existing condominium ownership pattern back to a hotel ownership, to construct a lazy river amenity in proximity to the existing pool site and to revise the two

remaining buildings to two bedroom condominium units with kitchens and establish one bedroom as a lockout unit.

Ordinance #2003-24 – A Ordinance to amend the Conceptual Plan for Pond Road Estates Planned Development to increase the density from 14 lots to 16 lots.

Ordinance #2003-25 – An Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Georgetown County to rezone approximately 2.49 acres on the south side of Montford Road between Trout Street and Russ Lane from Forest and Agriculture to Residential ½ acre.

Ordinance #2003-26 – An Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as updated by the Georgetown County Department of Public Services, as an element of the Comprehensive Plan.

BIDS

Midway Fire Department – Defibrillators/monitors

Councilman Oakley made a motion to award a bid for defibrillators/monitors for the Midway Fire Department to Medtronics Physio-Control in the amount of \$27,761.88. Councilman Charlton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Jerry Oakley
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Johnny Morant	

COUNCIL BRIEFING

Administration & Finance Committee – Litchfield Canal Foot Bridge

Councilman Oakley made a motion to adopt the Administration & Finance Committee's recommendation that County Council should maintain its previously stated position that Georgetown County has no ownership in the Litchfield Canal Footbridge and does not intend to accept liability for the same. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton	Jerry Oakley
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Johnny Morant	

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Rice Museum – Preservation Agreement

This issue was deferred.

Solid Waste Utilization Study

Councilman Charlton made a motion to approve a request by staff to proceed with a task order for Withers & Ravenel Engineering, Inc. for a Solid Waste Utilization Study. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

Request for Right of Way to Complete Road Project

Councilman Oakley made a motion to authorize staff to work with County Attorney to obtain necessary right of ways for Trinity Road in order for the Public Works Division to complete a road project there. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. None occurred.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Charlton made a motion to move into Executive Session in order to discuss two issues, one regarding a communications tower and the other regarding a Ricefields Planned Development easement. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none. Councilman moved into Executive Session at 6:15 PM.

In Favor: Ron Charlton Jerry Oakley
 Thomas Earl Drayton Helen Rudolph
 Johnny Morant

OPEN SESSION:

Open Session resumed at 6:45 PM. Vice Chairman Morant stated that while in Executive Session, County Council discussed two legal issues. No votes were taken and no decisions were made while in Executive Session.

As there was no further business to discuss, Councilman Charlton moved for adjournment.

Date Approved

Clerk to Council