

A regular meeting of the Georgetown County Council was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 at 5:30 PM in County Council Chambers.

Present:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Jerry Oakley
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph
	David L. Hood	

Staff:	Thomas W. Edwards, Jr.	Theresa Floyd
	Jack M. 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.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

The following additions/changes were made to the agenda: addition of an appointment to the membership of the Georgetown County Fire District 1 Board, a Resolution to accept ownership of a railroad spur, an issue regarding property acquisition to be discussed in Execution Session, and a request was made to defer action on a report regarding revising the existing accommodations tax guidelines.

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	Jerry Oakley
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph
	David Hood	

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilman Morant to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Session of October 28, 2003. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The following items listed on the Consent Agenda were approved previously in the meeting:

Ordinance #2003-72 - An Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Zoning Ordinance, Article XVIII, Section 1800.6.4.1 regarding the required color palette – Third reading approval.

Ordinance #2003-76 - An Ordinance to amend the board membership of the Georgetown County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs – Third reading approval.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Ordinance #2003-74

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2003-74 to incorporate the revised Housing Element of the County Comprehensive Plan as updated by the Georgetown County Planning and Development Department and recommended by the Planning Commission. There were no public comments and the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance #2003-75

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2003-75 to incorporate the revised Economic Element of the County Comprehensive Plan as updated by the Georgetown County Planning and Development Department and recommended by the Planning Commission. There were no public comments and Chairman Hemingway declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance #2003-78

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2003-78 authorizing the lease of County owned property to Alliance Tower Company. There were no comments and the public hearing was declared closed.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission

Councilman Charlton made a motion to appoint Mr. William Cave to the Georgetown County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton Thomas Earl Drayton Sel Hemingway David Hood	Johnny Morant Jerry Oakley Helen Rudolph
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Georgetown County Fire District 1 Board

Councilman Morant made a motion to appoint Mr. Victor Lance to the Georgetown County Fire District 1 Board. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. No discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton Thomas Earl Drayton Sel Hemingway David Hood	Johnny Morant Jerry Oakley Helen Rudolph
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Councilman Charlton made a motion to appoint Mr. David Holcombe to the Georgetown County Fire District 1 Board. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. No discussion occurred.







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

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – By Title Only**

The following ordinances were introduced for first reading approval:

Ordinance #2003-80 – An Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Zoning Article VIII, Section 806 (Exception to Height in Velocity Flood Zones).

Ordinance #2003-81 – An Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Zoning Article VIII, Section 808 (Setback Exceptions for Certain Structures).

Ordinance #2003-82 – An amendment to the Georgetown County Zoning Map to rezone two parcels of property on Fraser Street at the intersection of Lakewood Drive in Georgetown from 10,000 Square Feet Residential (R-10) to General Commercial (GC)

Ordinance #2003-83 – An amendment to the Georgetown County Zoning Ordinance, Article VI; Section 611.3: General Commercial, Other Requirements.

Ordinance #2003-84 – An Amendment to the Georgetown County Development Regulations, Article IV, Section 2: Design Standards: Streets.

**COUNCIL BRIEFING**

Property Setback Variances

County Council discussed a request made by a Hagley property owner, Mr. Henry Stevens, to seek clarification from the South Carolina Attorney General's office regarding jurisdiction over wetlands (from the ebb tide to high water mark) adjacent to private property and whether County Council has jurisdiction to grant property setback variances. The County Attorney, Jack Scoville, Jr. provided some clarification on the issue and noted that the Attorney General would most likely not release an opinion due to pending litigation on this issue.

Councilman Hood made a motion to direct the County Attorney to send a letter to the State of South Carolina Attorney General requesting that he vigorously defend the public's best interest in this matter. Councilman Morant seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

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

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL:**

Special Recognition

Special recognition was given to Georgetown County Public Services Director, Mr. Ray Funnye, for recently obtaining a Master's Degree in Management. Mr. Thomas Edwards, County Administrator, and the County Council Chairman expressed appreciation to Mr. Funnye for his dedication to personal and professional growth and presented him with a plaque on behalf of Georgetown County.



Sampit River Park Development

Councilman Charlton made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$22,000 to obtain the services of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) for the next phase of the Sampit River park and boat landing development to include assembling all required data and plans, preparation of permit applications and submissions to the regulatory agencies, and engineering documents provided through the Department of Natural Resources' subcontractor, F&ME Consultants. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

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

Implementation of Sand Mixing Plant for Georgetown County Mosquito Control

Councilman Drayton made a motion to approve a request to implement a sand mixing plant at the Georgetown County Airport to assist with aerial larvaciding applications to control mosquito populations. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

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

Addendum to Professional Service Agreement with Woolpert LLP

Councilman Hood made a motion to approved an addendum (#4) to Master Professional Service Agreement between Woolpert LLP and Georgetown County to include a study in water quality issues near Pawleys Island. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

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

Approval of Engineering Services of Retreat Park

Councilman Oakley made a motion to approve contracting with Steve Goggans & Associates, in the amount of \$39,400, for engineering services for Phase I of Retreat Park. The funding is available through previously allocated Strategic Plan Funds. Councilman Morant seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

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

Acceptance of Land and Water Conservation Fund Award

Councilman Charlton made a motion to authorize acceptance of Land and Water Conservation Fund Award in the amount of \$131,182 for development of the Sampit River park/boat landing. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion.

Mr. Edwards noted that the designated match of \$131,182 for this grant could possibly be allocated through the bond.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton Thomas Earl Drayton Sel Hemingway David Hood	Johnny Morant Jerry Oakley Helen Rudolph
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Review of County Council Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Councilman Hood and seconded by Councilman Oakley to limit the November 25, 2003 County Council meeting agenda to two items related to International Paper Company Bond issue (third reading of ordinance and public hearing) and cancel the second regular County Council meeting in December (12/23). Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton Thomas Earl Drayton Sel Hemingway David Hood	Johnny Morant Jerry Oakley Helen Rudolph
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**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Prior to moving into Executive Session, Chairman Hemingway noted that Councilman Oakley and Councilman Hood had disclosed a potential conflict of interest in his participation in discussion or voting on issues related to the Murrells Inlet Dredging Project, and requested to be recused during discussion of this issue. Councilman Oakley and Councilman Hood's letter of request will be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting by reference.

Councilman Charlton made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss two property acquisition issues. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. No discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Ron Charlton Thomas Earl Drayton Sel Hemingway David Hood	Johnny Morant Helen Rudolph Jerry Oakley
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County Council moved into Executive Session at 6:52 PM.

**OPEN SESSION:**

County Council returned to Open Session at 7:04 PM. Chairman Hemingway stated that while in Executive Session County Council discussed two issues regarding property acquisition and took no action or votes.

A motion was made by Councilman Morant to authorize County staff and the County Attorney to negotiate with the property seller for a 5.08-acre tract in the Pee Dee Section and provide follow-up report. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. There was none.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Morant to authorize staff and the County Attorney to negotiate with the property owner for proposed property to possibly locate Fire Station 8 in Plantersville and provide a follow-up report to County Council. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman asked for discussion. No discussion occurred.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Morant made a motion to return to Executive Session to discuss a contractual/legal issue regarding the Murrells Inlet Dredging Project. Councilman Charlton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. No discussion occurred.

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

As previously noted, Councilman Oakley and Councilman Hood had disclosed a potential conflict of interest regarding participation in discussion on this issue and both were excused from meeting as County Council returned to Executive Session at 7:06 PM.

**OPEN SESSION:**

County Council returned to Open Session at 8:12 PM. Chairman Hemingway stated that while in Executive Session County Council discussed the Murrells Inlet Dredging Project with legal counsel. No decisions were made and no votes were taken while in Executive Session.

As there was no further business to discuss, Councilman Charlton moved to adjourn the meeting.

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Date Approved

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Clerk to Council