

A regular meeting of the Georgetown County Council was held on Tuesday, December 9, 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

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 changes were made to the agenda: addition of a bid for a pre-cast radio tower equipment building, a request for approval to purchase radios for the 800 Mhz system, a change order to an existing paving contract to include resurfacing in the Pawleys Retreat Subdivision, a report regarding restructuring the Management Information Services (MIS) Department, and a brief report on proposed sign standards for the Highway 17 Corridor.

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton and seconded by Councilman Morant 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 L. Hood

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Franklin McCray

Mr. McCray spoke regarding his service in the Korean War, and reminded everyone that freedom is not "free".

MINUTES:

Councilman Morant noted that page 10 of the minutes of the November 18, 2003 meeting should be amended to note that "no" votes were taken during Executive Session.

A motion was made by Councilman Morant to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Session of November 18, 2003 as amended. 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 L. Hood

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton to approve the minutes of the Special Council Session of November 25, 2003 as submitted. 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 L. Hood	

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #2003-84

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2003-84, an amendment to the Georgetown County Development Regulations, Article IV, Section 2: Design Standards: Streets. There were no public comments and Chairman Hemingway declared the public hearing closed.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Inducement Agreement

Discussion on this issue was delayed until the Execution Session portion of the meeting.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance #2003-39

Consideration of Ordinance #2003-39, to authorize the lease of property within the Choppee One Stop Health Center to the South Carolina Department Health and Environmental Control was deferred.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance #2003-50

Second reading of Ordinance #2003-50, which has been revised to incorporate the recommendations of various community groups, was previously referred back to the Georgetown County Planning Commission for further consideration. County Council deferred the issue pending a report from the Planning Commission.

Ordinance #2003-77

Ordinance #2003-77 authorizing Georgetown County to economic incentives to new or expanding industries was deferred. The proposed ordinance was previously referred to the County Council Administration & Finance Committee for closer review. The issue was deferred pending a report from the Committee.

Ordinance #2003-80

Councilman Morant made a motion to grant second reading approval of Ordinance #2003-80, an Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Zoning Article VIII, Section 806 (Exception to Height in Velocity Flood Zones).

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

Ordinance #2003-81

Councilman Oakley made a motion to grant second reading approval of Ordinance #2003-81, an Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Zoning Article VIII, Section 808 (Setback Exceptions for

Ordinance #2003-87 – An Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Zoning Ordinance Article VI, Section 619.6, Planned Development: Conceptual Plan Requirements.

Ordinance #2003-88 – An Amendment to the Georgetown County Zoning Map to Amend the Conceptual Plan for Brookgreen Gardens Planned Development to allow for two main identification signs.

Ordinance #2003-89 – An Ordinance to amend the Georgetown County Zoning Map to rezone .58 acres located on US Highway 17 near the intersection of Rasheed Lane from General Residential (GR) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC).

BIDS

Fleet Fuel Cards

Prior to discussion or voting on this item, Councilman Hemingway disclosed a potential conflict of interest in his participation in discussion or voting on this issue and requested to be recused. Councilman Hemingway’s letter of request will be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting by reference. Vice Chairman Morant conducted the meeting at this point.

Councilman Charlton made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hood to award a bid for fleet fuel service to Exxon Mobil Fleet for a one-year period with provisions for two additional one year extension periods contingent upon satisfactory performance. Vice Chairman Morant asked for discussion. There was none.

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

Absent: Sel Hemingway

Pre-Cast Radio Tower Equipment Building

Councilman Morant made a motion, seconded by Councilman Oakley, to award a bid for a placement of a pre-cast radio equipment building to house communications equipment for the 800 mhz. radio system at the tower site located off of US Highway 17 Alternate and Highmarket Street to Old Castle Precast Communications in the amount of \$29,516.50. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. None occurred.

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

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

Recognition of Receipt of “Family Friendly Employer Award”

Georgetown County Administrative Services Director, Mr. Greg Troutman, reported that the Family Friendly Business Initiative, a program designed to emphasize the need for more balance in work and family issues, has recognized Georgetown County as a “Family Friendly Employer”. Georgetown County was awarded the highest level of certification by the organization.

Public Services – Change of Personnel Authorization

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton to grant a change of personnel authorization for the Public Works Department approving the addition of a professional storm water engineer position. Necessary funds have been budgeted. 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 L. Hood	

Accommodations Tax Guidelines

Following a report from Georgetown County Accommodations Tax Committee Chairperson, Ms. M.P. Swenson, a motion was made by Councilman Oakley, and seconded by Councilman Morant to adopt amendments to the accommodations tax guidelines as proposed by the Accommodations Tax Committee including a requirement that the County's designated Tourism Promotion Agency's exemption from the 50/50 match guidelines be limited to funds for advertising, promotion, and marketing, and that the financial information to be required of applicants be limited to information relevant to projects, events or activities advertised or promoted with accommodations tax funds. Lengthy discussion ensued, and the motion was withdrawn.

Councilman Hemingway offered a motion to adopt amendments to the existing accommodations tax guidelines as follows: (1) approval of proposed language regarding pre-funding in Item 2 of the grant guidelines (2) removal of all language in Item 3 of the proposed grant guidelines (3) an amendment to Item 4 of the proposed grant guidelines to read "All funding should be matched on at least a 50/50 basis with the exception of the County's designated Tourism Marketing Organization for use in marketing and advertising promotions. Matching funds may not come from other accommodations tax sources", and (4) addition of Item 8 on the "Reimbursement Request Form" to read that "Final financial accounting for the funded project must be submitted". Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion on this issue.

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

Automation of Council Agenda Briefing Books

Mr. Mark Pearl, Interim County Information Technology Director, provided a report on automation of County Council agenda briefing books. This issue was referred to the Council Administration & Finance Committee for further review.

Insurance Report

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton and seconded by Councilman Oakley to approve the insurance renewal declaration with the South Carolina Insurance Reserve Fund at \$480,787. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion.

Councilman Hood questioned whether the private market has been researched for cost comparison and possible savings.

Councilman Charlton made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss an industrial prospect and proposed Fee-In-Lieu 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	Jerry Oakley
	David Hood	

County Council moved into Executive Session at 8:15 PM.

OPEN SESSION:

County Council returned to Open Session at 8:35 PM. Chairman Hemingway stated that while in Executive Session, County Council discussed an issue regarding negotiation with a proposed industrial prospect. No action and no votes were taken while in Executive Session.

Councilman Charlton made a motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the execution of an Inducement Agreement between Georgetown County and an unnamed company for a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement. 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 L. Hood	

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

Date Approved

Clerk to Council