

County Council held a planning work session on Thursday, February 19, 2004 at 3:00 PM in County Council Chambers.

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

Staff: Thomas 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. He announced that this meeting is to be a planning session where County Council will be updated and informed on various issues.

Map Presentation

County Council was provided with a presentation from two former members of the Governor's Map Commission, Mr. Floyd Keels and Mr. Carl Faulk. They reported on the Map Commission's focus, the formation process, organization, reporting, and implementation. Both responded to questions from members of Council.

Councilman Charlton made a motion to refer the issue of creating a local Map Commission to the County Council Administration & Finance Committee for further review. Councilman Oakley seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion.

Councilman Morant questioned where resources would come from to support a locally created Map Commission, such as staff etc. He questioned how this committee would work in relation to the existing Visions Committee. Councilman Hood stated that the Vision's Committee's purpose is to identify needs, while the Map Commission would identify the most cost effective and efficient way to operate existing programs and services.

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

Industrial Park – Tax Increment Financing

Mr. Al Burns, County Planning & Development Director, provided an informational report on Tax Increment Financing and how this mechanism could benefit the County as a means to provide funding for Phase II of Industrial Park development. Discussion ensued.

Councilman Drayton made a motion, seconded by Councilman Oakley authorize staff and legal counsel to explore this option, determining whether this project would qualify for tax increment financing, and development of a final plan for use of the proposed funding for County Council's consideration. 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	

Economic Development Plan – Goals and Objectives

Mr. Burns reviewed with County Council various goals and objectives of the County's Economic Development Division. He reported on the outcome of a recent Economic Development forum and the strategies and goals adopted.

County Administrator, Mr. Thomas Edwards, provided a draft proposal for the development of a public/private partnership for economic growth in which the Economic Development Commission and the Economic Development Alliance would be dissolved, and a single organization would be formed. Under this proposal, Economic Development has no relationship to County Planning as it currently exists and it is removed from the County's organizational structure.

Councilman Hood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Oakley to endorse the concept, and authorize Chairman Hemingway to present the proposal to the Economic Development Commission at their next meeting and send this issue to the Administration & Finance Committee for further structuring. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion.

Councilman Drayton spoke very favorably of the proposed concept and commended staff for "thinking outside of the box" in presenting creative ideas to improve this County's economic growth.

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

Solid Waste Division – Consultants Report

Mr. Bernie Garrett, a representative of Wither's & Ravenel provided a detailed report on the consultant's findings contained within the Solid Waste Facility Utilization Study and the Solid Waste Program Financial Study related to the Georgetown County Solid Waste Division. The team has evaluated existing funding, fee structures, and operation of the Subtitle D Landfill, and its expansion and provided various options for the County's consideration. County Council took no action on this issue.

It was agreed that County Council would continue discussion of this complex issue at an additional workshop to be scheduled at a later date.

Law Enforcement Budget – FY 05 Budget

Sheriff Cribb addressed County Council regarding a deficit within the FY 2005 Law enforcement Budget. Discussion ensued. No decisions were made related to the issue.

Councilman Drayton made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rudolph to defer this issue to a future workshop. 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	

Strategic Plan Update

Members of County Council were provided with a status report and financial overview of various strategic plan projects. The report was provided for informational purposes at this time.

FY 2004 Financial Overview

The County Administrator provided a brief overview on current year-end budget projections. It appears that the County will finish the year in the "positive". Mr. Edwards expressed appreciation to staff for their support and efforts to operate within existing budget restraints.

Fire- Emergency Medical Service Organizational Plan

Mr. Mike Mock, County Emergency Services Director, presented a proposed reorganization plan pertaining to the County Fire/EMS Departments. The reorganization will provide a cost savings to these departments. Under the proposed plan no existing employment will be eliminated, however currently existing vacancies will not be filled. County Council approved the proposed plan by acclamation.

Draft Budget Estimates and FY 2005, 2006 and 2007 Revenue & Expenditures

Ms. Sabrena Posey, Georgetown County Finance Director provided a brief overview on budget projections for FY 2005, as well as future revenue and expenditures. Staff is continuing to address revenue shortfalls.

Update on Capital Equipment Replacement Program

Ms. Posey provided a report regarding the future replacement of County capital equipment.

Councilman Oakley made a motion to approve the proposed Capital Equipment Replacement Program. Councilman Hood 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	

Automation of Council Agenda and Briefing Books

County Council was provided with cost estimates associated with the automation of County Council meeting agendas. This process will provide greater public accessibility and potential cost savings to the County.

Councilman Oakley moved to approve funding for the agenda automation project, utilizing \$25,000 in existing capital funds and authorizing the remaining balance of approximately \$65,000 from the County fund balance. Councilman Charlton 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

Emergency Procurement

Councilman Oakley moved to approve the emergency procurement of a landfill compactor for the Public Services Department – Solid Waste Division. 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

Council's Project and Issues FY 2005

Councilman Charlton provided members of Council with an informational report regarding establishment of a Countywide Keep Georgetown Beautiful Program. More information will be provided to Council at the next regular meeting.

Being no further business to discuss, Councilman Charlton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Date Approved

Clerk to Council