

A regular meeting of the Georgetown County Council was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 5:30 PM in County Council Chambers.

Present:	Ron Charlton Thomas Earl Drayton Sel Hemingway	Johnny Morant Jerry Oakley Helen Rudolph
Staff:	Thomas W. Edwards, Jr. John M. Tolar	Theresa E. 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 Ron Charlton gave the invocation and all joined in the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Hemingway noted that Councilman Hood would not be in attendance due to a schedule conflict.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The following additions/changes were made to the agenda: addition of a bid for landfill slope repair, and a report regarding election issues.

Councilman Charlton moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. None occurred.

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

Thomas Williams

Mr. Williams expressed concerns regarding the poor handling of the process in which Midway Fire-Rescue assumed the responsibilities of providing emergency medical services to the area previously served by the Pawlesy Island Litchfield Beach Rescue Squad.

Paul Hogan

Mr. Hogan, Chairman of the local Republican Party, expressed concerns regarding the Chairman of the Georgetown County Board of Elections & Registration's recent actions in handling various election issues throughout the November 2, 2004 Election, and the candidate's protest hearings following the election. Mr. Hogan informed County Council that he has filed a formal complaint with the Governor's office regarding these issues.

Ruthann Howard

Ms. Howard, a candidate for the position of Georgetown County Auditor in the November 2, 2004 Election, expressed concerns regarding many irregularities that she witnessed, and others that were reported to her as occurring at the election polls on Election Day. She voiced objections regarding the way her election protest was handled by the Board of Elections and Registration, and concerns regarding "chronic problems" with the Board.

Nancy Kolman

Ms. Kolman, Chairman of the local Democratic Party, expressed concerns regarding "improprieties" on behalf of the local Board of Elections & Registration, and various actions of the Board's Chairman.

Carol Winans

Ms. Winans reiterated concerns expressed by Ms. Nancy Kolman regarding the local Board of Elections and Registration.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Morant to approve the minutes of the Special Council Session of November 9, 2004. 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

A motion was made by Councilman Charlton to approve the minutes of the Special Council Session of November 16, 2004. 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

A motion was made by Councilman Morant to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Session of November 23, 2004. 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

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following Ordinance on the Consent Agenda was approved previously in the meeting:

Ordinance #2004-82

Ordinance #2004-82, an Ordinance to amend the Zoning Map of Georgetown County to rezone approximately 1.66 acres on Highmarket Street, west of the City of Georgetown, from 10,000 Square Foot Residential (MR10) to General Commercial (GC) – Third reading approval.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Ordinance #2004-85

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2004-85, an Ordinance to amend the FY 2004-2005 Budget Ordinance adopted by Georgetown County Council, to appropriate additional funds. There were no public comments and Chairman Hemingway declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance #2004-86

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2004-86, an Ordinance to authorize Georgetown County to

lease property located on East Main Street in Andrews, South Carolina, to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission and Waccamaw Regional Planning and Development Council. There were no public comments and Chairman Hemingway declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance #2004-87

A public hearing was held on Ordinance #2004-87, an Ordinance to declare as surplus a tract of property approximately .28 acre in size located on Church Street and to further authorize the sale of the same. There were no public comments, and the Chairman closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Morant, and seconded by Councilman Oakley, to adopt a Resolution accepting finalizing terms for the lease purchase of a roll off truck in association with Bid #04-020. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. None occurred.

In favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Jerry Oakley
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph

ORDINANCES – THIRD READING:

Ordinance #2004-81

Ordinance #2004-81 amending the Georgetown County Zoning Ordinance, Article III, and Section 380 regarding definitions for gaming vessels was deferred pending a report from the Georgetown County Planning Commission.

Ordinance #2004-83

At County Council's request, County Attorney, John M. Tolar, provided an opinion regarding issues associated with interconnectivity, through a tract of private property, between the River Oaks and Ricefields Planned Developments. Mr. Tolar opined that County Council does not have the authority to take action regarding this issue, as it is civil in nature. He advised County Council to give consideration to the modification of boundary lines only and not address issues outside of those contained in the proposed Ordinance.

Councilman Charlton made a motion to grant third reading approval of Ordinance #2004-83, an amendment to the Georgetown County Zoning Map to modify the boundary lines of the River Oaks Planned Development and Ricefields Planned Development, as recommended by County Planning staff. Councilman Morant seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion on the motion. There was no discussion.

In favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Helen Rudolph
	Sel Hemingway	

Opposed: Jerry Oakley

Ordinance #2004-87

Councilman Charlton made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rudolph, to grant third reading approval of Ordinance #2004-87, an Ordinance to declare as surplus a tract of property approximately .28 acre in size located on Church Street and to further authorize the sale of the same. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. None occurred.

Ordinance #2004-86

Councilman Morant moved to grant second reading of Ordinance #2004-86, an Ordinance to authorize Georgetown County to lease property, owned by Georgetown County, and located on East Main Street in Andrews, South Carolina, to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission and Waccamaw Regional Planning and Development Council. Councilman Drayton seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion.

Councilman Oakley moved to amend the Ordinance to properly identify the property to be leased as 102 East Main Street, Andrews, South Carolina. Councilwoman Rudolph seconded the motion. No discussion followed.

In favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Jerry Oakley
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph

The vote on the main motion was as follows:

In favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Jerry Oakley
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

The following Ordinances were granted first reading approval by title only:

Ordinance #2004-88 – An Ordinance to amend the FY 2004/2005 Budget Ordinance to carry funds forward from the prior year.

Ordinance #2004-89 – An Ordinance to authorize Georgetown County to lease property, owned by Georgetown County, located on Cleland Street, to the Tiller Group.

Ordinance #2004-90 – An Ordinance to postpone the implementation of a Countywide Property Reassessment for Georgetown County, South Carolina.

BIDS:

Bid #04-067 Portable Toilet Rental

Councilman Charlton moved to award a bid to Gotta Go Unlimited Sanitation of Conway, SC for a master contract to consolidate portable toilet services used by various County Departments. 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

Bid #04-072 Carver's Bay Branch Library

Councilwoman Rudolph moved to contract with Rogers Construction LLC in the amount of \$852,000 to provide general contractor services for the construction of the Carver's Bay Library. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morant. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. None occurred.

Protests regarding the election have been filed in Columbia, which is the appropriate action.

However, the Chairman advised members of County Council to “take to heart” the issues that have been brought to their attention tonight, by both political parties in a non-partisan fashion. He advised each member of County Council to take their responsibility to appointments individuals to serve on this Board seriously, giving consideration to their willingness and commitment to assess how things are done and consider what can be done to improve the process in the future.

Councilman Charlton recommended the creation of an ad hoc committee consisting of members of County Council, the Elections & Registration Board, and Chairpersons of the Democratic and Republican Parties. The committee could work to address various issues from the number of poll workers in the County to the current pay of poll workers. Chairman Hemingway agreed with Mr. Charlton’s suggestion, and requested the County Attorney to advise County Council regarding the appropriateness of initiating an effort of this nature.

LEGAL BRIEFING:

H & C Fisheries

Councilman Charlton moved to authorize the County Attorney to move forward with pursuing legal remedies regarding debt owed to Georgetown County by H & C Fisheries in relation to the Murrells Inlet Dredging Project. Councilman Morant seconded the motion. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. None occurred.

In favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Jerry Oakley
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Charlton made a motion, seconded by Councilman Oakley to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual issue, and an issue regarding property acquisition. Chairman Hemingway asked for discussion. None occurred.

In favor:	Ron Charlton	Johnny Morant
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Jerry Oakley
	Sel Hemingway	Helen Rudolph

Council moved into Executive Session at 6:50 PM.

OPEN SESSION:

Open Session resumed at 7:33 PM. Chairman Hemingway noted that while in Executive Session County Council discussed a contractual agreement with Handex Corporation and an issue regarding property acquisition. No votes were taken and no decisions were made while in Executive Session.

Being no further business to discuss, Councilman Charlton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Date Approved

Clerk to Council