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June 8, 2010

Honorable Council Members
Georgetown County Council
Georgetown, South Carolina

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As I reflect on the past twelve months it is comforting to know that the difficult decisions that were made in preparing the FY2009-2010 budget allowed us to operate within the provisions of the budget without the need for additional adjustments. Conversely, it is discouraging to recognize that depressed economic conditions are predicted to continue during the 2010-2011 budget year.

Despite declines in our economy, we progressed during the past year and realized a number of successes primarily due to the wisdom of Council in adopting a realistic FY10 budget and in building in the flexibility of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that allows for progress even during down-turns in the economy. Some of the success stories of the FY2009-2010 year are as follows:

- Completion of the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex
- Completion of Community Parks
- Replacement of Composting Operation with a more efficient solution
- Completion of Spec. Building at Highway 521 Business Park
- Completion of State Certification of Highway 521 Business Park
- Completion of a number of Road Improvement Projects
- Completion of acquisition of property for recreational parks
- Began construction of Andrews Library expansion
- Began construction of Heritage Center at Georgetown Library
- Awarded J. Mitchell Graham Award for Student Firefighter Program

In preparation of the FY 2010-2011 budget, we faced a number of challenges. Revenues were projected to remain relatively consistent with the previous year's level with the exception being a further reduction in funding from the State via the Local Government Fund. In addition, increases were forecast in health insurance premiums, workers compensation premiums and fuel prices. Consequently, our staff and

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elected officials were asked, once again, to reduce their operational costs to bare minimums and still provide the required services of the County. They responded to this request and allowed us to propose this balanced budget for the FY 2010-2011 year that meets the needs of our citizens without incurring any net increase in taxes. This budget does include the use of a portion of the unrestricted General Fund Balance, while retaining a Fund Balance that exceeds the self-imposed limit established by Council and recommended by our external Auditor.

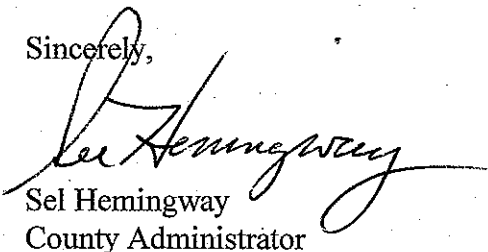
Provisions in the FY2010-2011 budget and the CIP will position the County to make progress during the coming year in the following areas:

- Completion of Andrews Library expansion
- Completion of the Heritage Center at Georgetown Library
- Completion of additional Road Improvement Projects
- Completion of Design and Planning for Recreational Projects
- Begin construction on elements of Regional Parks
- Completion of improvements to Detention Center
- Installation of upgrades to 911 and Dispatch system through MOU with Horry County
- Completion of renovations to Old Courthouse and relocation of Building, Planning, Zoning, Stormwater and GIS departments
- Enhancement of Code Enforcement

We are all looking forward to more prosperous times, but we are conservatively planning for a moderate rate of growth. I strongly believe that Council has made the appropriate decisions that will position the County to move through this period of recovery without jeopardizing the financial integrity of the County. This has been made possible through joint efforts of a dedicated staff and their employees, elected officials, agency representatives and County Council.

I feel privileged to be associated with the aforementioned group in our attempt to serve the citizens of Georgetown County.

Sincerely,



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County Administrator

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