



Georgetown City Council Meeting Minutes for April 1, 2024

The Georgetown City Council met in regular session at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on the above written day.

Invocation delivered by Alderman Gordon
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Present:	Dennis Davidson	Alder Ward 1
	Jack Morrison	Alder Ward 1
	Curt Gordon	Alder Ward 2
	Michelle Brooks	Alder Ward 2
	Mike Scott	Alder Ward 3
	Tim Waterman	Alder Ward 4
Also Present:	Darin Readnour	Mayor
	Jacqueline Wilson	City Clerk
	Amy Cavanaugh	Treasurer
Absent:	Randy Scott	Alder Ward 3
	Nick Krabel	Alder Ward 4

The Mayor declared a quorum was present.

Public Comments:

- No public was present

1. Approval of Minutes.

- a) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated March 18, 2024.
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.
Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder Waterman,
Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

2. Payment of Bills.

Action Taken: **Authorized payment** of bills as presented in List 854. There were payments to 33 vendors for a total of \$51,487.70.
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.
Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Brooks,
Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

3. Clerk’s Report: Besides preparing the agendas, minutes, meeting packets and typing Streets & Alley reports, the clerk answered e-mails, phone calls, and FOIA Requests, and entered data from surveys received. The clerk generated bills for lab work and the waste pad. The clerk issued golf cart permits to Steven Bell, Corey Meeks, Judy Taylor-Thomen, Kent Dukes, Steve Mills, Denise Shephard, Charlie Lambert, Shelby Hughes, Terry Lierman, Tonya Hundley, Shantell Buyno, Carolyn Hughes, Steve Nale, Joe Suchaczewski, Stephen Beresford, Donnie Adkisson, & Gary Jackson.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.
Motion / Second: Alder M. Scott / Alder Morrison,
Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

4. **Streets & Alleys Report:** Did Work Orders and J.U.L.I.E.'s, worked on Bad Meter list, shut off list, and read meters, installing new meters, cleaned storm drains, cleaned leaves at park, put rock in alley, mowed city buildings, poured concrete at 411 S. Seminary. **Overtime hours:** 6 hours for March 7 - 20, 2024.
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.
Motion / Second: Alder M. Scott / Alder Morrison,
Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.
5. **Water & Sewer Reports: Ed:** daily chores, CSO report, water report, sewer report, monthly samples, mowing, weed eating, spraying, started on CCR for 2024, cleaning up garbage blown in from winter, water usage report for February, rebuilt CL17 chlorine analyzer, wasted digester to drying beds, did samples for inorganic compounds, cleaned BPS building, and started 2024 CCR. **Will:** chores at both sewer and water buildings every day, weekly test and sampling every Thursday/Friday, read test results every following Tuesday/Wednesday, Biweekly lift station reports. **Overtime hours:** 16 hours for March 7 – 20, 2024.
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented,
Motion / Second: Alder M. Scott / Alder Morrison,
Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.
6. **Public Safety Report:** The Police had over 180 calls along with 5 in town and 10 out of town assists.
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.
Motion / Second: Alder M. Scott / Alder Morrison,
Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

Committee Briefs:

- Personnel Committee Recommendations – The committee held interviews for a full time HR Clerk. Tonya plans to retire in October. They found 2 candidates they think would be good. They would like to offer it to their number 1 choice and if she turns it down, they have a second choice.
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder Brooks / Alder M. Scott,
Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

New Business:

1. **Consider Home Rule – Joe Graves** – Joe Graves is a long time Georgetown Resident. He was asked to help promote home rule when Kay Sanders was Mayor. After researching about it, he chose not to because there was too much he did not personally agree with. He has done more research and see that there are some advantages and some safeguards. Mr. Graves asked the mayor why the council is interested in home rule, is it to raise taxes? The mayor said not at the moment, we would like to have more control to do something about the abandoned homes in town. He also does not believe we have the businesses to support it. Mr. Graves was also concerned why the price of gas is so high in Georgetown. He met with tiffany Jones from Tilton who is very knowledgeable about home rule. He suggests talking to her. He thinks it would be a good decision with this council, but can't guarantee he would trust the next alderman, to make the right decisions. He mentioned required a registration for landlords with a \$25 fee. He mentioned that he would not oppose home rule but doesn't think he can promote it. The mayor would like to have a community meeting to discuss home rules. Alder Davidson mentioned that taxation is not their main concern. They are concerned about the number of abandoned homes, at what point can we take it, make owners board them up. Alder Gordon believes the ordinance officer relieved some of the issues, he would like to have home rule, but doesn't see it passing. Alder Brooks asked what safeguards there are to give residents peace of mind. It was mentioned that the state does monitor why we are raising taxes, if the funds are being misappropriated, they will not allow it.
2. **Consider MFT – Ryan Staley** – Ryan, a Farnsworth Representative presented the plans for MFT funds for this year. Rebuild Illinois funds had a deadline they had to be spent by, they made sure to use all of

them last year. He explained the estimate of maintenance is higher to give Rusty some wiggle room if they need more supplies than estimated, it is there, and they do not have to do more paperwork. For the oil & chip project they used numbers from what Ribbe is seeing. We will have to do a closed bid if it is over \$25,000 and will take the lowest bid. Total estimate for MFT funds is \$157,816.88. There are some projects that need done but will require more money and paperwork. Rusty would like to finish the sidewalk along Seminary between Mill St and E. West St. This will require design engineering and excavation which requires more paperwork. If we pay from local funds, the city could bypass the extra paperwork from IDOT. McKinley St. is also a big project that needs to be completed soon. It needs to be torn out completely and redone, not just resurface. The street needs 8 inch of aggregate and 5 inches of asphalt, plus will need sidewalk and curb work done. This project will need engineering plans completed. Rusty and Mayor Readnour have been trying to get something done with the potholes at the square, it is IDOT jurisdiction. Ryan is going to call IDOT and see what he can get done.

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Brooks,

Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

3. **Consider Concession Stand – Ceiling Tiles** – There are multiple ceiling tiles that needs to be replaced from a previous leak. Youth sports will not be approved by the health department without them fixed.

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Brooks / Alder Waterman,

Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

4. **Consider Latoz Lot Appraisal** – Alder Waterman has a few people interested in the Latoz Lot. He would like to get an appraisal before moving forward. We can use business district funds to pay for it. We will need a commercial appraiser.

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Gordon / Alder M. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

5. **Consider Personnel Policy Updates** – Attorney Funderburg is working on updated the policy manual. The vacation policy updates that were voted in last summer, if hire date is within 1st 6 months of Fiscal year they get a week, 2nd 6 months, they get 2 personal days. She said only giving them 2 personal days will not work with the new paid leave for all workers act. The motion was made to remove the 2 personal days and continue with the current accrual of personal days.

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder Gordon,

Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

Adjourn Meeting:

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Morrison,

Motion passed unanimously 6 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

I, Jacqueline Wilson, Clerk for the City of Georgetown, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting which was held April 1, 2024.

Jacqueline Wilson, City Clerk