



# Georgetown City Council Meeting Minutes for September 5, 2023

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. City hall was set up with the Social Distancing in mind.

Invocation delivered by Alderman M. Scott  
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### Roll Call:

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

The Mayor declared a quorum was present.

### Public Comments:

- Norma Stephenson from Frazier Street asked the council about the house at 207 Frazier. She is concerned about this abandoned house as she sees people going in and out of it. She would like for the house to be secured. People are throwing trash in there.
- Mr. Biggerstaff has talked to an attorney about the abandoned homes. We are able to clean up the yard if necessary, items can be put in the house. He recommended not disposing of anything. The city can then board them up.
- They have also taken care of the yard at 207 Frazier for the last 20 years. There is a concrete pad that was used as a burn pile. Stephenson’s use this to burn yard waste. The police were called, and had the fire department put the fire out, because they said it wasn’t their property. The mayor told him he would talk to the police.

### **1. Approval of Minutes.**

- a) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated August 21, 2023.  
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented  
Motion / Second: Alder R. Scott/ Alder Gordon,  
Motion passed 7 – 0, with Alder Davidson abstaining.
- b) Approve Personnel Committee Meeting minutes dated August 28, 2023  
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented  
Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Krabel,  
Motion passed 6 – 0, with Alders Davidson & R. Scott abstaining.
- c) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated July 17, 2023 (edited to include Executive Session).  
Action Taken: **Approved** as presented,

Motion / Second: Alder Krabel / Alder R. Scott,  
Motion passed 6 – 0, with Alders Morrison & Brooks abstaining.

d) Approve Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes dated August 31, 2023.

Action Taken: Approved as presented,

Motion passed 5 – 0, with Alders Morrison, Davidson, & R. Scott abstaining.

**2. Payment of Bills.**

Action Taken: **Authorized payment** of bills as presented in List 840. There were payments to 33 vendors for a total of \$122,780.69. Alder Morrison asked why the city was not using local businesses. Mayor Readnour explained that we try to support local business as much as possible. We do have some that we have had issues with in the past.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Brooks,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**3. Clerk's Report:** Besides preparing the agendas, minutes, meeting packets and typing Streets & Alley reports, the clerk answered e-mails and phone calls, and entered data from surveys received. The clerk issued Golf cart permits to Ruchella Howell, Fred & Ruth Staub, & Duane Durbin. A fence permit was issued to Maggie Nale & Chris Morgan. Building permits were issued to Joe Tamalunis and Zig Mockaitis.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**4. Streets & Alleys Report: Did Work Orders and J.U.L.I.E.'s,** put up the American Flags for Labor Day, fixed brackets broken from the storm, fixed water leak at 409 Logan, & spread rock where roads were bleeding through. **Equipment:** washed 1 ton truck. **Building:** tore out sidewalk and poured new ram at library, mowed city properties. **Overtime hours:** 23 hours for August 10-23, 2023.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**5. Water & Sewer Reports: Ed:** daily chores, water usage report, cleaned up garage area, got both lift stations wired and tested for generator around Apache, trimmed tree on corner of trailer park (hanging over fence), mowed, week-eated, sprayed, took generator to yard store for repair (carburetor), and did fecal coliform test, changed blades on zero turn. **Will:** chores at sewer and water building every day, weekly test and sampling every Thursday/Friday, read test results every following Tuesday/Wednesday, mowed and weeded at Cayuga and Georgetown water buildings once a week, biweekly lift station reports, cleaned rake, cleaned grit wash, cleaned trickling filter, reinstalled new parts on mixer for digester, installed new hose on blower in digester, installed mixer and blower back into digester tank and got it back up and running, sprayed Cayuga's water building for all weeds, unloaded chemicals into back room of Georgetown's waste water building, scrubbed sewer plant office, decanted, changed oil in Ford, tried to get small generator running with no success, changed the priming sensor in slug station pump #2, ran generator test on lift stations on Apache, trimmed tree on sewer plant fence, killed wasp at water salesmen, took 001 samples. **Overtime hours:** 17.5 hours for July 26 – August 9, 2023.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented,

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**6. Public Safety Report:** The Police had over 186 calls along with 8 in town and 11 out of town assist.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**Old Business:**

1. **Consider GRHS Ag program livestock** – Mr. Justin Howard presented the schools plan for the ag program. Mr. Howard has been a teacher at Georgetown for 13 years. They are in the beginning stages of planning. The first step is acquiring the land and getting permission for the city to have livestock within city limits. They would like to build a building to house the livestock. Students will be in charge of care for and decision making of their animal. The school currently has 150-200 students between the jr. high and high school. All students will have a part in the daily chores. The motion was made to table this until an ordinance could be approved or amended, adding an exception for tax supported education institutions. Alder Davidson thought it would also be a good idea to get approval from the surrounding neighbors.

Action Taken: **Tabled**

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Morrison,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

2. **Consider demo at 1107 Haworth** – Mayor Readnour talked to Mike Davis of CILBA. The correct quote for the demolition is \$10,800 for demo, and an estimated \$2,320 for the landfill bill. Mayor Readnour may have someone lined up to buy the property after demolition.

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder Krabel

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**Committee Briefs:**

- **IMRF Short term leave for current employee –**

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Gordon / Alder R. Scott

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

- Mr. Biggerstaff informed the council that they had court today.
  - 219 E. 10<sup>th</sup> is receiving fines for 213 E. 10<sup>th</sup>. They are now \$100 a day. They have never called or responded to the violations.
  - 319 W. 15<sup>th</sup> - Received a \$200 fine
  - 500 E 11<sup>th</sup> – is getting \$100 a day fine
  - 201 W. 15<sup>th</sup> – is cleared. The owner took care of violations.
  - 111 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> – progress is being made, the roof on the back of the house has been replaced.
  - 311 N. Main – the owner flew in from New York for court. He bought the house for back taxes 5 years prior and had never seen it. He had roofers lined up, but they were not licensed. He now has Freeman Contracting working on the garage.
  - 204 Mack - \$200 fine, no appearance
  - 115 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$200 fine

**New Business:**

1. **Consider liquor license for Family Dollar** – the council was concerned that adding another beer & wine license to the city may hurt other businesses in town. We have multiple places for customers to buy beer & wine from currently.

Action Taken: **Denied**

Motion / Second: Alder Brooks / Alder Gordon

Motion passed 7 -1.

2. **Consider Constitution week September 17 – 23.**

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Krabel,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

3. **Consider Vermilion Co Title to do title searches on Abandoned houses – Dave Biggerstaff.** Mr. Biggerstaff has come up with a list of 16 houses that are burned or abandoned. Dave is working with the attorney who recommended the next step is to do title searches. It will cost \$150 per house. Once these are complete, Dave will know who the owner is to start working on the next step. He did inform the council: 204 Pearl – Farmhouse Market is wanting to buy to demo, 304 Hesler – neighbor is interested in buying property and tearing down, 308 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St. – Dave talked to the attorney for Teepak. They are willing to release the mortgage, the City will have to get the owner to sign a release. 1107 Haworth – CILBA is demoing, 207 Frazier could be rehabbed – it was bought for back taxes, 209 E. 12<sup>th</sup> – owner is working on. The motion was made to do 16 title searches.  
Action Taken: **Approved**  
Motion / Second: Alder Gordon / Alder Krabel,  
Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.
4. **Consider Confirmation of Appeal Board – Dave Biggerstaff** – The appeal board that was created will also cover any variances. If the permit does not fit the code, they will have to apply for a variance. The board will then decide whether to approve it or not.  
Action Taken: **Approved**  
Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder R. Scott,  
Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.
5. **Consider application process for Variance – Dave Biggerstaff** – the council will have to create an application for variances.
6. **Consider discussion of building permit changes -Dave Biggerstaff** – Dave had some requests for changes to the current ordinances he presented to the council. He would like more definition added concerning structures. He also would like some more definition for requirements of fences being on property lines.  
Action Taken: **Tabled**  
Motion / Second: Alder Gordon / Alder R. Scott,  
Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.
7. **Consider MFT payment to Cross Construction** – Cross Construction did finally come back to finish their work. They had left their signs and barrels up for the last month. There were dirt piles, and still places that needed back filled. Rusty said that is all completed now.  
Action Taken: **Approved**  
Motion / Second: Alder Gordon / Alder R. Scott,  
Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.
8. **Consider Wi-fi for City Hall** – The quote from Rahmtech to install wi-fi at the city hall is \$1,324.00.  
Action Taken: **Approved**  
Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder Davidson  
Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**Announcements:**

- Alder Davidson - The option for home rule is coming up – we need to start planning ahead, possible put together a community committee to help.
- Georgetown's 200<sup>th</sup> is coming in a few years. We need to start planning now.
- The current Santa is now retired. We will need a new Santa for the Santa house and the parade this year.

**Executive Session:** 5ILCS 120/2(c) (5) Personnel matters

Action Taken: **Passed** to enter executive session for personnel matters.

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

Entered Executive session at 8:14 pm.

Reconvened from Executive Session

Action Taken: **Passed.**

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Krabel,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

Exit Executive session at 8:25 pm

Recommendations from Executive Session: Hire 2 full time at \$19 & 1 part time at \$15.

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Brooks,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Morrison,

Motion passed unanimously 8 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 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 September 5, 2023.

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Jacqueline Wilson, City Clerk