

TO: Georgetown City Council
Mayor Brendon Barber

FROM: Carol Jayroe and Jonathan Angner

DATE: July 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Consideration of further consolidation of City of Georgetown
and Georgetown County services

We ask for your support for an effort to explore further consolidation of City of Georgetown and Georgetown County services to lower the costs for taxpayers.

Currently, there are a number of services or functions that are consolidated. The following are some examples that have eliminated duplicative services and reduced costs to taxpayers:

- 911 call management
- EMS
- Parks and recreation
- Tax billing and collection
- Landfill disposal of residential waste
- County detention center joint use

As you are aware, the cost to live and work in the City of Georgetown keeps increasing on residents and businesses, who can ill afford these increases in utility rates, fees and taxes.

Georgetown is no longer thriving – five percent of the population has left since the last census, as well as many businesses. This in the Grand Strand area that has experienced explosive population growth.

Almost one in four residents live in poverty and the median household income is about half the national average and nearly 40 percent below the state average.

Exploring the further consolidation of city and county services may lead to badly needed reductions in the costs of services for our residents and businesses. Some services that come to mind that might lend themselves to consolidation are planning, human resources, finance, information technology and the courts. There are likely others.

One way to initiate an effort to explore the consolidation of services is for the city and county councils to agree to appoint a joint committee to open a dialogue between the two jurisdictions about the possibilities and possible further steps.

We ask for your support for appointment of a joint committee and for the city sending a letter to county council asking for their participation.