



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2026

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember John Riggs called on Allen Muldrew to give the invocation and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDENCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Tangie Johnson	Councilmember	Present	
Vacant	Councilmember	Vacant	
Ginny Hendley	Councilmember	Present	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present	
Shari Barr	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Public Affairs Manager Layne Phillips, City Attorney Cain Smith and City Clerk Leah Harden

3. Recognitions/Public Presentations:

A) Recognition of Cohort Three of the Emerging Leaders Academy.

Human Resources Director Demetrius Bynes recognized the third cohort of the Emerging Leaders Academy, a program designed to train high-potential employees for advancement. While several of the 15 members could not attend due to other commitments or active duty, we specifically congratulate those present: City Attorney Cain Smith and Human Resources Generalist Jacobi Thibodeau. Demetrius announced that Cohort Four is expected to begin in the new year.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 06-02-2026 Council Minutes

A motion was made to approve consent agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

6. **Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve APPLICATION RZ 26-05-02: Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. requests a Zoning Map Amendment for property on the south side of Tillman Road between Fair Road and South Main Street from Exempt to MX (Mixed Use District). The Zoning Map Amendment request is for one parcel of 13.505 acres and is proposed for multi-use commercial development (Tax Parcel # MS61 000001 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

Attorney Steve Rushing appeared on behalf of the applicant, noting the significance of the project for Georgia Southern and the Statesboro community. He confirmed the Foundation had acquired the property from the Board of Regents, which is itself an unusual transaction, and that Phase 1 would focus on the hotel and conference center. He noted no jurisdictional wetlands exist on the property, though floodplain areas are present consistent with surrounding development. The applicant accepted all three conditions without objection.

No one spoke against the application.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions APPLICATION RZ 26-05-02: Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. requests a Zoning Map Amendment for property on the south side of Tillman Road between Fair Road and South Main Street from Exempt to MX (Mixed Use District). The Zoning Map Amendment request is for one parcel of 13.505 acres and is proposed for multi-use commercial development (Tax Parcel # MS61 000001 000).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

7. **Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve APPLICATION V 26-05-04: Virginia Russel requests a Variance from UDC Section 2.5.5-C Table (R-15) Accessory uses and Structures, to allow a decrease of the side yard setback from twenty (20) feet to six (6) feet, to allow the installation of a carport at 12 West Kennedy Street (Tax Parcel # S21 000057 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

Jason McCoy, son-in-law of the applicant, spoke in support of the request, explaining that the carport is intended to provide weather protection for the applicant whose mobility is becoming impaired. He noted the structure would be a pole barn-style carport with roofing materials matching the home.

No one spoke against the application.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions APPLICATION V 26-05-04: Virginia Russel requests a Variance from UDC Section 2.5.5-C Table (R-15) Accessory uses and Structures, to allow a decrease of the side yard setback from twenty (20) feet to six (6) feet, to allow the installation of a carport at 12 West Kennedy Street (Tax Parcel # S21 000057 000).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

Councilmember Ginny Hendley recused herself from agenda item #8.

8. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve an application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro Alcohol Ordinance Sec. 6-13(a):

Tokyo
Owner: Ligong Zhu
Location: 100 Brampton Ave., Suite 1A
License Type: Restaurant

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

No one spoke for or against the application.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

A motion was made to approve an application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro Alcohol Ordinance Sec. 6-13(a): issued to Tokyo, Owner: Ligong Zhu, Location: 100 Brampton Ave., Suite 1A, for License Type: Restaurant.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

9. **Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-25: A Resolution exempting certain vehicles from marking requirement for one year.**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

No one spoke for or against the Resolution.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-25**: A Resolution exempting certain vehicles from marking requirement for one year.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

10. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-26: A Resolution Authorizing a FY 2026 Budget Allocation for the Statesboro-Bulloch County Land Bank Authority, funded from ARPA interest.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-26**: A Resolution Authorizing a FY 2026 Budget Allocation for the Statesboro-Bulloch County Land Bank Authority, funded from ARPA interest.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

11. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-27: A Resolution to adopt the Third Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for each fund of the City of Statesboro, Georgia, appropriating the amounts shown in each budget as expenditures/expenses, adopting the several items of revenue anticipations, and prohibiting expenditures or expenses from exceeding the actual funding appropriated.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-27**: A Resolution to adopt the Third Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for each fund of the City of Statesboro, Georgia, appropriating the amounts shown in each budget as expenditures/expenses, adopting the several items of revenue anticipations, and prohibiting expenditures or expenses from exceeding the actual funding appropriated.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

12. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-28: A Resolution to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for each fund of the City of Statesboro, Georgia, appropriating the amount shown in each budget as expenditures/expenses, adopting the several items of revenue anticipations, and prohibiting expenditures or expenses from exceeding the actual funding available for appropriations.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-28**: A Resolution to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for each fund of the City of Statesboro, Georgia, appropriating the amount shown in each budget as expenditures/expenses, adopting the several items of revenue anticipations, and prohibiting expenditures or expenses from exceeding the actual funding available for appropriations.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

13. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-29: A Resolution adopting Statesboro Schedule of Rates, Fees and Fines for FY 2027.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-29**: A Resolution adopting Statesboro Schedule of Rates, Fees and Fines for FY 2027.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

14. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-30: A Resolution adopting the Bulloch County Solid Waste Management Plan (2025-2035).

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-30**: A Resolution adopting the Bulloch County Solid Waste Management Plan (2025-2035).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

15. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-31: A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Statesboro to waive the requirements of Chapter 6 and allow processing of an alcohol application for 600 Fair Road.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-31**: A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Statesboro to waive the requirements of Chapter 6 and allow processing of an alcohol application for 600 Fair Road.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

16. Consideration of a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Statesboro Arts Council, Inc. to market downtown Statesboro by operating and managing the Averitt Center for the Arts, using proceeds from the Hotel/Motel Tax.

A motion was made to approve authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Statesboro Arts Council, Inc. to market downtown Statesboro by operating and managing the Averitt Center for the Arts, using proceeds from the Hotel/Motel Tax.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

17. Consideration of a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority/Main Street to market downtown Statesboro, using proceeds from the Hotel/Motel Tax.

A motion was made to approve authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority/Main Street to market downtown Statesboro, using proceeds from the Hotel/Motel Tax.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

18. Consideration of a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. to market Statesboro and Bulloch County, using proceeds from the Hotel/Motel Tax.

A motion was made to approve authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for services with the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. to market Statesboro and Bulloch County, using proceeds from the Hotel/Motel Tax.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

19. Consideration of a motion to approve a \$12,000 change order with Mid Georgia Property Enhancements, LLC for additional work on STM-46 McTell Trail/Little Lotts Creek Stream Restoration project, funded by an EPD 319(h) grant.

A motion was made to approve a \$12,000 change order with Mid Georgia Property Enhancements, LLC for additional work on STM-46 McTell Trail/Little Lotts Creek Stream Restoration project, funded by an EPD 319(h) grant.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

20. Consideration of a motion to approve a contract with EMC Engineering Services, Inc. in the amount of \$915,420 for design of Memorial Park, to be funded by INODIC grant funds and 2025 SPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve a contract with EMC Engineering Services, Inc. in the amount of \$915,420 for design of Memorial Park, to be funded by INODIC grant funds and 2025 SPLOST funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

21. Consideration of a motion to approve a \$7,151 change order with Underground Excavating, Inc. for additional work on ENG-130A Fire Station 3 Access Road, funded by TSPLOST.

A motion was made to approve a \$7,151 change order with Underground Excavating, Inc. for additional work on ENG-130A Fire Station 3 Access Road, funded by TSPLOST.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

22. Consideration of a motion to renew the Master Services Agreement with Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC through June 30, 2027 to provide Capital Improvement Program Management Services and Construction Engineering and Inspection services for FY 2027 in a not-to-exceed amount of \$664,923, funded by TSPLOST, SPLOST, and Stormwater Funds.

A motion was made to approve the renewal of the Master Services Agreement with Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC through June 30, 2027 to provide Capital Improvement Program Management Services and Construction Engineering and Inspection services for FY 2027 in a not-to-exceed amount of \$664,923, funded by TSPLOST, SPLOST, and Stormwater Funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

23. Public Comments (General): None

24. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr raised the issue of heat at the Art Park, noting public feedback about the lack of shade and seating during summer months. She reported that Wesley Parker, the original design engineer for the Art Park, has agreed to develop a concept for adding trees and benches at no cost, and that a youth group is also involved in the effort. She further confirmed that the railroad, as landowner of the leased property, would permit tree planting. Council directed staff to investigate funding options and coordinate with Mr. Parker, with a preliminary concept to be presented at a future work session.

She also noted upcoming Juneteenth celebrations: an event at Willow Hill on Friday evening and a celebration at Honey Bowen on Saturday. Additionally, she drew attention to the city's ongoing reflective visibility band program for pedestrians and cyclists, encouraging the public to obtain free bands at City Hall or the Police Department.

25. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny announced that a recognition reception for retiring Police Chief Mike Broadhead would be held on June 23, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Municipal Court Building, and invited the public to attend to honor Chief Broadhead's nine years with the City of Statesboro and approximately 40 years of law enforcement service.

Mr. Penny also highlighted that on May 30th, the Fire Department installed 62 smoke alarms in 33 homes as part of its ongoing community safety program.

Regarding the Creek on the Blue Mile project financing, Mr. Penny stated for the record that the GEFA line of credit of \$15.5 million at 2.25% interest, which had expired, was successfully preserved. While the GEFA Commissioner declined to extend the line of credit directly, the agency agreed in writing that the city has until 2030 to apply for those funds at the original 2.25% interest rate for a 30-year term. He noted that the relevant correspondence is included in the council packet and should be reflected in the official record.

Mr. Penny concluded by announcing that the final concert of the season, featuring Papa Soul, would be held on June 25th at 7:00 PM, and commended Olympia and her team for their work managing the concert series.

26. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss “Personnel Matters” “Real Estate” and/or “Potential Litigation” in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).

At 6:18 pm a motion was made to enter into executive session to discuss “Personnel Matters” in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

At 6:33 pm a motion was made to exit executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the regular meeting back to order.

City Manager Mr. Penny announced that, with the retirement of Police Chief Mike Broadhead effective July 1, 2026, he would be appointing Jared Akins as Interim Police Chief, effective July 1, 2026. He noted that the formal chief of police search would commence following the conclusion of community focus group meetings, with the position to be advertised for approximately 30 days thereafter. Mr. Penny expressed hope that a new chief would be named by the end of October or early November 2026.

27. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk