



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 21, 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 Tangie Johnson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Tangie Johnson	Councilmember	Present	
Vacant	Councilmember		
Ginny Hendley	Councilmember	Present	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Via Zoom	
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) Presentation of a retirement award to Karin Larson, Assistant Director of Finance who will be retiring effective August 1, 2026 after 9 years of dedicated service.

Mayor McCollar presented a retirement award to Karin Larson, Assistant Director of Finance, who will retire effective August 1, 2026, following nine years of dedicated service to the City of Statesboro. Mayor McCollar read a tribute prepared by Finance Director Cindy West, commending Ms. Larson for her professionalism, integrity, financial stewardship, and her role as a mentor and colleague.

Ms. Larson expressed sincere gratitude for her time with the City and specifically recognized her team members — Ramona Carver, Heather Springer, Ansley Lewis, Heidi Varnadore, and Leah Coleman — for their exceptional support. She noted that upholding her professional oath had been a guiding principle throughout her tenure, and that she was proud to leave the City better than she found it.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 07-07-2026 Council Minutes

b) 07-07-2026 Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve consent agenda.

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

6. Second reading and consideration to approve Ordinance 2026-02: An Ordinance amending Chapter 82 Section 82.101 (a), (c) and (d) to allow for enhanced sewer lateral repair assistance to include work performed to improved surfaces within the public right of way.

A motion was made to approve Ordinance 2026-02: An Ordinance amending Chapter 82 Section 82.101 (a), (c) and (d) to allow for enhanced sewer lateral repair assistance to include work performed to improved surfaces within the public right of way.

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

7. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-34: A Resolution approving application for and acceptance of a Transportation Alternatives and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Grant Award for the Creek on the Blue Mile: Multi-Use Trail Project.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-34: A Resolution approving application for and acceptance of a Transportation Alternatives and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Grant Award for the Creek on the Blue Mile: Multi-Use Trail Project.

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

8. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-35: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a FY 2027 Operational Service Agreement with the Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia for public transportation services in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-35**: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a FY 2027 Operational Service Agreement with the Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia for public transportation services in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

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

9. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase and up-fitting of eight new patrol vehicles for a total expenditure of \$696,527.66. These expenses will be funded using 2019 SPLOST funds and purchased through a State of Georgia procurement contract. The expenditure breakdown is as follows:

- **Wade Ford: \$413,265.00 for eight patrol vehicles.**
- **Patrol PC: \$50,946.87 for mobile data tablets and stands.**
- **Motorola: \$72,173.28 for in-car camera equipment.**
- **West Chatham Warning Devices: \$160,142.51 for the up-fitting of all eight vehicles.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase and up-fitting of eight new patrol vehicles for a total expenditure of \$696,527.66. These expenses will be funded using 2019 SPLOST funds and purchased through a State of Georgia procurement contract with a breakdown of expenditures as follows: Wade Ford: \$413,265.00 for eight patrol vehicles, Patrol PC: \$50,946.87 for mobile data tablets and stands, Motorola: \$72,173.28 for in-car camera equipment, and West Chatham Warning Devices: \$160,142.51 for the up-fitting of all eight vehicles.

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

10. Consideration of a motion to approve a change order with Tim Lanier Construction in the amount of \$9,347.68 for additional work on ENG-114a Edwina Drive, funded by 2023 TSPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve a change order with Tim Lanier Construction in the amount of \$9,347.68 for additional work on ENG-114a Edwina Drive, funded by 2023 TSPLOST funds.

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

11. Public Comments (General):

Sam Patel addressed the Council to request that the City consider allowing in-store alcohol tastings at retail establishments. He noted that Bulloch County had already adopted state guidelines on this matter and encouraged the City to do the same, or to modify the guidelines as it sees fit. He also emphasized that consumers are often reluctant to purchase higher-priced spirits without the ability to sample them first.

City Manager Charles Penny acknowledged this was the first time the matter had come before him and committed to researching the request and bringing a recommendation back to Mayor and Council.

Sue Palmer raised ongoing concerns about residential and commercial garbage cans being left at the street for extended periods beyond pickup days, in violation of City policy. She cited specific locations, including businesses and a church near Howard Dentistry on Lee Street and a property at 345 East Main Street, where cans have reportedly been left out for days or even years. Ms. Palmer noted that some cans were placed on newly installed sidewalks, obstructing public walkways.

Ceretta Smith introduced herself as the Democratic nominee for Georgia's 12th Congressional District. She briefly outlined her background as a former city council member, United States Army veteran, and retired federal government employee of 25 years. She indicated she is attending local government meetings and planning town halls across the district's 24 counties to hear directly from constituents.

12. Other Business from City Council: None

13. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny announced that Tamika Shannon, the City's Keep Statesboro Bulloch Beautiful Coordinator, will be relocating with her family to Florida at the end of the month following her husband's promotion with the Orlando Police Department. He expressed appreciation for her service and contributions to the community. Mr. Penny shared that the Georgia Southern football team will be participating in a community trash pickup effort on July 22, 2026, and commended the team for their civic engagement.

The Fire Department has submitted an application for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant. Mr. Penny noted that, if awarded, the grant would provide equipment rather than monetary funds, and committed to informing Council of any award.

City Manager Penny addressed the public commenter's concerns regarding garbage cans left at the street, affirming that he agreed with the concern. He acknowledged that while fines have existed for years, the City is prioritizing public education over immediate enforcement due to the administrative burden of the court process. Current efforts include

written notices to residents and the planned use of colored stickers affixed to non-compliant carts to alert owners. He noted that code compliance and public works staff are coordinating on the initiative. He also clarified that pickup schedules vary by neighborhood — including instances where opposite sides of a street are collected on different days — which can contribute to extended curbside placement.

14. 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 6:00 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 Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
AYES:	Johnson, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

At 6:04 pm motion was made to exit executive session.

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

Mayor McCollar called the regular meeting back to order with no action taken in executive session.

15. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk