CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2026

Regular Meeting | 50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers | 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember Ginny Hendley gave the Invocation and 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) Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring October 2026 as Youth Awareness Month.

Mayor McCollar read the proclamation, honoring October 2026 as Youth Awareness Month and presented it to LaSara Mitchell, Village Builders Coordinator.

LaSara Mitchell thanked the Mayor and Council. She shared that Statesboro hosted the state youth symposium the prior weekend at Georgia Southern University. The event hosted 13 cities and about 105 youth and was co-hosted by the Georgia Municipal Association.

B) Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar read a proclamation recognizing October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and presented it to Safe Haven.

Kim Billings, Public Relations & Legal Services Director for Safe Haven thanked the city for the recognition. She said that in 2025 the organization served 899 individuals, up from 699 the prior year. They answered more than 7,000 crisis calls and provided nearly 2,000 nights of safe housing. It also served more than 20,000 meals, accompanied survivors to court 142 times, gave emergency medical and dental assistance to 78 survivors, and cared for 89 pets. She said this year's theme is "Driving Out Domestic Violence" and that awareness materials would be distributed across Safe Haven's six-county service area. She invited the Mayor and Council to the annual Stronger Together luncheon on Thursday, October 29, at 11:30 AM at the Holiday Inn.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. **Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda**
    - **A) Approval of Minutes**
        - **a) 09-15-2026 Work Session Minutes**
        - **b) 09-15-2026 Council Minutes**
    - **B) Consideration of a motion to approve the surplus of four vehicles in the Statesboro Police Department, 2012 Dodge Charger, 2014 Dodge Charger, 2008 Freightliner Van, and a 2014 Ford F-150. These surplus vehicles will be sold at auction.**
    - **C) Consideration of a motion to approve the surplus and disposition of vehicles and equipment in the Public Utilities Department that have exceeded their useful life.**

A motion was made to approve consent agenda.

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

6. **Consideration of a motion to approve SUB 26-09-02: Horizon Home Builders/Haydon Rollins in requesting a Preliminary Subdivision Plat for approximately 39.97 acres. The property is zoned R-2 (Townhouse Residential district) located on Abbey Road (Tax Parcel # MS82000035 000).**

Justin William Director of Planning reviewed the application stating that the property was rezoned several years ago for a mixed residential development of single-family homes and townhouses. A portion remains slated for townhouses later, and the current request covers a first phase. The site is adjacent to an open field, with the STEAM Academy to the north and a nursing home under construction to the south on Abbey Road.
He explained that the recently approved Chapter 62 allows the city to pursue Workforce Housing Initiative funds and gives flexibility in lot sizes. Staff recommends one condition, which ties the plat to the development agreement and resolution later on the agenda. Approval of the preliminary plat does not grant the right to develop. The project must still go through the traditional process, with expedited permit review to align with the Workforce Housing Initiative. The applicant was present. Council offered no discussion.

A motion was made to approve SUB 26-09-02: Horizon Home Builders/Haydon Rollins in requesting a Preliminary Subdivision Plat for approximately 39.97 acres. The property is zoned R-2 (Townhouse Residential district) located on Abbey Road (Tax Parcel # MS82000035 000).

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

7. **Consideration of a motion to approve a development agreement between the City of Statesboro and FS2 Development LLC, to apply for Workforce Housing Initiative funds for the Abbey Road Project.**

A motion was made to approve a development agreement between the City of Statesboro and FS2 Development LLC, to apply for Workforce Housing Initiative funds for the Abbey Road Project.

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

8. **Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-39: A Resolution authorizing an application to the OneGeorgia Workforce Housing Initiative.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-39**: A Resolution authorizing an application to the OneGeorgia Workforce Housing Initiative.

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

9. **Consideration of a motion to approve a Resolution 2026-40: A Resolution to accept the 2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the City of Statesboro, Georgia in the amount of $634,545.45 with a 10% match in the amount of $63,454.55. These funds will be used to continue the Fire Department Physician Program and purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus."**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-40**: A Resolution to accept the 2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the City of Statesboro, Georgia in the amount of $634,545.45 with a 10% match in the amount of $63,454.55. These funds will be used to continue the Fire Department Physician Program and purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus."

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

10. **Consideration of a motion to approve the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and Bulloch County originally entered into on February 17, 2026, for road improvements to Burkhalter Road, Harville Road, and Cawana Road. This amendment increases the cost of design and engineering services by $195,700. The cost will be shared equally, with $97,850 funded by the City's 2023 TSPLOST and $97,850 funded by Bulloch County.**

A motion was made to approve the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and Bulloch County originally entered into on February 17, 2026, for road improvements to Burkhalter Road, Harville Road, and Cawana Road. This amendment increases the cost of design and engineering services by $195,700. The cost will be shared equally, with $97,850 funded by the City's 2023 TSPLOST and $97,850 funded by Bulloch County.

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

11. **Consideration of a motion to approve a Master Services Agreement and Task Order #1 with Kimley-Horn in the amount of $1,195,700 for the Burkhalter Road Transportation Improvements Project (ENG-123i and ENG-124h). The cost will be shared equally, with $597,850 to be funded by the City's 2023 TSPLOST and $597,850 funded by Bulloch County Board of Commissioners.**

A motion was made to approve a Master Services Agreement and Task Order #1 with Kimley-Horn in the amount of $1,195,700 for the Burkhalter Road Transportation Improvements Project (ENG-123i and ENG-124h). The cost will be shared equally, with $597,850 to be funded by the City's 2023 TSPLOST and $597,850 funded by Bulloch County Board of Commissioners.

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

12. **Consideration of a motion to approve an Additional Services Request in the amount of $25,000 with Pape-Dawson Consulting Engineers, LLC for traffic signal modification design and traffic analysis on ENG-130B Brannen Street to US Hwy 80 Transportation Improvements Project, to be funded by TSPLOST.**

A motion was made to approve an Additional Services Request in the amount of $25,000 with Pape-Dawson Consulting Engineers, LLC for traffic signal modification design and traffic analysis on ENG-130B Brannen Street to US Hwy 80 Transportation Improvements Project, to be funded by TSPLOST.

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

13. **Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Work Truck and a 2026 Ford F-150 Crew Cab Work Truck from JC Lewis Ford for the Streets Division of Public Works and Engineering, at a total cost of $99,193, to be funded by 2025 SPLOST funds in STS-74.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Work Truck and a 2026 Ford F-150 Crew Cab Work Truck from JC Lewis Ford for the Streets Division of Public Works and Engineering, at a total cost of $99,193, to be funded by 2025 SPLOST funds in STS-74.

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

14. **Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-350 Landscape Body Work Truck from JC Lewis Ford for the Streets Division of Public Works and Engineering, at a total cost of $60,423, to be funded by 2019 SPLOST funds in STS-80.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-350 Landscape Body Work Truck from JC Lewis Ford for the Streets Division of Public Works and Engineering, at a total cost of $60,423, to be funded by 2019 SPLOST funds in STS-80.

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

15. **Consideration of a motion to award a contract to Y-Delta, Inc in the amount of $647,819.48 for the installation of approximately 2300 feet of six-inch water main with appurtenant equipment (hydrants, valves, services) to serve Broad Street from Savannah Avenue to East Jones Street. This project will be paid with operating revenues approved in FY2026, CIP #WWD-166.**

A motion was made to approve award a contract to Y-Delta, Inc in the amount of $647,819.48 for the installation of approximately 2300 feet of six-inch water main with appurtenant equipment (hydrants, valves, services) to serve Broad Street from Savannah Avenue to East Jones Street. This project will be paid with operating revenues approved in FY2026, CIP #WWD-166.

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

16. **Public Comments (General):**

Sarah Thomson presented what she described as public records showing that Ms. Chavers transferred her voter registration to a Brunswick, Georgia address on February 12, 2026. She also cited a homestead exemption transfer and a deed recorded in January 2026. She asserted that the District 2 seat had been vacant for 240 days. She said the charter and constitutional requirements for a fully constituted body had been violated, that all legislative acts and contracts were therefore void, and that the council should "correct" itself.

Kenneth Jackson spoke on Homestead exemption asked whether someone claiming a homestead exemption elsewhere could represent the district.

Jerry Rozier, a resident, said he owns property in several locations and urged the council not to spend time on where a former member lived, given community needs such as food access. He praised Ms. Chavers service and expressed support for the Mayor and the council.

17. **Other Business from City Council**

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr shared that Tractors and Tunes, postponed the prior weekend due to rain, would be held downtown this Friday, along with a Fix-It Fair. Residents may register items for repair in advance through the City of Statesboro webpage, the city's Facebook page, or Statesboro Working for Good, or they may walk in that evening.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar announced on Friday, October 9th there will be a called council meeting at 2pm. It would open in public session and then move into executive session for personnel matters.

18. **City Managers Comments**

The City Manager recognized the Human Resources department for handling the youth summit over the prior weekend. He said the staff worked from Friday through Sunday after completing advance preparation. He said hosting the event allowed visiting youth to experience Statesboro firsthand.

He reported that Beacon was preparing to sponsor at least three community conversations on data centers. He said he was waiting for their press release before sharing details.

He then addressed the budget. At the prior meeting he had recommended a millage rate of 9.60, and the council set it at 8.625. The 0.975-mill difference represents about $1,300,000. He said the general fund balance stands at about $6,500,000, or 20 percent of a $32,000,000 general fund. The minimum should be $8,000,000, and using another $1,300,000 would reduce it to about $5,000,000, which would take longer to rebuild because the funds do not recur. He

had therefore directed staff to cut their budgets and publicly presented his recommendations. For the remainder of the year, he recommended reduced expenditures. For fiscal year 2028, he recommended salary freezes, meaning no pay adjustments and no pay for performance for at least one year.

The recommended departmental reductions were:

Finance, $16,145
Municipal, $1,550
Customer Service, $17,510
Police, $200,800
Planning, Code and Inspections, $103,420
City Clerk, $11,997
Public Works and Engineering, $340,138
Human Resources, $58,552
Village Builders, $13,996
City Manager's Office, approximately $27,005
Public Affairs, $15,400
Fire Department, $77,500
Buildings and Grounds, $179,455.71
Solid Waste would not be reduced but would transfer about $100,000 to help cover the reductions.
The employee holiday bonus of $500, totaling about $180,000, would be suspended for November.

To avoid overtime, he recommended suspending several community activities:

Downtown live concert series for 2027
Youth Connect program
Christmas tree lighting ceremony
2026 annual report
Commission-funded events
Out-of-town retreats for the leadership team and Buildings and Grounds

Some reductions include vacant positions, which will be evaluated case by case as vacancies occur. The KSBB coordinator position will be held vacant for the rest of the fiscal year, saving $50,000, after the selected candidate declined the offer.
He explained that pay for performance had already begun in July and could not be stopped midstream without being unfair to employees. Had it been suspended during the budget process, about $800,000 could have been saved. He cautioned that next year's rollback of 2.5 mills would produce a revenue shortfall, so the council would likely need to raise the millage rate again, which would in effect be a tax increase. He said he was making these recommendations as the outgoing city manager so that his successor would not have to begin their tenure with budget cuts. If the council supported the recommendations or variations of them, he would return with a budget amendment at a future meeting.

Councilmembers thanked the City Manager. One, noting 16.5 years on the council and employee turnover under 5 percent, said the cuts pained him but that he agreed with the recommendation. Another called the recommendation wise and asked whether some items could be reduced rather than eliminated. Mayor McCollar asked that Youth Connect, Village Builders, and the Christmas event be fully funded and that the concert series be reduced to $50,000. He cited the community's need for "hope" and the importance of morale. The City Manager said the concert series costs about $70,000 plus roughly $13,000 in marketing, nearly $90,000 in total. He suggested that two concerts instead of six would bring the cost under $25,000, and he said staff would look at alternatives and bring something back. The Mayor maintained his position at $50,000 and said he would seek sponsors.

A motion was made to make the adjustments. A discussion followed on whether council should give staff specific direction or wait for the City Manager's proposal. Some members said direction was needed because a budget amendment would follow. Others wanted to see what the City Manager returned with. The Mayor said the four items he favored

totaled roughly $121,000 of the $1.344 million in recommended reductions. The motion failed due to the lack of a second and the council took no formal action on the budget. The City Manager is expected to bring a budget amendment at a future meeting.

19. 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 10:06 am a motion was made to enter into executive session to discuss "Real Estate" and "Potential Litigation"

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

At 10:20 am a motion was made to exit executive session.

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

20. 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 10:20 a.m.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

_____
Leah Harden, City Clerk