

# Business Commission Meeting Minutes

## January 26, 2023

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### Call to order

- Olympia Gaines(facilitator) called to order the first meeting of the Business Commission at 5:30 pm on Thursday January 26,2023 in City Council Chambers. (Officer's were not yet elected)

### Roll call

The following persons were present:

- Gloria Strauthers (member)
- Tom Mckeithen (member)
- Eisha Oglesby (member)
- Maurice Hill (member)
- Aj Jetwani (member)
- Prince Preston (member)
- Maria Proctor (member)
- Lary Clark (member)
- Olympia Gaines (Assistant to the City Manager)
- Jason Boyles (Assistant City Manager)
- Venus Mack (Council Member District 3)
- Leah Harden (City Clerk)
- Cain Smith (City Attorney)
- Layne Phillips (Public Information Officer)

### Roll call

The following persons were absent:

- Alivia Lloyd

### Approval of minutes

- January 26, 2023 was the Business Commission's first initial meeting. Eisha Oglesby did not have any previous minutes at this time.

## **New business**

- Olympia did a walk-through of the commission packets given to members.
- City officials in attendance were introduced to the commission.
- At our first initial meeting we elected Officers
  - Gloria Strauthers (Chair)
  - Tom Mckeithen (Vice Chair)
  - Eisha Ogelsby (Secretary)
- During this meeting our official meeting days/months/time was established
  - Day: Fourth Wednesdays
  - Months: Odd months
  - Time: 5:30pm
- The board all agreed on next meeting date/location
  - March 22, 2023 @5:30pm
  - City Council Chambers
- During the meeting the board felt it was important to engage the community by having a listening session.
  - Purpose to gain feedback on concerns and challenges
  - We will need a link for business owners to submit questions/comments
  - Need the link by March 15th to be able to post on the City Website
  - Connect with other city departments for collaboration and introductions.
- Ideas for upcoming meetings
  - Community Partnership
  - Educational Resources
  - Looking at Policies
  - Workshops
  - Resource meetings

## **Open issues**

- During our first meeting the board discussed issues of
  - Lack of knowledge opening a business in Statesboro
  - Lack of resources or not knowing how to get resources
  - Small business owners not understanding the rules of the city during the opening process
  - No community guidance just for small business owners
  - Not knowing a point of contact

## **New Resources**

- None at this time

## **To Do**

- Make changes to the Business Commission Bylaws if needed. Submit at the next meeting for approval.
- Get active promote next meeting for listening session
- Follow City Page
- Visit 3 City Websites (give feedback/how can we improve)
- How to build
- Work towards establishing our own Facebook Page (90 days)
  - Must post frequently if this is to be done
  - Would like to see growth/stay relevant

## **Adjournment**

- Gloria Strauthers adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.

## **Submission and approval of minutes**

- Minutes submitted by: Eisha Oglesby 1/27/2023
- Minutes approved by: