

**Statesboro Business Commission
50 East Main Street, Statesboro, Georgia
City Council Chambers
Called Meeting
March 22, 2022
5:30 P.M.**

VOTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Gloria Strauthers (Chairperson)
Tom McKeithen (Vice Chairperson)
Eisha Oglesby (Secretary)
Maurice Hill (member)
Alivia Lloyd (member)
Prince Preston (member)
Lary Clark (member)

STAFF AND EX-OFFICIO PRESENT

Olympia Gaines (Assistant to the City Manager)
Leah Harden (City Clerk)

GUESTS PRESENT

Mrs. Felicia Washington

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Strauthers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Approval of General Agenda

Tom Mckeithen
Larry Clark (Second)

Approval of Minutes

Prince Preston
Larry Clark (Second)

Old Business

Listening session date was established for April 24, 2023 at 6pm location Council Chambers.

Reports

Bylaws not yet approved. A google document will be created by Olympia Gaines (Assistant to the City Manager.) Discussed putting particular duties in the ByLaws.

New Business

- The Commission discussed the March 27 date leak to the public on the upcoming listening session date. Asked liaison to investigate the source and commission had to reschedule the event due to timeliness of public notification. Mondays and Thursdays events are best for council member attendance.
- The listening sessions were scheduled for dates as follows: April 24, August 28th and October 23rd at 6pm. Location for these next listening sessions were not set.
- Commission agreed that the listening sessions will serve as a strategy of feedback from the public/business community in an effort to formulate commission objectives, ordinance feedback and policy and procedure feedback.
- The City Clerk has agreed to work on providing commission with updated business contact in an effort to communicate with business owners.
- The Commission agreed to select specific ordinances to begin reviewing.
- Commission approved upcoming commission meeting dates for May 24, July 26, September 22, and November 15 start time is 5:30 pm EST to meet in council chambers unless agreed otherwise and are to be published on the city's website.
- Commission discussed ensuring information is available to present to council in an FYI package.
- The Commission discussed structure, scope, and model using a SF blueprint for review.
- The Vice Chair posed a question of small business clarification and the Chair directed him to the SBA website.
- The Commission was tasked with mapping out websites for City's website revision.
- Chair posed an engagement opportunity for commission by walking the Blue Mile to get to know our downtown businesses and introduce members who were discussed.
- The commission discussed how to encourage entrepreneurs to start or how to recruit small businesses. Larry Clark discussed Alan Gross' invaluable assistance to those he has referred to him.
- The Commission discussed scheduling a possible networking event in the future.

GUEST COMMENTS

Mrs. Felicia discussed bringing businesses together at the YMCA and invited the members of the Business Commission for an opportunity to introduce the commission. Larry Clark was assigned as point of contact to provide the commission with a date for this event.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Next meeting May 24th at 5:30pm

ADJOURNMENT

Announcing no other business to discuss, Chairperson Strauthers adjourned the meeting at 6:49pm.

Gloria Strauthers, Chairperson

Date