



**CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2026**

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr 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	Absent	
Tangie Johnson	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
Ginny Hendley	Councilmember	Present	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present – 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. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

4. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 01-06-2026 Council Minutes

A motion was made to approve consent agenda.

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

5. Consideration of a motion to approve an easement to Georgia Power for the installation of underground service to the new corporate hangar site at the Statesboro Bulloch County airport.

A motion was made to approve an easement to Georgia Power for the installation of underground service to the new corporate hangar site at the Statesboro Bulloch County airport.

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

6. Consideration of a motion to approve a bid and award a contract to Mid Georgia Property Enhancements LLC., in the amount of \$354,414.20 for construction on the STM-46 Little Lotts Tributary Restoration Project, to be funded by an EPD Section 319 Grant.

A motion was made to approve a bid and award a contract to Mid Georgia Property Enhancements LLC., in the amount of \$354,414.20 for construction on the STM-46 Little Lotts Tributary Restoration Project, to be funded by an EPD Section 319 Grant.

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

7. Public Comments (General):

Len Fatica provided an update regarding Bulloch VOAD's warming shelter operations. He reported that a shelter has been open at Pittman Park since Sunday due to extreme weather and is scheduled to close tomorrow morning. He noted that warming center deployments have increased significantly, rising from an average of one per year in 2017 to six or seven in 2024.

Mr. Fatica expressed concern regarding the lack of facilities for extended operations, especially with forecasts predicting six to eight days of below-freezing temperatures this coming week. There are currently 14 individuals utilizing the shelter, and Councilmember Paulette Chavers recently visited to observe the operations.

Mr. Fatica suggested a collaboration between the city and county on securing a long-term facility for extended shelter needs. Bulloch VOAD has Red Cross-trained staff and can access additional volunteers to prevent burnout during longer operations, but a stable location remains the primary obstacle.

8. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr highlighted two community resources:

- The local food bank, under director Sheila Stewart Leach, is serving free meals to 40-60 people Monday through Friday from 12-1 PM, with no questions asked.
- A point-in-time count of unhoused individuals will take place on January 26th, coordinated by Katie Brown at Union Mission, and volunteers are needed to help with the count.

9. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny provided several updates:

- Code Red emergency notification system: On-Solve, the company that provided these services experienced a security breach last fall and is no longer eligible to make emergency notifications per FEMA. The city and county are working to select a replacement service at a cost of approximately \$1,500 more than On-Solve.
- Notices to proceed have been issued to EMC and Michael Baker for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.
- A non-binding letter was sent to Georgia Power regarding data centers. While no specific company has expressed interest yet, preparation work takes about 12 months, so the city is being proactive.
- City officials will be touring data centers in Atlanta on Thursday before attending the GMA Cities United Summit. They will view both large and small facilities and meet with city officials and Georgia Power to gather information for potential future decisions.
- The city partnered with Beta Gamma Gamma Foundation, Greek organizations, Masonic Lodges, and community businesses to provide toys, bikes, and gift cards for children in need during the holidays. Over \$5,000 was collected from businesses and individuals for this effort.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr also noted that the community held several events celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, including an NAACP-sponsored parade despite the cold weather.

10. 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).

There were no items for Executive Session.

11. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVED:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk