



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2022

Mayor & Council Work Session

50 E. Main St. Statesboro, Ga

4:00 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on January 27, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 50 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McCollar, Council Members: Phil Boyum, Paulette Chavers, Venus Mack via Zoom, John Riggs and Shari Barr. Also present was City Clerk Leah Harden, City Attorney Cain Smith, City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles and Public Information Officer Layne Phillips.

1. Package Store Ordinance

City Manager Charles Penny led the discussion of the ordinance for package sales and the administrative process. The question as to restricting the number of stores instead of basing it on population just set a limit across the board. Council's role in the issuance of a license is based on considerations that include reputation of persons associated with the business, any previous violations of alcoholic beverage laws, the manner of conduct of prior alcoholic beverage business, the location of the store, the number of licenses in the trading area, any previous denial or revocation of a license at the location, prior incidents at the location, compliance with all matters bearing upon the conduct of any business venture, the type and number of schools, colleges, religious institutions, libraries, and public recreation areas or other circumstances in the vicinity of the premise. At the work session on December 21, 2021 the following directives were given to the following, no limit on the number of licenses, no mandate as to square footage or inventory, no increase in proximity between licensed establishments beyond the 500 yards regulated by the state, limit zoning districts to HOC, CR, and CBD, follow state regulation on products available for sale, limit hours of operation from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm Monday thru Saturday, no restriction to limit to freestanding, and the lottery issue is rendered moot in ableness of license limitation.

The application process for a package store would be for a reservation license and includes a completed application with all required attachments and a \$200 application fee. A background check will be completed on applicant and zoning requirements will have to be met. Because proximity is involved the reservation license would give the investor/business owner a stake to the location of the package store. Once the applicant has gone through the review process the application will be brought before council for a public hearing and consideration. If approved the applicant will have 180 days to be under substantial construction at the reserved location, failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the license. In addition the building will need to be completed within 12 months of approval. If extenuating circumstances make cause for the building to not be completed within the 12 month period the applicant can make a request to the City Manager for an extension of up to 180 days to complete the work.

Council discussion included whether or not to limit the number of licenses allowed, items for sale in package stores, proximity requirements from college campuses and between package stores, square footage requirements, and inventory requirements.

Directive was given to remove lottery sales and check cashing services from being allowed in package stores, include a 3,000 square footage minimum, a 1,000 yard proximity between package stores, and include the process for a reservation license application.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk