



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

**2. Invocation and Pledge**

Marcus Toole gave the invocation and Councilmember John Riggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Tangie Johnson	Councilmember	Absent	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
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 recognizing February 20, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Statesboro and recognition of the City's participation in the Tree City USA program.**

Mayor McCollar read a proclamation recognizing February 20, 2026, as Arbor Day in the City of Statesboro, highlighting the importance of trees for environmental benefits, economic vitality, and community beautification.

Shawn Diddy, Chair of the Statesboro Tree Board, announced that the Arbor Day event would be held on Saturday, February 21, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Marvin Park. The event will include community organizations, native plant displays, and a tree planting ceremony to honor the life of Henry Clay, who served on the Tree Board for approximately 40 years. The event will also feature a tree raffle where attendees can bring food or pet food donations to receive raffle tickets.

Parker Dukes from the Georgia Forestry Commission presented the Tree City USA flag to the City, recognizing Statesboro's 33 consecutive years of participation in the program.

**4. Public Comments (Agenda Item):** None

**5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda**

**A) Approval of Minutes**

**a) 01-20-2026 Work Session Minutes**

**b) 01-20-2026 Council Minutes**

A motion was made to approve consent agenda.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

**6. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02: A Resolution to award a contract to Gilbert & Associates to provide Grant Writing and Administrative Services for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-02**: A Resolution to award a contract to Gilbert & Associates to provide Grant Writing and Administrative Services for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

**7. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-03: A Resolution to award a contract to Parker Engineering, LLC to provide engineering services for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The project will be funded by CDBG funds and 2025 SPLOST funds for the local match.**

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-03: A Resolution to award a contract to Parker Engineering, LLC to provide engineering services for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The project will be funded by CDBG funds and 2025 SPLOST funds for the local match.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

**8. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-04: A Resolution accepting the street rights of way of Lakeview Pines Way and a portion of Shortleaf Way within the Lakeview Pines Subdivision Phase 1 as public streets to be owned and maintained by the City of Statesboro.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-04**: A Resolution accepting the street rights of way of Lakeview Pines Way and a portion of Shortleaf Way within the Lakeview Pines Subdivision Phase 1 as public streets to be owned and maintained by the City of Statesboro.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

**9. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-05: A Resolution accepting the street rights of way of Corral Court, Longhorn Court, Cowbell Circle, Timber Road, Pasture Lane, and Haystack Hollow within the Stockyard West Subdivision Phases 1 and 2, as public streets to be owned and maintained by the City of Statesboro.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-05**: A Resolution accepting the street rights of way of Corral Court, Longhorn Court, Cowbell Circle, Timber Road, Pasture Lane, and Haystack Hollow within the Stockyard West Subdivision Phases 1 and 2, as public streets to be owned and maintained by the City of Statesboro.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

**10. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-06: A resolution to adopt the first amendment to the City of Statesboro Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Fines for Fiscal Year 2026.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-06**: A resolution to adopt the first amendment to the City of Statesboro Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Fines for Fiscal Year 2026.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

- 11. Consideration of a motion to approve a joint Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Statesboro, Georgia and the Board of Commissioners of Bulloch County, Georgia to request their local legislative delegation in the General Assembly of Georgia to take necessary action to provide funding to assist in extending the City of Statesboro’s water and sewer system to the Statesboro-Bulloch County Airport; to repeal prior conflicting resolutions or ordinances; to establish an effective date; and for other purposes.**

A motion was made to approve a joint Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Statesboro, Georgia and the Board of Commissioners of Bulloch County, Georgia to request their local legislative delegation in the General Assembly of Georgia to take necessary action to provide funding to assist in extending the City of Statesboro’s water and sewer system to the Statesboro-Bulloch County Airport; to repeal prior conflicting resolutions or ordinances; to establish an effective date; and for other purposes.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

- 12. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of three Poligon bus stop shelters from Hasley Recreation, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$65,000.00, to be funded by 2018 TSPLOST funds under ENG-134b.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of three Poligon bus stop shelters from Hasley Recreation, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$65,000.00, to be funded by 2018 TSPLOST funds under ENG-134b.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

- 13. Consideration of a motion to approve a Contract Amendment 1 with TR Long Engineering in the amount of \$44,000 on the ENG-115b Blue Mile Phase 2 engineering design contract, to be funded by 2018 TSPLOST funds.**

A motion was made to approve a Contract Amendment 1 with TR Long Engineering in the amount of \$44,000 on the ENG-115b Blue Mile Phase 2 engineering design contract, to be funded by 2018 TSPLOST funds.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

- 14. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of a contract to Cornerstone H20, LLC for the purchase of a Smith & Loveless Pista Grit Screw Conveyor in the amount of \$65,747.00. This item to be purchased with funds approved in the 2026 CIP Budget, item #WTP-15, funded by Aid-to-Construction (ATC) fees.**

A motion was made to approve an award of a contract to Cornerstone H20, LLC for the purchase of a Smith & Loveless Pista Grit Screw Conveyor in the amount of \$65,747.00. This item to be purchased with funds approved in the 2026 CIP Budget, item #WTP-15, funded by Aid-to-Construction (ATC) fees.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

- 15. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of a contract to Truck Country of Indiana for the purchase of a new Autocar Yard Spotter Truck per Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract in the amount of \$135,000.00. This item to be purchased with funds approved in the FY2026 CIP Budget, items WTP-19, funded by system revenues.**

A motion was made to approve an award of a contract to Truck Country of Indiana for the purchase of a new Autocar Yard Spotter Truck per Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract in the amount of \$135,000.00. This item to be purchased with funds approved in the FY2026 CIP Budget, items WTP-19, funded by system revenues.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

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

James Hagan expressed concerns about the Flock Safety automated license plate readers being installed in Statesboro. He described them as AI-powered traffic cameras that photograph every vehicle, recording data such as license plates, make and model. While acknowledging their use in law enforcement, he raised four concerns: privacy violations, potential for abuse by law enforcement, risk of false identifications that could lead to dangerous confrontations, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities with Flock Safety's systems.

Mr. Hagan requested that the City reconsider renewing the Flock Safety contract and conduct a safety audit to determine whether the system presents dangers to citizens. He emphasized that he supports law enforcement but believes the system's risks outweigh its benefits.

Police Chief Mike Broadhead responded to these concerns, acknowledging the balance between security and freedom. He explained that the cameras only capture images of public roadways, not private property. He provided examples of the system's effectiveness in solving crimes, including a recent shooting case where the suspect vehicle was identified within minutes and a murder case where a victim's stolen vehicle was tracked to Cincinnati, leading to the arrest and confession of the suspect. He noted that the department has recovered 30 stolen vehicles using the system in the past year.

The Chief explained that the department controls potential abuse through policies that specify appropriate use of the system, with violations potentially resulting in termination. He confirmed that the system can flag vehicles with expired registration or no insurance, but officers have discretion in setting filters for what violations they want to monitor.

Mayor McCollar suggested that Mr. Hagan meet with Chief Broadhead to discuss his concerns further and noted that the City has an IT team focused on cybersecurity.

## **17. Other Business from City Council**

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr thanked local churches that opened warming shelters during the recent cold weather, specifically mentioning Trinity Episcopal. She also reminded everyone about the Arbor Day celebration on February 21 at 10:00 AM at Marvin Park and mentioned that Trinity Episcopal will host a sustainable art festival on February 28 at 10:00 AM.

## **18. City Managers Comments**

City Manager Charles Penny made several announcements:

- The Mayor's State of the City address will be held on February 24 at 7:00 PM in the Emma Kelly Theater at the Averitt Center.
- The first public information meeting regarding the fire service fee will be held on Monday, February 9. Fire Chief Tim Grams and a consultant will explain why the City is considering this fee and how other communities have implemented it. Mr. Penny noted that the City is currently operating the fire department with an internal loan, and by July 1, the City will need to decide between a millage rate increase or a fire service fee.
- The Downtown Live concert series will begin in April with performances by:
  - Liquid Pleasure on April 9
  - Seventy's Kids on April 30
  - Elizabeth as Taylor on May 14
  - Y2K Kids on May 28
  - The Tams on June 11
  - Papa Soul on June 25

All concerts will begin at 7:00 PM.

**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 9:49 am a motion was made to enter into executive session to discuss real estate in accordance with OCGA 50-14-3(b).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

At 9:59 am a motion was made to exit executive session.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

Mayor McCollar called the regular meeting back to order with not action taken in executive session.

**20. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk