



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 07, 2023

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

9:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr called the meeting to order

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember Venus Mack gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Absent	
Phil Boyum	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
Venus Mack	Councilmember	Present	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Absent	
Shari Barr	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Public Information Officer Layne Phillips, City Attorney Cain Smith and City Clerk Leah Harden

3. Recognitions / Public Presentations:

A) Presentation of a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day in the City of Statesboro and recognizing the 30th anniversary of the City's participation in the Tree City USA Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr read the proclamation recognizing February 17th, 2023 as Arbor Day in the City of Statesboro and presented it to Assistant Public Works Director Marcos Trejos.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

- a) **01-17-2023 Work Session Minutes**
- b) **01-17-2023 Council Minutes**
- c) **01-17-2023 Executive Session Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

6. Second Reading and Consideration of a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance amending Section 2-85 of the Statesboro Code of Ordinances regarding membership of the Statesboro Business Commission.

A Motion was made to approve Second Reading and Consideration of a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01: An Ordinance amending Section 2-85 of the Statesboro Code of Ordinances regarding membership of the Statesboro Business Commission.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

7. Public Hearing & Consideration of a Motion to approve a Package Distilled Spirits Location Reservation:

**GATA Package, LLC DBA GATA Package
Tormenta Way
Statesboro, Ga 30458**

A motion was made to approve open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

No one spoke for or against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember
SECONDER:	Councilmember
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve a Package Distilled Spirits Location Reservation to GATA Package, LLC DBA GATA Package located on Tormenta Way Statesboro, Ga 30458.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

8. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03: A Resolution pledging to practice and promote civility in the City of Statesboro.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2023-03: A Resolution pledging to practice and promote civility in the City of Statesboro.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

9. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04: A Resolution requesting approval to apply for Assistant to Firefighters Grant for the City of Statesboro, Georgia.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2023-04: A Resolution requesting approval to apply for Assistant to Firefighters Grant for the City of Statesboro, Georgia.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

10. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05: A resolution approving acceptance of proceeds of the 2023 Georgia Power Company volunteer group Citizens of Georgia Power chapter grant.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2023-05: A resolution approving acceptance of proceeds of the 2023 Georgia Power Company volunteer group Citizens of Georgia Power chapter grant.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

11. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2023-06: A resolution approving acceptance of grants from the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.

Councilmember Phil Boyum asked what this grant will obligate the City to if we accept these funds.

City Manager Charles Penny stated these funds are geared more towards park improvements verses the actual creek project itself. At this time improvements to the park have not really been defined in its entirety. So what we are doing is banking funds for the future improvement of that facility. The project is still being designed, an update will be presented sometime in March or April.

Councilmember Boyum asked at what point do we decide whether to move forward with the project or not. We seem to be spending a lot of money designing a project that may not generate the economic development benefit we think it will.

Mr. Penny stated at some point we will get to a place to make a decision but we need to finish the design first and there is an element of the project the city is not paying for, which is for private development. At some point this year council should be receiving a presentation from the Blue Mile Foundation showing what the thoughts are for the development of that area. One thing we have to remember about this project is first it is a stormwater management project which is the piece the city is dealing with. Beyond that we are reducing the flood plain and increasing the amount of land available for development. Currently we are using mostly grant money for the project. We also have a line of credit of \$15.5 million of which we have drawn approximately \$6,000.00 to activate the loan.

Councilmember Boyum stated his concern that the reservoir for ground water storage has been completely removed from the original project. As a result the economic benefit and water management benefit has significantly decreased. There's no reservoir, the floodplain benefit is greatly reduced, and costs have gone up by nearly 40%.

Mr. Penny stated there is a design going on with the anticipation of a reservoir. At this point if this Council decided today that you want to stop the project all you have to do is say that. We're spending grant funds and folks are doing a lot of work with the thought that this is going to help improve that corridor and the economic impact study did say there was about an eighty million dollar economic impact.

Councilmember Venus Mack asked if we accept these funds what amount we would have to match.

Mr. Penny stated it's about \$500,000.00 that will be paid out of the GEFA loan which is the line of credit we already have.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2023-06**: A resolution approving acceptance of grants from the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

12. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2023-07: A Resolution establishing the Statesboro Youth Council.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2023-07**: A Resolution establishing the Statesboro Youth Council.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

13. Consideration of a motion to award the purchase of eleven (11) vehicles to J.C. Lewis Ford of Statesboro, GA at a total not to exceed price of \$463,878.00 with approval to purchase from alternate vendor(s) based on J.C. Lewis Ford unit pricing in the event J.C. Lewis Ford cannot fill all of these vehicle purchases due to lack of available inventory.

A motion was made to award the purchase of eleven (11) vehicles to J.C. Lewis Ford of Statesboro, GA at a total not to exceed price of \$463,878.00 with approval to purchase from alternate vendor(s) based on J.C. Lewis Ford unit pricing in the event J.C. Lewis Ford cannot fill all of these vehicle purchases due to lack of available inventory.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

14. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to D. Lance Souther, Inc. in the amount of \$297,651.65 for the installation of 8000’ of 4” and 2” gas main on North Main St. (Lakeview Road) to serve Fernhill Farms Subdivision. To be paid for with Natural Gas Fund Operating Revenue funds.

A motion was made to award a contract to D. Lance Souther, Inc. in the amount of \$297,651.65 for the installation of 8000’ of 4” and 2” gas main on North Main St. (Lakeview Road) to serve Fernhill Farms Subdivision. To be paid for with Natural Gas Fund Operating Revenue funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

15. Consideration of a motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$906,898.70 with McLendon Enterprises for West Main Street stormwater drainage improvements. This project will be paid by 2018 TSPLOST funds.

A motion was made motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$906,898.70 with McLendon Enterprises for West Main Street stormwater drainage improvements. This project will be paid by 2018 TSPLOST funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

16. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated that the CDC puts out a floating indicator about COVID spread, it has been low but is been going back up to medium spread and encourages everyone to take care of themselves and to get vaccinated. Also if you are in a large crowd wear your mask and help keep the spread down.

17. City Managers Comments: None

18. Public Comments (General):

Susan Riley signed up to address council regarding procedures related to zoning and annexation stating, there were errors in the city’s procedure of the recently approved annexation of 41 acres on Beasley Road. Mrs. Riley went on to say, state law mentions property to be annexed is also to be rezoned. In addition another section requires a detailed report made available to the public 10 days before the annexation and that the notification requirement to the school system was not met either. Mrs. Riley asked that the city rescind its action of the annexation on January 17, 2023 of 41 acres on Beasley Road.

Blake Roberson signed up to inform council about Eagle Advocates an organization that is coming back to Georgia Southern. The organization’s mission is to educate, inform, and empower. Mr. Robinson introduced the organization’s Vice President Sierra Childs and stated they are not yet registered with the University and are hoping to be up and running in the fall.

19. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss “Personnel Matters” in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).

At 9:55 am a motion was made enter into executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

At 10:23 am a motion was made to exit executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr called the regular meeting back to order with no action taken in executive session.

A motion was made to appoint Catherine Dixon to the Statesboro Planning Commission.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

20. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember John Riggs

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 pm.

Shari Barr, Mayor Pro Tem

Leah Harden, City Clerk