



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 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

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|-------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Jonathan McCollar | Mayor | Present | |
| Tangie Johnson | Councilmember | Present | |
| 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 Life Saving Award to APO Leah Carrera.

Statesboro Police Chief Mike Broadhead presented a life-saving award to Advanced Patrol Officer Leah Carrera, who has been with the department for approximately six years. The citation described how on January 9, 2026, Officer Carrera was dispatched to a motor vehicle crash. After her investigation, she agreed to transport an elderly male from the scene to a nearby location. Once there, the man suddenly became unresponsive, stopped walking, and collapsed. Officer Carrera managed to slow his fall to the ground, recognized he was in distress with no breathing or pulse, called for assistance, and began CPR. Her actions successfully revived the man, who began breathing again and regained color in his face. Her immediate response clearly saved his life, and she was commended for her professionalism and attention to duty.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 02-03-2026 Council Minutes

b) 02-03-2026 Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve consent agenda.

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| RESULT: | Approved (Unanimous) |
| MOVER: | Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr |
| SECONDER: | Councilmember Tangie Johnson |
| AYES: | Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr |
| ABSENT: | |

6. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve APPLICATION V 26-01-01: Melessia Wade-Smith requests a Variance to the permitted uses allowed in the O (Office and Business) zoning district, in order to establish a hair salon at 57 Granade Street (Tax Parcel# S52 000042 000).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

Melessia Wade-Smith the applicant spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION V 26-01-01**: Melessia Wade-Smith requests a Variance to the permitted uses allowed in the O (Office and Business) zoning district, in order to establish a hair salon at 57 Granade Street (Tax Parcel# S52 000042 000).

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

7. Public Hearing & Consideration of a Motion to approve application for an alcohol license in accordance with The City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13 (a)

- a) **Annie’s Nail Salon LLC**
Owner: Tom Pham
1098 Bermuda Run, Suite 4
License Type: Low Volume (by the drink)

- b) **Azul on Gentilly LLC**
Owner: Lorena Cisneros
608 Brannen St.
License Type: Restaurant (by the drink)

- c) **B&T Food Fresh**
Owners(s): John Triplett/Clark Brunson
620 Fair Rd.
License Type: Package Sales (beer & wine only)

- d) **B&T Food Fresh**
Owner(s): John Triplett/Clark Brunson
Location: 2949 Northside Dr. West
License Type: Package Sales (beer & wine only)

Councilmember Ginny Hendley recused herself from this item.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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| RESULT: | Approved (Unanimous) |
| MOVER: | Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr |
| SECONDER: | Councilmember John Riggs |
| AYES: | Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr |
| ABSENT: | |

No one spoke for or against the applications.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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| RESULT: | Approved (Unanimous) |
| MOVER: | Councilmember Tangie Johnson |
| SECONDER: | Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr |
| AYES: | Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr |
| ABSENT: | |

A motion was made to approve an application for an alcohol license in accordance with The City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13 (a) for **a)** Annie’s Nail Salon LLC, Owner: Tom Pham, located at 1098 Bermuda Run, Suite 4, for License Type: Low Volume (by the drink); **b)** Azul on Gentilly LLC, Owner: Lorena Cisneros, located at 608 Brannen St., for License Type: Restaurant (by the drink); **c)** B&T Food Fresh, Owners(s): John Triplett/Clark Brunson, located at 620 Fair Rd., for License Type: Package Sales (beer & wine only); and **d)** B&T Food Fresh, Owner(s): John Triplett/Clark Brunson, located at 2949 Northside Dr. West, for License Type: Package Sales (beer & wine only).

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

8. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-07: A Resolution to convey roughly three foot wide segment of city right-of-way along West Vine Street to Walnut & Vine, LLC and Boro Beverages, LLC.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-07: A Resolution to convey roughly three foot wide segment of city right-of-way along West Vine Street to Walnut & Vine, LLC and Boro Beverages, LLC.

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

9. Consideration of a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and RISEUP Addiction Recovery Support Center regarding the placement of a harm reduction box on City Property at BIG campus.

A motion was made to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and RISEUP Addiction Recovery Support Center regarding the placement of a harm reduction box on City Property at BIG campus.

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| RESULT: | Approved (Unanimous) |
| MOVER: | Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr |
| SECONDER: | Councilmember Ginny Hendley |
| AYES: | Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr |
| ABSENT: | |

10. Consideration of a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Bulloch County and the City of Statesboro for roadway improvements and maintenance on Burkhalter and Cawana Roads.

A motion was made to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Bulloch County and the City of Statesboro for roadway improvements and maintenance on Burkhalter and Cawana Roads.

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| RESULT: | Approved (Unanimous) |
| MOVER: | Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr |
| SECONDER: | Councilmember John Riggs |
| AYES: | Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr |
| ABSENT: | |

11. Consideration of a motion to approve a contract amendment with Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC on Task Order 8: Lake Sal Design and Permitting, in the amount of \$5,000, to be funded by 2013 SPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve a contract amendment with Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC on Task Order 8: Lake Sal Design and Permitting, in the amount of \$5,000, to be funded by 2013 SPLOST funds.

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

12. Public Comments (General):

Sue Palmer addressed the Council regarding her concerns about water fees. She expressed that the proposed \$20 per household water fee would affect people on limited incomes, who make up a significant portion of Statesboro's population. She argued that while she appreciates nice things, the city needs to focus on cleaning up and maintaining existing infrastructure before adding new fees. Ms. Palmer mentioned that she has been paying \$66 yearly for stormwater management but has never seen the ditches cleaned in the Statesboro High area. She also expressed concern about the limited number of compliance officers (two) responsible for cleaning up the city and emphasized that the city should make Statesboro beautiful in a way that doesn't financially burden residents on fixed incomes.

Mayor McCollar responded that the city covers 16 square miles with 34,000-35,000 residents, and staff is working hard to improve conditions. He assured Ms. Palmer that no decisions had been made yet regarding the water fees, and she was welcome to discuss her concerns further.

13. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr announced several upcoming community events:

- The city's Arbor Day event on Saturday, which will include planting a tree in honor of Henry Clay, a raffle, and a tree giveaway. Attendees bringing dog food, cat food, or people food to donate would receive extra chances to win trees. The event will be held from 10 AM to noon at Marvin Park off Highway 67.
- An arts and crafts fair using sustainable materials at Trinity Episcopal Church on Saturday, February 28th from 10 AM to 2 PM.
- She reminded residents that applications for the Youth Connect summer job program for high schoolers, which pays \$10 per hour, are now open on the city's Facebook and web pages.

14. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny highlighted several items:

- The new "Reflections Magazine," an annual report is being mailed to all city utility customers within the next two weeks.
- An upcoming historical marker dedication will take place on Sunday, February 22nd at 3 PM near Louetta Moore Park for the Van Buren Cemetery/Hospital on Elm Street. The marker, being erected during Black History Month, honors Dr. Van Buren, an African American doctor who opened a hospital in the community. A reception will follow at the Carroll Jones Building.
- The State of the City address scheduled for February 24th at 7 PM at the Emma Kelly Theatre, where the mayor typically presents keys to the city to important community members.

15. 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 5:59 pm a motion was made to enter into executive session to discuss Personnel Matters in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b).

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

At 6:04 pm, a motion was made to exit executive session.

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

A motion was made to appoint Charity Lynn and Helen Hathcock to the Keep Statesboro Bulloch Beautiful Advisory Board.

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| RESULT: | Approved (Unanimous) |
| MOVER: | Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr |
| SECONDER: | Councilmember Tangie Johnson |
| AYES: | Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr |
| ABSENT: | |

16. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk