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CITY OF STATESBORO  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2020

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Mayor & Council Work Session

58 E. Main St. Joe Brannen Hall

4:00 PM

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A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on February 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at Joe Brannen Hall, 58 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McCollar; Council Members: Phil Boyum, Paulette Chavers, Venus Mack, John Riggs and Shari Barr. Also present was City Clerk Leah Harden, City Attorney Cain Smith, City Manager Charles Penny.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jonathan McCollar.

**1. Public Safety Reports**

**a) Fire**

Statesboro Fire Chief Tim Grams presented the 2019 statistics for the Statesboro fire service. These statistics include total number of calls, incident responses, fire safety & prevention and training & personnel development. The average number of training hours per individual is 347 hours per year. Service types include fire suppression, rescue, hazardous condition, prevention, false alarms, severe weather etc. Calls of service is when we are contacted to do any activity in the community, prevention activities, smoke detectors, fires things of that nature. Chief Grams reviewed the prevention activities, public education inspections and smoke detector installation.

**b) Police**

Statesboro Police Chief Mike Broadhead started with staffing issues stating about 26 percent of persons interviewed are actually hired. The remaining percentage either withdrew or failed to complete the application process or disqualified during the interview process. Other disqualifications are background check and psychological evaluation. Training is a priority with the Statesboro Police Department. The State requires 20 hours of training per year; each of our officers receives on average 181 hours per year. In June of 2019 we changed our reporting systems from Uniform Crime Report, UCR, to National Incident Based Reporting System, NIBRS. The difference between the two systems is NIBERS is more inclusive and requires a lot more information whereas in UCR you report the most serious crime at the incident. Chief Broadhead shared violent crime statistics stating burglary is on a steady decline. Other enforcement numbers, include written citations, written warnings, and arrests. Vehicle crashes public and private are a big concern in the community. When we can get our staffing up we have positions for crash reduction unit, their main purpose will be trying to reduce crashes.

**2. Creek on the Blue Mile Update**

George Kelly, with Freese and Nichols and the Project Manager for the Creek on the Blue Mile reviewed with Mayor and Council the overall concept for this project. The project is broken down into three phases, with the key features of floodway mitigation water supply maintaining flow with a focal point being a creek park with walking paths on either side of the creek with economic development.

Phase I of the project is flood and feasibility evaluation, includes dam and reservoir considerations with the primary goal of floodplain mitigation.

Phase II is the site and feasibility evaluation. This phase starts next month and continues through September. Items that will be studied during this phase are safe yield analysis, geotechnical exploration, geological

study, water quality testing (surface & groundwater), and environmental studies. These are done in order to see what the impacts will be from the project. Water sampling has already started; as it is required to test water in all 4 seasons. There is a lot of regulatory consideration that needs to be made in this project. The agencies that we will be dealing with are US Army Corp of engineers, Environment Protection Division (State), Wildlife Resource Division (State), US Fish & Wildlife Service (National), Environment Protection Agency (National), and Historic Preservation Division.

Phase III is the regulatory and permitting feasibility study results. This phase will be coordinating with these agencies to find out what their requirements are. The Feasibility Study in itself is really the deliverable in this phase. When we get to that point, we will know there are possibilities for the project and decisions to move forward will need to be made.

### **3. Community Redevelopment Incentive Tax**

City Manager Charles Penny stated Council approved the Community Redevelopment Incentive Tax or Blight Tax on December 17 2019. After it passed, the Mayor reduced the multiplier from 7.0 to .01. By that action, Council tabled that matter to be brought back on February 18, 2020. Mr. Penny explained the blight tax is a tool used to encourage reinvestment, rehabilitation, or removal of deteriorated or dilapidated properties. The standard for blight tax to be imposed two of the following factors must be present; the property must be uninhabited, inadequate provisions for ventilation, light, air or sanitation, imminent harm to life of property, repeated illegal activity on the individual property, and maintained below City Standard for a year. This ordinance is law on the books. The decision now is to leave it in place as it is or override the Mayors reduction of the multiplier.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm