



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
JANUARY 20, 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**

Councilmember Tangie Johnson 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. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None**

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

**A) Approval of Minutes**

a) 02-17-2026 Work Session Minutes

b) 02-17-2026 Council Minutes

c) 02-17-2026 Executive Session Minutes

**B) Consideration of a motion to approve the surplus of firearms that have been forfeited or are evidence that are no longer needed for prosecution.**

A motion was made to approve consent agenda item A.

**RESULT:**

Approved (Unanimous)

**MOVER:**

Councilmember Tangie Johnson

**SECONDER:**

Councilmember Ginny Hendley

**AYES:**

Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr

**ABSENT:**

A motion was made to approve consent agenda item B.

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

**5. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve application of an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13(a):**

- a) **Blue Mile Catering**  
**Owner(s): Blue Mile Catering LLC**  
**Location: 434 South Main Street**  
**License Type: Low Volume**

**Councilmember Ginny Hendley recused herself from this agenda item.**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

No one spoke for or against the application.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve the application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13(a), issued to Blue Mile Catering, Owner(s): Blue Mile Catering LLC,,Location: 434 South Main Street, License Type: Low Volume.

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

**6. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-09: A Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for recertification for Locally Administered Projects, the execution of the related documents and providing assurances of compliance.**

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2026-09: A Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for recertification for Locally Administered Projects, the execution of the related documents and providing assurances of compliance.

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

**7. Consideration of a motion to approve a Development Agreement with Walnut & Vine, LLC to use \$272,821 in TAD funds for installation of private infrastructure within the development commonly known as Hop Atomica located at 6 Walnut Street within in the South Main Tax Allocation District.**

Mayor Pro Tem Shri Barr expressed interest in meeting the owner and requested that at a future meeting for staff to provide a review of existing TADs, their status, and how folks can access those funds. Mayor McCollar suggested this could be a work session topic.

Smith Matthews, representing the project with his brother, came forward to address council. He thanked council for the opportunity to do business in Statesboro, including the zoning change to allow the distillery and the sale of the small piece of property for the handicap ramp. He described the TAD assistance program as amazing and said it would help them complete the project properly. Matthews noted they have faced many challenges renovating the historic building and dealing with financing complexities, but the TAD opportunity would help push them over the finish line. He expressed gratitude and looked forward to being a great business for downtown Statesboro.

Council allowed Matthews to give a presentation about the project. He showed renderings of the old United Appliance building renovation, explaining that TAD funds would go toward the exterior appearance of the building.

Matthews described their existing Savannah location, which has been in business for almost six years. He explained their vision of supporting local farms, making everything on-site from scratch, and being community-based. The Statesboro location will be a wood-fired pizza place with brewery and distillery, with all food made in-house.

The TAD support will enable extensive renovation of the historic warehouse. The funds would be used to modernize exterior lighting, stucco and masonry repairs, decorative fencing and handrails, window and door canopies, roof upgrades, new exterior doors and windows, paint, and sidewalk improvements that would extend the planned streetscape improvements around the corner down West Vine Street.

Matthews described several challenges they've faced: building appraisal came in lower than expected, reducing their lending capacity; structural issues including a poorly designed beam; delays with state financing (taking 8-9 months instead of the quoted 4 weeks); and expensive environmental assessments to ensure no contamination from old dry cleaning operations in the area.

Mathews stated the project is currently under construction with a projected opening of August or September.

A motion was made to approve a Development Agreement with Walnut & Vine, LLC to use \$272,821 in TAD funds for installation of private infrastructure within the development commonly known as Hop Atomica located at 6 Walnut Street within in the South Main Tax Allocation District.

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

**8. Consideration of a motion to approve Amendment 2 to the Environmental Protection Division Section 319(h) FY 22 Grant for stream restoration in Little Lotts Creek watershed.**

A motion was made to approve Amendment 2 to the Environmental Protection Division Section 319(h) FY 22 Grant for stream restoration in Little Lotts Creek watershed.

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

**9. Consideration of a motion to reject bids for CIP Project #WWD-111: Bruce Yawn Commerce Park Well.**

A motion was made to approve the rejection of bids for CIP Project #WWD-111: Bruce Yawn Commerce Park Well.

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

**10. Consideration of a motion to approve Change Order #3 in the amount of \$109,320.00, to Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. to be paid for with Operating Income funds included in CIP projects #WWD 14, 187, and 188.**

A motion was made to approve Change Order #3 in the amount of \$109,320.00, to Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. to be paid for with Operating Income funds included in CIP projects #WWD 14, 187, and 188.

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

**11. Public Comments (General): None**

**12. Other Business from City Council: None**

**13. City Managers Comments:**

City Manager Charles Penny announced that the March Work Session will not be held due to the Mayor and Council retreat scheduled for March 20 - 21 in Augusta.

Mr. Penny recognized two city employees Sad'e Canty and Krista Cooper for their exceptional customer service. We received two correspondence from citizens praising their exceptional service. He also commended the IT Department for their quick identification and resolution of a recent hardware failure.

Mr. Penny highlighted the recent Arbor Day event, thanking the Tree Board and all participants. Additionally he noted that the second phase of Bryant's landing is underway. A letter of support will be submitted for the third phase, which would add an addition 50 affordable housing units if the tax credits are approved.

Mr. Penny concluded his report with recognition of the Finance Department for its excellence in financial reporting. A presentation will be held at the next Council Meeting recognizing March 16th-20th as Public Finance Professionals Week.

**14. 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 9:24 am a motion was made to enter into executive session for discuss real estate in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b).

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

At 9:33 am a motion was made to exit executive session.

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

**15. 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 Tangie Johnson
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk