



**CITY OF STATESBORO
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 20, 2020**

A work session of the Statesboro City Council was held on May 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor Jonathan McCollar, Council Members: Phil Boyum, Paulette Chavers, John Riggs and Shari Barr. Also present was City Clerk Leah Harden, City Attorney Cain Smith, City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Finance Director Cindy West and Public Information Officer Layne Phillips. Councilmember Venus Mack was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jonathan McCollar.

Review of the Proposed City of Statesboro Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget.

City Manager Charles Penny presented the manager proposed annual operating budget. He reviewed budget objectives, challenges, unknowns, and the Fiscal Year 2021 proposed budget highlights. An increase of Storm water fee of \$1.05 per ERU and no property tax increase.

Compensation and Benefits review included phase III of the pay plan, retirement contributions increased due to retirement requirement changes adopted in FY 2020 and proposal of no increase in employee premiums.

Mr. Penny covered items that would not be budgeted this fiscal year including City Branding, Small Business Recruiter, Downtown Master Plan, no transfer to General Fund Capital Improvements and Laserfiche upgrade. He went on to review proposed appropriation levels on operating funds and then went on to review FY 2021 proposed property tax rates. Comparing the millage rates between the Board of Education, Bulloch County and the City of Statesboro. The City is the least of the three.

Mr. Penny reviewed revenue trends and current and future challenges such as promoting regional identity, addressing employee benefit costs, advancing a creative, inclusive, professional culture and growing our Central City. Mr. Penny stated to balance our budget for this fiscal year we have implemented a conditional hiring freeze for non-public safety positions, no new positions are authorized in FY2021, “hold line” on operating cost and keeping capital outlay/CIP within planned limits.

General fund highlights review included Public Safety, Statesboro Fire Service, General Capital Fund, Water & Sewer Fund Storm Water Fund, Gas Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund, Solid Waste Disposal Fund, Fleet Maintenance Fund and Central Service Fund.

Director of Finance Cindy West reviewed with Mayor and Council the FY2021 Budget going over the General Fund budget summary and reviewing each line item in this fund.

Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles reviewed each budget for the City.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar stated we have had an economic hit due to COVID and the Downtown Master Plan leading to the Blue Creek is an essential project. We are now competing

with other communities who now share the GSU Brand. We need to plan for the future. As we look at this budget, we need to find the funds to continue with Downtown revitalization.

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated we need to make Statesboro a destination outside of the University.

There was not action taken at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm