



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MAY 21, 2024

Mayor & Council Work Session

50 East Main Street

4:00 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on May 21, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 50 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McCollar and Council Members: Paulette Chavers, Ginny Hendly, John Riggs and Shari Barr. Also present was City Clerk Leah Harden, City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles and Senior IT Specialist Alan Schleder. Absent was Councilmember Phil Boyum.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr called the meeting to order.

1. Quarterly Financial Report

Director of Finance Cindy West presented the third quarter financial report of Fiscal Year 2024, reviewing revenues and expenditures in the General Fund, Fire Service Fund, Water/Sewer Fund, Stormwater Fund, Natural Gas Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund and the Solid Waste Disposal Fund. Revenues in the General fund is showing an increase over the prior year. General fund expenditures are up this year prior to last year due to the new pay plan, but we are still under budget. Ms. West also reviewed the SPLOST distribution had a big increase in January and a decrease in February but it's on the uptick and the TSPLOST distribution funds follow the same trend as SPLOST. The Hotel/Motel tax revenue is trending higher than in FY 2023.

4:08 Councilmember Paulette Chavers arrived

2. GDOT Proposal for Fair Road and Veterans Memorial Parkway

Director of Public Works John Washington presented the GDOT Road Safety Audit for SR 67/Fair Road to Veterans Memorial Pkwy. There are safety concerns with the alignment of the intersections adequate for all vehicular movements, left turns into oncoming traffic at non-signalized intersections, multiple businesses with driveways located at or near the intersections, high volume for service demand resulting in vehicle stacking at intersections of Fair Road and Veterans Memorial Pkwy with multiple signal cycles also rollovers and crash events at intersection for Fair Road and Veterans Memorial Pkwy. The improvements that are needed; eliminate multiple conflict points at commercial drives with left and right turns into oncoming traffic with installation of a raised median, realign intersections with SR 67 to improve viewing angle, convert minor intersections to right in/right out only, and high traffic volume service demand results in extended vehicle stacking in turn lane(s) on Fair Road at the bypass. GDOT engineer recommends replacing traffic signal with roundabout at Fair Road/Bypass intersection and are asking for the City's support.

4:30 Councilmember Ginny Hendley arrived.

3. Development Process – Zoning to Final Plat

Director of planning Kathy Field presented the development process stating it is an interactive process with planning, public works and the engineering department. Mrs. Fields reviewed the process flow start beginning with initial meetings with Right Start every Thursday, zoning approval, plan submission & review, preliminary subdivision, land disturbance activity permit, final plat, building permit issuance, CO inspection and close closeout.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr asked about the silk fencing.

John Washington stated they are allowed to move what vegetation they have to, to get the silk fencing in. It is a standard procedure that the area has to be cleared for them to do that, in some cases they will clear more out but it is generally in the area they are going to be constructing their residential development.

4:49 pm Mayor Jonathan McCollar arrived.

4. Development Map Demo

Director of planning Kathy Fields presented interactive maps, the purpose is to ensure consistent communication with the public as well as Mayor and Council regarding development. The department of planning, in collaboration with central services, has developed real-time mapping. Multiple maps are being developed to ensure the public is informed to include large-scale residential development, commercial development, zoning, council districting, and future land use/ character area. The maps will be available on the City of Statesboro website under “Planning and Development” starting June 1st 2024, and be updated on the weekly basis.

5. Transit Update One Year After Implementation

Director of Public Works and Engineering John Washington gave an update on the Statesboro Area Transit. It has been a year and it is continuing to grow, we have two routes, the red and the blue. The blue route has 20 bus stops, 2 bus shelter locations, the most popular stops are at EGRMC and Cambridge at Southern. The red route has 19 bus stops, 2 bus shelters and the popular stops are the health department and Walmart Supercenter. In the budget we do have enough to add more shelters, we will take in considerations and public input. We have had over 14,000 passengers, over 118,000 miles and operated over 10,000 hours. Financially FY 2024 the total local match (TSPLOST) funds are \$138,750. FY 2025 budget includes expansion to 8 buses, 2 additional buses per route, the new buses have a 2 year delivery timeline. The annual revenue (TSPLOST) is \$600,000, the total local match (TSPLOST) funds are \$436,719. Program improvements include the additional bus shelters at popular/requested bus stops, this will impact current operations with longer wait times and bus time between stops, there are 3 bus bench/shelter requests and 9 bus stop requests. Transit consultant will be hired to perform analysis to coordinate added routes and stops. We do not have any updates on the fare card, right now it is a cash system, and we also hand out vouchers that help families that need it.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk