



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
June 03, 2025

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Regular Meeting	50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers	9:00 AM
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**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

**2. Invocation and Pledge**

Councilmember Ginny Hendley 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) **05-13-2025 Budget Work Session Minutes**
- b) **05-20-2025 Work Session Minutes**
- c) **05-20-2025 Council Minutes**
- d) **05-20-2025 Executive Session Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

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

## 5. Public Hearing to solicit input on the proposed FY2026 Budget for the City of Statesboro.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<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>	

City Manager Charles Penny reviewed the FY 2026 proposed budget highlights. Objectives include retaining and recruiting exceptional employees, emphasis on utility infrastructure growth, tax base and revenue growth as well as an emphasis in public safety. The overall budget is a 6% decrease from FY 2025 with an 8% increase in the General Fund. There are no increases in personnel. There are several city fees slated for an increase to help fund critical infrastructure and debt service including water & sewer, stormwater, gas, solid waste collection, and solid waste disposal. Compensation and benefits reflect a 4% pay plan adjustment as recommended by Condrey & Associates; continue pay for performance and no increase in employee health premiums. We want to continue to position Statesboro for growth in the region, grow our downtown center, keep the pay plan up to date, and continue to advance a creative, inclusive, and professional culture. Revenue trends show a 7.5% increase in General Fund Revenues a 12% growth in the property tax digest based on information we received from the tax assessor and then our franchise fees remain flat. Mr. Penny reviewed the tax rates for Bulloch County, Board of Education, and Statesboro. He explained that a one-mil increase for the county would generate about \$3.5 million but a one-mil increase for Statesboro would generate about \$1.1 million. The county has a much larger tax base to draw from. We are not recommending a tax increase however in order to balance the budget we will use \$928,755 in fund balance from the General Fund and still be able to maintain the 25% required in fund balance per city policy. It is important to note that the city does not make any products but our greatest asset are our employees. The General Fund budget highlights the fact that nearly 65% of it is salary and benefits costs. The General Fund budget increased expenditures for FY2026 include salaries & benefits, credit card fees, police cloud storage, police Taser contracts, and electricity for streetlights. The Fire Fund highlights are fire station 3 anticipated to be online by July 1, 2026. There a study of the feasibility of a fire fee is in progress and a report from the consultant will be made at the next work session. Mr. Penny explained that the Fire Service fund was the most difficult due to the loss of the Fire District Tax of \$2.3 million. Staff recommends loans from the water/sewer - \$1.8 million, natural gas - \$680,000, and solid waste collection - \$707,000, enterprise funds to be repaid over ten years. It is important to note this can be done only once. Statesboro has a Class Two Fire Department and our citizens expect good service. Mr. Penny continued with review of the water & sewer fund, stormwater fund, natural gas fund, solid waste collection and solid waste disposal fund highlighting a 10% fee increase in each fund in order to address infrastructure needs and future debt obligations. Capital project priorities include housing rehabilitation, sewer installation in unserved areas, and enhanced roadways, sidewalks, and intersection improvements to accommodate growth. The FY 2026 budget is financially sound with strong reserves and continued growth in property values. This budget does not reflect a tax base increase from any of the approved new developments.

No one spoke for or against the proposed FY 2026 budget for the City of Statesboro.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr thanked Mr. Penny and staff for the well organized and easy to understand budget report. She also appreciated the narrative that we are continuing to advance a creative and inclusive city as well as the creative solution to dealing with the loss of the fire district tax.

Councilmember John Riggs asked what the 25% fund balance is for this budget.

Mr. Penny stated it is about \$7.5 million.

There was discussion about new developments and when they would be on the tax digest.

**6. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance 2025-03: An Ordinance amending Statesboro Code of Ordinances Section 18-105 regarding professional occupational taxes for attorneys.**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

No one spoke for or against Ordinance 2025-03.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<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>	

A motion was made to approve the first reading and to move forward for the second reading of **Ordinance 2025-03**: An Ordinance amending Statesboro Code of Ordinances Section 18-105 regarding professional occupational taxes for attorneys.

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

**7. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10: A Resolution approving the City of Statesboro's proposed amendment of the FY2025 Street Resurfacing Program, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Local Road Assistance Grant Application. The project CIP item is ENG-128; no local matching funds are required.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2025-10**: A Resolution approving the City of Statesboro's proposed amendment of the FY2025 Street Resurfacing Program, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Local Road Assistance Grant Application. The project CIP item is ENG-128; no local matching funds are required.

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

**8. Consideration of approval of Resolution 2025-11: A Resolution adopting the maximum tariff rates by towing and storage operators engaged in Non-Consensual Towing.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2025-11**: A Resolution adopting the maximum tariff rates by towing and storage operators engaged in Non-Consensual Towing.

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

**9. Consideration of a motion to approve the Statesboro Police Department Towing Rotation and Wrecker Agreement for FY 2026.**

A motion was made to approve the Statesboro Police Department Towing Rotation and Wrecker Agreement for FY 2026.

<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>	

**10. Consideration of a motion to rescind the previous approval of the application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartment for funding under the Security Enhancement Incentive Program in the amount of \$19,969.50 and to approve an amended application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartment for funding under the Security Enhancement Program in the amount of \$9,969.50 subject to the fulfillment of all eligibility requirements.**

A motion was made to rescind the previous approval of the application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartment for funding under the Security Enhancement Incentive Program in the amount of \$19,969.50 and to approve an amended application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartment for funding under the Security Enhancement Program in the amount of \$9,969.50 subject to the fulfillment of all eligibility requirements.

<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>	

**11. Consideration of a motion to approve two lease renewal agreements with Georgia Southern University for a (1) year term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 for 58 East Main Street and 62 East Main Street.**

A motion was made to approve two lease renewal agreements with Georgia Southern University for a (1) year term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 for 58 East Main Street and 62 East Main Street.

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

**12. Consideration of a motion to approve a contract with Southern Asbestos Abatement Co. to conduct asbestos abatement at 31 Lovett Street (Tax Parcel S08 000039 000).**

A motion was made to approve a contract with Southern Asbestos Abatement Co. to conduct asbestos abatement at 31 Lovett Street (Tax Parcel S08 000039 000).

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

**13. Consideration of a motion to approve a contract with JRD, LLC to demolish multiple structures on the City Demolition List.**

A motion was made to approve a contract with JRD, LLC to demolish multiple structures on the City Demolition List.

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

**14. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of a set of battery-operated vehicle extrication equipment in the amount of \$35,450.00. This purchase will be paid for from 2019 SPLOST funds.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a set of battery-operated vehicle extrication equipment in the amount of \$35,450.00. This purchase will be paid for from 2019 SPLOST funds.

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

**15. Consideration of a motion to approve purchase of a new diesel pump in the amount of \$59,869.46 from Xylem Dewatering Solutions for use by the Solid Waste Disposal Division at the Landfill. This item, SWD-12, is funded by Solid Waste Disposal Operating Income revenues.**

A motion was made to approve purchase of a new diesel pump in the amount of \$59,869.46 from Xylem Dewatering Solutions for use by the Solid Waste Disposal Division at the Landfill. This item, SWD-12, is funded by Solid Waste Disposal Operating Income revenues.

<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>	

**16. Consideration of a motion to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$33,750 with Atlas Technical Consultants for a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study of a segment of Little Lotts Creek for the West Main St./Johnson St./MLK Dr. Intersection Improvements Project. This work is funded from TSPLOST funds.**

A motion was made to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$33,750 with Atlas Technical Consultants for a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study of a segment of Little Lotts Creek for the West Main St./Johnson St./MLK Dr. Intersection Improvements Project. This work is funded from TSPLOST funds.

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

**17. Consideration of a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Youth Career Commission to provide residential development opportunities to underserved juvenile and young adult citizens of the City of Statesboro.**

A motion was made to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Youth Career Commission to provide residential development opportunities to underserved juvenile and young adult citizens of the City of Statesboro.

<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>	

**18. Other Business from City Council**

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr asked if the last concert that was postponed had been rescheduled. Assistant to the City Manager Olympia Gaines stated it has been rescheduled to August 21, 2025. The next concert is Thursday June 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

**19. City Managers Comments**

City Manager Charles Penny announced the promotion of Matt Aycock as the new Director of Public Utilities Director and Justin Williams as the new Director of Planning and Development. He then reviewed a few items in the FYI Packet. The first item was a memo regarding GDOT's proposed widening of I-16 from Hwy 67 to interstate 95. The next item was about the All American City competition in Denver Colorado taking place at the end of June. Another memo addressed the technical issue with body worn, dash mounted video at the Statesboro Police Department, and they have been working with Motorola with moving to the new process. An email from Police Chief Mike Broadhead commending Morris Heights for the progress they have made with their security and working to make the neighborhood safe. The city has been awarded \$1.3 million in CHIP grant funds for the Pine Street area project.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr announced the opening of applications for the Keep Statesboro Bulloch Beautiful Advisory Board. The last day to submit an application is Friday, June 13, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

Mr. Penny announced that Youth Connect program has begun and this year we have 38 students. There will be a recognition program for all the Youth Connect students on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

Mayor McCollar expressed his grief over the loss of two children Emily Mayo (9) and Landyn Wilkerson (4) in our community last week. Our hearts go out to the families of these two children. We extend our prayers, our love, and our



condolences and ask for healing for those families. There are no words to ease the pain, but sometimes it helps to know you have a community that is going to surround and support you.

## **20. Public Comments (General):**

Len Fatica reminded everyone that an election is going on right now for the Public Service Commission and urged people to get out and vote. He also shared that with hurricane season upon us, Bulloch VOAD is actively preparing for potential disasters.

Marcus Toole representing Bulloch Habitat thanked Agape Worship Center for their contribution to the Pine Street project.

Mayor McCollar announced that a candlelight vigil has been set for Wednesday evening June 4, 2025 at 7:00 pm on the Bulloch County Courthouse lawn.

## **21. 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).**

No executive session was held.

## **22. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn.

<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>	

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk