



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 06, 2023

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

9:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember Paulette Chavers gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Phil Boyum	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
Venus Mack	Councilmember	Absent	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present	
Shari Barr	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Public Information Officer Layne Phillips, City Attorney Cain Smith and City Clerk Leah Harden

3. Recognitions/Public Presentations:

A) Presentation to the Finance Department for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award for the City of Statesboro FY 2023 Budget.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar presented to the City's Finance Department the Distinguished Budget Award for the City of Statesboro FY 2023 Budget. This award is awarded through the Government Finance Officers Association and is the City's nineteenth consecutive year receiving this award.

B) Recognition of Cindy West, Director of Finance for completing the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's Public Finance Leadership Academy.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar recognized Director of Finance Cindy West for her completion of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's Public Finance Leadership Academy.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

- a) 05-09-2023 Budget Work Session Minutes
- b) 05-16-2023 Work Session Minutes
- c) 05-16-2023 Council Minutes
- d) 05-16-2023 Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

6. Public Hearing to solicit input on the proposed FY2024 Budget for the City of Statesboro.

A Motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

City Manager Charles Penny reviewed the FY 2024 budget in brief and budget assumptions.

No one spoke for or against the request.

A Motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated he has concerns about all the spending and the lack of new revenues. A 25% increase in the budget in one year is a lot and if we don't start focusing on revenue growth we cannot continue to raise prices over time.

Mr. Penny stated that in order to increase our revenues the city has to grow its tax base. In the past year council has approved 700 townhomes and two subdivisions and an annexation will be coming to you in at the next meeting. We need to work on extending our water and sewer infrastructure as we are limited on revenue sources.

Mayor McCollar stated that a lot of the increase in the budget is due to ARPA funds and agrees with the extension of water and sewer infrastructure along with a need to build our city in such a way to sustain the growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr voiced her concerns with a mileage rate increase with the current inflation and the impact an increase has on property owners.

No action was taken.

7. Public Hearing and Consideration of a motion to approve application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13 (a):

Clarke Beverages II

607 Brannen Street, Suite I

Statesboro, Ga 30458

License Type: Package Sales: Beer, Wine, and Distilled Spirits

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

No one spoke for or against the request.

A Motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

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 Clarke Beverages II, located at 607 Brannen Street, Suite I, Statesboro, Ga 30458 for the License Type: Package Sales: Beer, Wine, and Distilled Spirits.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

8. Public Hearing and first reading of Ordinance 2023-05: An ordinance amending Sections 2-55 and 2-57 of the Statesboro Code of Ordinances in order to expand One Boro Commission membership to sixteen members and to incorporate the mission and scope of authority of the Healthy Boro Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

Karen Naufel spoke in favor of the request.
No one spoke against the request.

A Motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated his concern about increasing the voting membership to 16 members. Membership of any board over 11 is cause for non-consensus and things not getting done.

A Motion was made to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-05: An ordinance amending Sections 2-55 and 2-57 of the Statesboro Code of Ordinances in order to expand One Boro Commission membership to sixteen members and to incorporate the mission and scope of authority of the Healthy Boro Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee.

RESULT:	Approved 3-1
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Venus Mack
NAYS:	Councilmember Phil Boyum

9. Consideration of a motion to approve the Statesboro Police Department Towing Rotation and Wrecker Agreement for FY2024.

A motion was made to approve the Statesboro Police Department Towing Rotation and Wrecker Agreement for FY2024.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

10. Consideration of a motion to approve an easement with the Bulloch County Historical Society to place a historical marker on City of Statesboro property adjacent to the Art Park, recognizing the Dover & Statesboro Railroad.

A motion was made to approve an easement with the Bulloch County Historical Society to place a historical marker on City of Statesboro property adjacent to the Art Park, recognizing the Dover & Statesboro Railroad.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

11. Other Business from City Council

a) Discussion regarding work session procedure.

City manager Charles Penny stated that at the last council work session there were a couple of motions voted on for the use of funds for housing and technology insecurities. There was a concern raised by Councilmember Phil Boyum and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr as to the procedural aspects of work sessions.

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated it is his stance the governing body has an obligation to citizens to make policy decisions in business meetings. A work session is an informational meeting and should be treated as such and from a public standpoint a work session is educational. Even though policy decision making in a work session is legal, it doesn't mean it should be done. There is a trust aspect here. The number one problem in government today is that people don't trust us, and it's because we are not clear, concise, and consistent.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar stated decision making in a work session is something cities all across the nation do and our work sessions are a place for the governing body to direct staff.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated she felt different to make a motion and a majority approve it, from staff just asking for direction. So if we're going to make a difference about taking votes in a work session then we all need to know that we're making that change.

Councilmember John Riggs stated he feels that we have come close to voting on things in work session and that he wants to make decisions in City Council meetings.

12. City Managers Comments

City manager Charles Penny stated that the 3rd year of the city doing Youth Connect began about a week ago with 33 your people. Mr. Penny thanked Village Builders Coordinator Dr. LaSara Mitchell and Human Resource Director Demetrius Bynes for their hard work making Youth Connect a success.

Mr. Penny announced the next Downtown Live will be on June 29th with the Grapevine Band.

The city is hosting an open house for the proposed zoning and development code changes on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The open house will allow the community to review the proposed changes and provide input and will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Statesboro First United Methodist Church located at 101 South Main Street.

Mr. Penny stated that the Elk's Lodge located on James Street is seeking to apply for an alcohol license. They had one in the past even though it is located in a residential zone but back in 2019 the building burned and the new building has just been completed. The grandfathering time for an alcohol license has run out for them to reapply. The only way to move forward is to have council's approval to accept their alcohol application for consideration.

Councilmember Phil Boyum requested a summary of the history of activity around the Elks Lodge before making a consideration.

The city is getting ready to send out bid proposals for the Housing Rehabilitation Program for 20 more homes. City staff has awarded 6 contracts for housing rehabilitation. In addition with reconstruction as an option, it is recommended that policy amendments be made to the Housing Rehabilitation Program Administrative Guidelines to accommodate a longer affordability period, as well as a process to ensure future affordability. The amendment will be placed on the next council agenda for consideration.

Mr. Penny stated this summer the Police Department is launching a program called "Roadway Assist" which will utilize two interns who will drive a work truck in order to provide assistance to stranded or disabled vehicles. The program is designed to save officer time and return sworn officers to their zones in order to free up patrol time. A report will be submitted at the end of the summer regarding the effectiveness of the program.

The city has been informed by DCA that we did not satisfy all the necessary requirements for the Whitesville CDBG grant application. We will continue working to prepare this application for submission in early 2024.

Governing body pay has not been increased since 2006. Mr. Penny asked if council would like to move forward with a recommendation for an increase. It was decided to wait until the next meeting when Councilmember Venus Mack is in attendance in order to make a decision.

City Clerk Leah Harden stated she has been informed that the Greener Boro has five openings not just the one as stated in the FYI memo.

13. Public Comments (General):

Michael Pratt signed up to speak about ice cream truck regulations in Statesboro. Mr. Pratt stated he is unable to get a license to drive around Statesboro and sell ice cream.

City Manager Charles Penny stated we will do some research and report back to council in the next two weeks and see what policy or direction we can recommend.

Kevin Lewis started by apologizing to Councilmember Paulette Chavers. Mr. Lewis stated his reason for being here is because there seems to be a gang problem in Statesboro and that the city needs to hire more police officers.

14. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss “Real Estate” and “Potential Litigation” in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).

At 10:42 am a motion was made to enter into executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

At 11:15 am a motion was made to exit executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Councilmember Venus Mack

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the regular meeting back to order.

A Motion was made to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Bulloch County regarding the Beasley Road annexation.

RESULT:	Approved 3-1
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Venus Mack
NAYS:	Councilmember Phil Boyum

15. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

RESULT:

Approved (Unanimous)

MOVER:

Councilmember John Riggs

SECONDER:

Councilmember Paulette Chavers

AYES:

Boyum, Chavers, Riggs, Barr

ABSENT

Councilmember Venus Mack

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk