



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
JULY 16, 2024

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr called the meeting to order

**2. Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr read the pledge to practice civility that was adopted by Mayor and Council in February 2023 she then read a word of inspiration and Councilmember John Riggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McColлар	Mayor	Absent	
Phil Boyum	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present Via Zoom	
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 Information Officer 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) 06-18-2024 Council Minutes

b) 06-18-2024 Executive Session Minutes

**B) Consideration of a motion to approve the surplus of two 2014 Dodge Chargers that are no longer serviceable in the Statesboro Police Department.**

**C) Consideration of a motion to approve the surplus and disposition of multiple items in the Public Works and Engineering Department.**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

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

**5. Public Hearing and Consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION RZ 24-06-01: Joe Buckles requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the LI (Light Industrial) zoning district to the HOC (Highway Oriented Commercial) zoning district to allow for use of a commercial property at 2735 Northside Drive West (Tax Parcel # S08 000072 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

No one spoke for or against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve APPLICATION RZ 24-06-01: Joe Buckles requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the LI (Light Industrial) zoning district to the HOC (Highway Oriented Commercial) zoning district to allow for use of a commercial property at 2735 Northside Drive West (Tax Parcel # S08 000072 000).

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

**6. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION RZ 24-06-02: Horizon Homebuilders requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-2 (Townhouse Residential) zoning district to the R-4(High-Density Residential) zoning district on a portion of a 39.97 acre property located on Abbey Road & East Main Street (Tax Parcel # MS82000035 000).**

Planning Director Kathy Field stated currently the property is zoned for townhome development. The applicant would like to amend the zoning on a small section of the property to allow for the development of a cottage court directly south of a property owned by Enmarket. The original sketch plan does not align with the existing cottage court standards however the applicant has since submitted a sketch plan to bring it into conformance with the Unified Development Code. The property to the north is zoned HOC and the home of a future Enmarket and Veterans Memorial Parkway on the south side. The sketch plan shows a 10 foot vegetative buffer and a 20-foot building setback along the Enmarket property as well as along Veterans Memorial Parkway. Because of the incompatible uses, the vegetative buffer should increase to at least 20 feet as well as the 20-foot building setback. Staff recommends denial of the rezone due to the lack of alignment with the surrounding development area. If this petition is approved by the mayor and city council it should be subject to the applicant's agreement to the following, 1. Approval of this zoning map amendment does not grant the right to develop on the property. All construction must be reviewed and approved by the city and 2. The property will be required to meet the standards of Section 2.4.2 (C) with the initial submission of the preliminary Subdivision PLAT. At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission held on July 2, 2024 the Commission recommends denial of the application by a 4-3 vote.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

Haydon Rollins with Hussey Gay Bell spoke on behalf of the developer in favor of the rezone. He stated the portion of property is a one acre triangle parcel that has no marketability. He continued stating the plans have been reconfigured to align with the City of Statesboro Unified Development Code for a cottage court. The provisions in the UDC are specific to developments like this and they have met all the requirements.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

There was council discussion regarding this development being so close to a gas station with a car wash and the disruption it may cause to the residence who live there.

Haydon Rollins stated the proposed development allows for 20 foot buffer and the gas station will have a buffer on their side as well. The Enmarket station will be in place before these homes are built. So, it won't be a situation where the potential buyer is misled.

Planning Director Kathy Field stated she feels that an additional 20 feet vegetative buffer needs to be included in the plans due to the gas station and car wash.

Direction was given for staff to speak with the applicant in order to determine what the final plan should be.

A motion was made to table **APPLICATION RZ 24-06-02**: Horizon Homebuilders requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-2 (Townhouse Residential) zoning district to the R-4(High-Density Residential) zoning district on a portion of a 39.97 acre property located on Abbey Road & East Main Street (Tax Parcel # MS82000035 000) until the second meeting in August.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved 4-1
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS</b>	Councilmember Phil Boyum

**7. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION SUB 24-06-03: Lotts Creek Capital, LLC requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT on 16.54 acres of property in order to develop a townhouse subdivision of approximately 111 units on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel MS40000074A000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

Haydon Rollins with Hussey Gay Bell spoke on behalf of the developer in favor of the request. He stated this plat meets all the requirements for the Unified Development Code for the R-2 zoning. There are over two acres dedicated to amenity space, street trees, landscape buffers, as well as a landscape dedicated plan. There is over an acre and a half of preserved wetlands as well as preferred wood preserved wooded uplands. The developer is providing extra detention that will help alleviate some issues that are currently taking place on Cypress Lake Road with flooding. A traffic study will be done pending this approval and we move to the next step.

Rob Brannen stated he is the son of Bob Brannen who has property just to the south of the proposed development. He stated he has concerns with the increased traffic on Cypress Lake Road and the danger it could impose on all who may travel that road. He also voiced his concern with stormwater runoff and the potential for increased flooding in the area.

Glenora Martin representing the residents of Sugar Hill stated they have concerns about the increased traffic as well as the impact this development will have on public safety. They also have concerns with the large detention pond and the possible dangers it may impose to the patients at Bethany Homes and the children in the area.

Shirley Martin Thompson stated her concerns with the possibility of increased crime in the area. She asked about considering reducing the amount of units in order to preserve the natural scenery.

Dr. Dan Weathers who lives just south of the development shared his concerns with the density of the housing and believes it is excessive for the area he also has concerns with the increased traffic.

Darrin VanTassel stated his concerns with increased traffic and asks that a regional traffic study be completed before construction.

Becky Livingston, an attorney for Bethany Assisted Living which is located across the road from the development. She stated these same concerns came up when Bethany was expanding years ago and at that time they were not allowed to have an entrance off of West Jones in this area. She also voiced her concerns about the lack of a second entrance for fire safety reasons.

Susan Rodovich stated she is concerned about the lack of another access point to the development and that all the traffic will be going onto Cypress Lake Road. Also the possibility of flooding that could occur in the area.

Ken Ritchie spoke about issues with the increased traffic in the area.

Haydon Rollins stated he understands and respects all the concerns. The layout hasn't changed much since the rezoning. A traffic study will start immediately after approval which is standard for Statesboro projects and we will do whatever it takes whether it's a decel lane or a left turn lane to help alleviate the traffic concerns. As to the concerns about stormwater we will work to improve those by Georgia Law. The goal is to improve the area after we are finished. We have included the buffers that are required by the ordinance but we are not opposed to if its needed to put a fence up on our side where the open side is on the Brannen side as it currently does not have any vegetation. If it is something we have to do we understand but that's something above and beyond the ordinance as it is written today.

Mr. Brannen stated we have a big traffic problem and the developer is going to come back with small neighborhood traffic impact plan. He asked that this item be tabled until they come back with a regional plan that would take into consideration all the problems along that road.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

Councilmember Ginny Hendley stated she would need a little more time to decide on this one.

Councilmember John Riggs stated he has traffic concerns as well,

Councilmember Phil Boum stated this is a residential road that became a connector road. There has been a lot of development and this one development is not the "one" that will cause traffic issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated her concern is the lack of a second road going to the development.

After further council discussion direction was given to City Staff to meet with the developer and surrounding residents of the development to determine if there can be some resolution to the concerns that were brought up today.

A motion was made to table **APPLICATION SUB 24-06-03**: Lotts Creek Capital, LLC requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT on 16.54 acres of property in order to develop a townhouse subdivision of approximately 111 units on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel MS40000074A000) until the second meeting in August.

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

**8. 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):**

**Raisin A Toast, LLC dba Eggs Up Grill**  
**137 Tormenta Way**  
**Owner(s): Ashley & Nate Pennington**  
**License Type: Restaurant**

**Sugar Magnolia Coffeehouse, Inc.**  
**100 Brampton Ave., Suite 1-I**  
**Owner: Caroline Joyner**  
**License Type: Low Volume**

**Antoinette Café Kitchen LLC**  
**193 West Main Street**  
**Owner(s): Samere Bay, Nikira Boggs**  
**License Type: Restaurant**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

Samere Bay and Nikira Boggs spoke in favor of their alcohol license application for Antoinette Café Kitchen. No one spoke against any of the applications.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13(a): issued to Raisin A Toast, LLC dba Eggs Up Grill located at 137 Tormenta Way, owned by Ashley & Nate Pennington for License Type: Restaurant; Sugar Magnolia Coffeehouse, Inc. located at 100 Brampton Ave., Suite 1-I, owned by Caroline Joyner for License Type: Low Volume; and Antoinette Café Kitchen LLC, located 93 West Main Street, owned by Samere Bay, Nikira Boggs, for License Type: Restaurant.

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

**9. 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):**

**Jay Food Mart**  
**500 East Main Street**  
**Owner: Vinod Kumar Chaudhari**  
**License Type: Package Sales – Beer and Wine only**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13(a): issued to Jay Food Mart located at 500 East Main Street owned by Vinod Kumar Chaudhari, for License Type: Package Sales – Beer and Wine only.

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

**10. Consideration of a motion to approve an amendment of Interlocal Agreement with Bulloch County to authorize the Statesboro Bulloch County Land bank Authority to exercise powers granted under Article 4 of OCGA Title 48.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**11. Consideration of a motion to approve a joint Resolution with Bulloch County to appoint John Robinson as the fifth member of the Statesboro Bulloch County Land Bank Authority.**

A motion was made to approve a joint Resolution with Bulloch County to appoint John Robinson as the fifth member of the Statesboro Bulloch County Land Bank Authority.

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



**12. Consideration of a Motion to approve the restatement of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.**

A motion was made to approve the restatement of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.

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

**13. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2024-19: A Resolution to accept a grant from Georgia City Solutions for \$500.00 to implement a placemaking project designed by the Statesboro Youth Council.**

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2024-19: A Resolution to accept a grant from Georgia City Solutions for \$500.00 to implement a placemaking project designed by the Statesboro Youth Council.

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

**14. Consideration of a motion to approve award a contract to NEOGOV in the amount of \$37,554.67 to provide an HRIS (human resources information system) platform to assist with recruiting, orienting, and evaluating employees.**

A motion was made to approve award a contract to NEOGOV in the amount of \$37,554.67 to provide an HRIS (human resources information system) platform to assist with recruiting, orienting, and evaluating employees.

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

**15. Consideration of a motion to approve an application submitted by UP Statesboro, LLC dba Cambridge @ Southern – the Pines and the Scion Group for funding under the Security Enhancement incentive Program in the amount of \$20,000.00.**

A motion was made to approve an application submitted by UP Statesboro, LLC dba Cambridge @ Southern – the Pines and the Scion Group for funding under the Security Enhancement incentive Program in the amount of \$20,000.00.

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

**16. Consideration of a motion to approve an application submitted by UP Statesboro, LLC dba Cambridge @ Southern – the Palms and the Scion Group for funding under the Security Enhancement incentive Program in the amount of \$20,000.00.**

A motion was made to approve an application submitted by UP Statesboro, LLC dba Cambridge @ Southern – the Palms and the Scion Group for funding under the Security Enhancement incentive Program in the amount of \$20,000.00.

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

**17. Consideration of a motion to approve an application submitted by Copper Beech Townhome Communities Twenty One, LLC dba Copper Beech Statesboro and Scion Group for funding under the Security Enhancement incentive Program in the amount of \$20,000.00.**

A motion was made to approve an application submitted by Copper Beech Townhome Communities Twenty One, LLC dba Copper Beech Statesboro and Scion Group for funding under the Security Enhancement incentive Program in the amount of \$20,000.00.

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

**18. Consideration of a motion to approve a Development Agreement with 202 West Main Street, LLC to use \$50,000 in TAD funds for funding assistance for The Garage project within Statesboro TAD 1 (aka, Downtown TAD, South Main TAD).**

A motion was made to approve a Development Agreement with 202 West Main Street, LLC to use \$50,000 in TAD funds for funding assistance for The Garage project within Statesboro TAD 1 (aka, Downtown TAD, South Main TAD).

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

**19. Consideration of a motion to authorize the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia to transact with Southern Natural Gas on behalf of the City of Statesboro to permanently acquire firm capacity through the South System 4 project in the amount of 350 Dekatherm/day to be effective in 2028 after the South System 4 is complete.**

A motion was made to authorize the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia to transact with Southern Natural Gas on behalf of the City of Statesboro to permanently acquire firm capacity through the South System 4 project in the amount of 350 Dekatherm/day to be effective in 2028 after the South System 4 is complete.

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

**20. Consideration of a motion to approve Change Order #1 of the Candler County Industrial Park Project with Southern Utility Group in the amount of \$57,800.00 to extend unit prices for installation of a 4" natural gas main on Akins Boulevard. To be paid for with Operating Income funds from CIP Project NGD-11.**

A motion was made to approve Change Order #1 of the Candler County Industrial Park Project with Southern Utility Group in the amount of \$57,800.00 to extend unit prices for installation of a 4" natural gas main on Akins Boulevard. To be paid for with Operating Income funds from CIP Project NGD-11.

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

**21. Consideration of a motion to approve Change Order #2, in the amount of \$78,455.00, to Southern Civil for the Blower and Pump Upgrades Project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant to be paid for with Operating and ATC funds included in the project budget #WTP-24, that was approved by council on 8-9-23.**

A motion was made to approve Change Order #2, in the amount of \$78,455.00, to Southern Civil for the Blower and Pump Upgrades Project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant to be paid for with Operating and ATC funds included in the project budget #WTP-24, that was approved by council on 8-9-23.

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

**22. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to Mark Turner Grading, Inc. in the amount of \$275.00 per hour (not to exceed a total cost of \$120,000) to complete a water service line inventory by excavation and verification of approximately 636 existing water services. This project will be funded by Operating Revenues.**

A motion was made to award a contract to Mark Turner Grading, Inc. in the amount of \$275.00 per hour (not to exceed a total cost of \$120,000) to complete a water service line inventory by excavation and verification of approximately 636 existing water services. This project will be funded by Operating Revenues.

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

**23. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to Hussey Gay Bell Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$79,100 to provide survey, design, permit, bid and contract administration services for the extension of sanitary sewer services to the Quail Run subdivision. If approved, this project will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as approved in FY2025 CIP Project WWD-32-H.**

A motion was made to award a contract to Hussey Gay Bell Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$79,100 to provide survey, design, permit, bid and contract administration services for the extension of sanitary sewer services to the Quail Run subdivision. If approved, this project will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as approved in FY2025 CIP Project WWD-32-H.

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

Councilmember Phil Boyum announced he will be resigning from his seat effective August 1, 2024. The following are his words as he says goodbye to the City of Statesboro.

“For real this time I am officially announcing my resignation from the Statesboro City Council seat for District one as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. I will be moving out of Statesboro to be closer to my parents. It was 12 years ago when former Councilman Blitch announced his resignation and I decided to run for the seat. At that time the city’s reserve funds were almost zero. Our Police department was struggling and our top management was frequently in flux. Twelve years later, the city’s finances and credit rating are in great shape. We have one of the finest police departments in the State and our management team is rock solid. Now, let me be clear, I am not taking any credit for these improvements. The credit goes to our dedicated staff and our hardworking and talented people.

What’s changed in 12 years? Well, we’ve got two new TAD projects that brought us a new Publix development and the new south main beautification project. Sorry, we couldn’t get the Red Lobster but you know, they went out of business. So, you’ll have to deal with the Publix. We’ve got a new dog park. We’ve got a new art park. We’ve got a new water park and we’ve got a lighted basketball court. We have more sidewalks than ever and our roads are smoother than ever before. We have a new bus system, a new visitor’s center, and a new Unified Development Code that’s driving hundreds of new housing starts for the community. And that’s just really the tip of the iceberg. All of this is amazing. So, this bears repeating. Well Council has guided the decisions and been at the top of the pyramid so to speak, it’s been our fantastic staff that has done all the work. They put in the hours, the legwork, the typing, the meetings. They have done all the work. This is the legacy that I’m most proud of. Putting together a management team that’s forward thinking, strategic minded, and dedicated to improving the quality of life for all its citizens while also being good stewards of our assets and our tax revenues.

I want to thank the citizens of District 1 for entrusting me with this position three times. I want to thank the Georgia Municipal Association for giving me the opportunity to serve at the state level in multiple positions. And of course, I want to thank all of our un-convicted council members with whom I have served as well as our city manager and mayor. And the three mayors I’ve served with. Most importantly I want again to thank the staff for their support and for their unbelievable tolerance and their patience as they taught me the intricate details of running a hundred million dollar city which is what we are today. I also want to make sure to thank our City Clerk Leah Harden and our former City Clerk Sue Starling. The council, the elected body could not do what we do without the hard work of our clerk. That’s not to take anything away from Charles or City Attorney Cain but you know she really does guide us through all the paperwork and the detail. So, I want to thank her as well as Sue Starling who did it for many years. That being said, it’s been an honor to serve and I leave the city in capable hands. It’s really an exciting time for Statesboro and the whole region and it’s going to be exciting to me to watch it develop from afar. Thank you again Statesboro for the opportunity to serve and good luck moving forward.

I will submit my resignation in writing to Cain and he’ll forward it to all you guys this week and then you should be able to schedule the special election.”

**24. Consideration of a motion to accept Councilman Boyum’s resignation as District 1 representative.**

A motion was made to accept Councilman Boyum’s resignation as District 1 representative effective August 1, 2024.

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

**25. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2024-20: A Resolution calling for a Special Election to fill the unexpired term of the vacant District One Council Seat, fixing the qualification fee for candidates, and authorizing publication.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**26. Other Business from City Council**

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr shared that the Food Bank will have a ribbon cutting Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 8:00 am and we are so pleased they are already in service and working towards being fully staffed and ready to serve. The date for Recycle Fest has been set for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm- 5pm in the downtown area. Also there is a social engagement at the City’s community garden located on Parker Street, on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 beginning at 6:30 pm.

**27. City Managers Comments**

City Manager Charles Penny thanked Councilmember Phil Boyum for his relationship these past five years. And stated that from a City Managers standpoint you really do challenge disadvantages so we appreciate that. I believe you will do well in whatever you do because you really are a very smart person and you have a thirst for learning. One more thing is the Art Park sorry we haven’t had a chance to cut the ribbon yet but we’re going to get that done. Art is to be installed in the next two weeks and then we’ll pick a date when you can be back in town for the ribbon cutting and dedication.

Earlier on the agenda were three applications for the use of funds from the security enhancement program. All three application were approved and so at this time the program is short \$17,844.50. Staff recommends using interest earning from the ARPA funds to replenish shortfall and will need approval from council to do so.

A motion was made to approve the use of an additional \$17,844.50 from ARPA interest earnings for the Security Enhancement incentive Program.

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

**ABSENT**

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Mr. Penny gave an update on the housing rehabilitation program. The city has committed \$5 million of ARPA funding to the program and we've been able to award 42 homes for rehabilitation and 3 homes approved for reconstruction. As of July 9<sup>th</sup> the city has awarded approximately \$3 million dollars for rehab and administration costs out of the \$5 million dollars. There are a number of residents who did not have the opportunity to apply before we closed the applications the first time. We would like to open up the application process again effective Monday for two consecutive weeks. We think we can rehab about 25 more homes with the money we have left. Council was agreeable to reopening the application process for housing rehabilitation program for two weeks beginning on Monday August 22, 2024.

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

**29. 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).**

There was no need to go into executive session.

**30. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn.

**RESULT:**

Approved (Unanimous)
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**MOVER:**

Councilmember John Riggs
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**SECONDER:**

Councilmember Ginny Hendley
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**AYES:**

Boyum, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
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**ABSENT**

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk