



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 21, 2020

Mayor & Council Work Session 50 E. Main St. Council Chambers City Hall 3:30 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on July 21, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 50 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McCollar; Council Members: Phil Boyum, Paulette Chavers, Venus Mack - Via Zoom, 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 and Public Information Officer Layne Phillips.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jonathan McCollar

1) Quarterly Financial Report

Director of Finance Cindy West gave a quarterly financial report of the FY 2020 Fourth Quarter, reviewing the revenue and expenditures in the General Fund, Statesboro Fire Fund, Water and Sewer Fund, Stormwater Fund, Natural Gas Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund and Solid Waste Disposal Fund.

2) One Boro Commission

April Schueths, Chairperson with the Statesboro Commission on Diversity and Inclusion “One Boro” introduced each of the members, and turned it over to Stacy Smallwood. Stacy Smallwood spoke on the Statesboro Equity and Inclusion Act. The Statesboro Equity and Inclusion Act is in two parts, part one is Equity & Data-Driven Decision Making and focuses on the following four; violence prevention, community programming, City of Statesboro Employee and Access Training, and measuring and monitoring a campaign for equity. Part two defines Discriminatory Practices for employment, housing, and public accommodations. Part 2 also includes procedures for filing a complaint if someone feels they are being discriminated against. The procedure following the complaint would be mediation and possible penalties. The City of Statesboro shall develop guidelines for the identification, investigation, documentation and reporting of hate crimes committed within the corporate limits of the City of Statesboro.

3) Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

City Attorney Cain Smith reviewed the Anti-Discrimination ordinance. Cain Smith drafted this ordinance using One Boro’s Equity package and looked at other municipal courts anti-discrimination ordinance passed in the State. The discriminatory actions in 80-2 of the proposed ordinance were kept, they are the same as One Boro had put up, and consistent with other municipal court ordinances. He suggested the number of days to file a complaint be changed from 60 to 180. The reporting of hate crimes is included in the ordinance. The complaint can be filed with the City Clerk for the fee of \$25.00 the offender will be served within 7 business days. Parties will be given the option of nonbinding mediation with the cost split between the two. If mediation is declined or not successful it will be referred to the Municipal Court Judge. The Judge could issue a fine up to \$500 for the 1st offense, up to \$1000 and/or suspension or revocation of OTC for any other violations. The two differences between the ordinances Cain drafted for first reading and the One Boro

is the complainant would have to show burden of proof. In addition, the complaint will not be heard by a Human Relations Committee it will go before the Municipal Court Judge. Mayor wanted to know how much work the City does with minority owned businesses. City Manager, Charles Penny stated that we are working on pulling that information. Mayor wants to bring both pieces together, equity piece and discrimination as well as economic piece. Making sure that we work with all businesses across the board. Bringing it back to the next work session in August to include all aspects of the equity package as presented by One Boro. Direction was given to the City Attorney to have the information available to Mayor and Council 3 business days before the meeting.

4) Youth Commission

Lanie Jenkins with Youth Commission reviewed with the mayor and council what their commission has been doing. They have created a Facebook page and website. In February 2019 a meeting with over 30 youth organizations leaders was held to discuss strategies for our youth. Over the past year the Youth Commission has attended and organized community youth events. They hosted a free youth gospel concert at Crossroads Community Church and put together an Inaugural youth retreat, which raised approximately \$11,000.00. Lanie also reviewed what is coming up, creating a youth strategic plan, creating children zones in the city, city mentoring program and city wide youth events. Council member Chavers asked if the youth were a part of the programming ideas. Lanie Jenkins stated they have tried recruiting, but only two showed up. They are looking into how to get more youth to come in. Council member Chavers asked for some of the entities that have been brought in to help. Those entities include youth readiness, Averrit center, Youth Career Camp, Track, Bulloch Co Parks and Recreation, along with other programs. Each one of those organizations are encouraged to take part. Council member Shari Barr gave the suggestion to reach out to those organizations and get them to nominate a youth to be a budding leader. Lanie said that they have an application but they have not get to the point of dispensing it and getting it out there. Mayor McCollar talked about how Keith Brown got the youth interacting at the retreat. He believes that COVID 19 slowed us down so that we can get prepared, he thanked them for everything that they have done for our youth.

5) Housing/Code Enforcement Report

Kathleen Fields, director of planning and development, introduced the new code compliance officers, Charles Brown and Jermain Foster. Kathleen Fields reviewed with Mayor and Council some of the improvements that have been made since we now have code compliance officers. These improvements include, overgrown lots, derelict vehicles, junk materials, dilapidated structures/demolitions, and miscellaneous cases (i.e. barking dogs, illegal dumping, stop work orders, sewage backup, etc.) There are three key factors for Neighborhood Revitalization. First key factor is Code enforcement. In order to strengthen code compliance the adoption of a Prevention Maintenance Ordinance, which will result in more focused citations and better support the efforts of our Code Compliance Officers. We will need to educate the public on the requirements of this Ordinance. The second key factor would be to activate the Statesboro-Bulloch County Land Bank Authority. The purpose of this authority is to promote affordable housing, to assemble tracts of land for public parks or other public purposes and to promote commercial ventures. The third key factor is funding sources. These sources include the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the Community Home Investment Program (CHIP Grant) and through the Statesboro Housing Authority, as they have access to federal funds for public-private partnerships for new developments or rehabilitation.

6) Parks Improvements

City Manager Charles Penny reviewed with Mayor and Council the estimated cost for improvements to Luetta Moore and Grady Street parks. The cost for both parks is about \$3.9 million. The funding source for these improvements come from SPLOST funds. Bulloch County committing \$1,000,000.00 and the City committing \$1,100,000.00 over the next five years. However, SPLOST is authorized through 2024. We are unsure if SPLOST will be authorized again. There was discussion regarding the remaining funded needed if both parks are done at the same time. The next step will be to engage Wood Inc. to design the parks project and work with our financial advisor on the financing structure. There was a consensus of Mayor and Council to have both parks done at the same time. There will be a contract on the August 4th agenda with Wood Inc. to begin the design work for both parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm