



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 18, 2020

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilman Phil Boyum gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDENCE**

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

Other staff present was: City Manager Charles Penny, City Attorney Cain Smith Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Public Information Officer Layne Phillips 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) **08-04-2020 Council Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda

**RESULT:**

Approved (Unanimous)

**MOVER:**

Councilmember John Riggs

**SECONDER:**

Councilmember Paulette Chavers

**AYES:**

Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr

**NAYS:**

5. **Public Hearing & Consideration of a Motion to approve application for an alcohol license Sec. 6-5:**

**Hunt Partners, LLC**

**DBA: Your Pie**

**701 Piedmont Loop Ste 200**

**Joseph Hunt**

A motion was made to open the public Hearing

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

A motion was made to approve application for an alcohol license for Hunt Partners, LLC DBA Your Pie located at 701 Piedmont Loop Ste 200.

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

6. **Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to approve APPLICATION RZ 20-07-01: Larry T. Douglas requests a zoning map amendment of 0.18 acres of property located at 849 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from R-6 (Single-Family Residential) to the CR (Commercial Retail) zoning district in order to utilize the property for commercial purposes (Tax Parcel S17 000030 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</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 Shari Bar
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve Application RZ-20-07-01.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**7. Consideration of a Motion to approve the acceptance of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) which has been awarded to the Statesboro Fire Department.**

A motion was made to approve the acceptance of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).

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

At 5:42 pm Councilmember Phil Boyum left the meeting

**8. Consideration of a motion to approve a Professional Services contract with Maxwell-Reddick and Associates, Inc. to provide design, bid, permitting, inspection and contract administration for Hwy 67 (Optim) water and sewer extension in the amount of \$63,500.00.**

A motion was made to approve a professional Services contract with Maxwell-Reddick and Associates, Inc., to provide design, bid, permitting, inspection and contract administration for Hwy 67 (Optim) water and sewer extension in the amount of \$63,500.00.

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

**9. Consideration of a Motion to set the dates for the required three (3) public hearings to solicit input regarding the millage rate of 7.308 for the 2020 property taxes. 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing August 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 9:00 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing August 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 6:00 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 at 9:00 am.**

A motion was made to approve the dates of three public hearing to solicit input regarding the millage rate of 7.308 for the 2020 property taxes.

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

At 5:46 pm Councilmember Phil Boyum rejoined the meeting

**10. Other Business from City Council**

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called on City Manager Charles Penny to review the Cares Act Funding as we did not get to it in the previous work session.

Charles Penny stated today we need some input from Mayor and Council about what we are proposing to do with the funds from the CARES Act. We are going to use our Public Safety personal cost in order to meet Phase I reimbursement. There is \$1.7 million that is available to us. We have \$517,000.00 that is already in the bank. We have submitted our first reimbursement request for that \$517,000.00. Once get approval of that we will make a request for the remaining \$1.7 million. We have a total of \$5.7 million that the state is sharing with us from the CARES Act. Instead of giving all the money to us at one time, they are giving it to us at 30 percent 35 percent and 35 percent. The first 30 percent has to be spent by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The recommendation is to hold any external financial commitments until mid-September to confirm the availability of Phase II CARES Act funding from the state. Phase II funds if available will be \$2,012,577. The proposed use of these funds include the loan loss reserve to release those enterprise funds, rental/mortgage assistance \$200,000.00, small business assistance \$200,000.00 with a max grant of \$2500.00, utility assistance \$200,000.00 with a maximum assistance of \$175.00, COVID-19 rapid testing done through South Georgia Family Medicine Associates, PC \$175,000.00 and purchases for the City to include laptops, improved software, website upgrades, vehicle purchases to ensure social distancing and thermal imaging for public buildings.

The agencies we will work with for these assistance programs will be United Way, Action Pact and the Business Innovation Group. After some discussion small business assistance to award up to \$7,500.00, Renal/Mortgage assistance will be based on the need with no limit on income. We will come back with agreements to work with these agencies. For the rapid testing, we will have an agreement with South Georgia Family Medicine Associates, P.C. The City will

provide the space and Dr. John Gerguis will provide the personnel to do the test. We have been talking about getting 1,000 tests for the City with a total amount of \$175,000. We already have these tests done with East Georgia Healthcare Center in Swainsboro. The consensus was to agree to 500 tests and divide the remainder of those funds between rental/mortgage assistance, business assistance and utility assistance. Mr. Penny stated we need to crunch the numbers as they may change a little bit.

Mayor McCollar asked what Council would like to do about the mask mandate.

Councilmembers Venus Mack and Paulette Chavers stated we need to mandate masks.

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated he is ok with mandating mask but would like to change wording in Section 2 to read will remain in effect for 90 days and must be renewed by vote of council.

Councilmember Shari Barr stated it is time we pass a mask mandate as well.

Councilmember John Riggs stated he believes we need to make it mandatory, however would like to wait until the September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to vote on this so he can review the document more.

A motion was made to approve an ordinance requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public during the COVID-19 outbreak amending section 2 to include “will remain in effect for 90 days and must be renewed by vote of council.”

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

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated he was absent from the last meeting due to being out of town, he was going to join via zoom but was unable to attend via zoom due to a power outage. During that meeting, a vote was made to change the name of Lester Road, which is in my district to Coach Lee Hill Boulevard. This change was made without any public feedback or hearing. Over the past couple of weeks, calls have been coming in from constituents asking what is going on. Councilmember Boyum stated Coach Lee Hill was an integral part of the community and affected many young men over the course of his career. In the past when roads were renamed it would take anywhere from 12 to 18 months to inform the public and get their input. Councilmember Boyum suggested an alternative to rename Blue Devil Alley to Coach Lee Hill Way. There are five reasons for this one, it shows council can work together with solutions especially when we have residents complaining about the decisions we have made, two it puts a sign on Northside drive where it intersects with Savannah Avenue which is one of the busiest intersections in town, three the road leads directly into the basketball stadium which is named after Coach Hill, four it eliminates the negative effects on businesses and residents without having been informed or consented to the change. Most importantly Coach Lee Hill Way that road is where a majority of the buses and the students enter into school. What a better way to honor coach than to have generations of kids go in and out of that school and they enter school by Coach Lee Hill Way. That is not just a statement I am going to make a motion to that affect, we will open it up to discussion before I do.

Councilmember John Riggs stated he likes that idea, he would like to invite anyone who would like to come up and speak he would like to hear them. He stated to give everybody a couple of weeks and invite everyone September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Paulette Chavers stated we already voted on this and it already passed we could have had some more public notice but I voted the way I wanted it to go it needs to stay the way it is.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar stated Coach Hill dedicated 44 years of his life to thousands of young people within this community and what better way to show him the respect he deserves than to name the road that his high school of 44 years that he served at be renamed after Coach Hill.

Councilmember Venus Mack stated that both Mayor McCollar and Councilmember Boyum made good points, and thinks that moving forward we do need to have more time to consider things like this.

Councilmember Shari Barr stated that we did not contact enough people or give them the opportunity to express, not only the people who have to change their address, but the others that said wouldn't it be nice to do something else. She offered a resolution to defer action for 2 weeks or 4 weeks, so that we have time to hear from more people. Chavers stated we need to leave change in place but to put into an ordinance that moving forward we need to get input from the public before renaming any road

A motion was made to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that puts together some kind of a process for renaming streets.

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

Councilmember Venus Mack commented on the Marc Wilson trial that is going on stating we need to pray for both of the parents involved in this situation. We need to pray for justice for Marc Wilson.

**11. City Managers Comments: None**

**12. Public Comments (General)**

A) Nat Harwell

Nat Harwell addressed Mayor and Council about his concerns of vaping inside restaurants and the affects it may have on others. Mr. Harwell stated there is no statewide ordinance against vaping in a restaurant or a bar, however Chatham County, Pooler and Savannah have issued local ordinances prohibiting vaping inside a bar or restaurant. Please consider this option for the City of Statesboro.

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

At 7:32 pm a motion was made to enter into Executive Session

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggss
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

At 7:55 pm motion was made to exit Executive Session

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Phil Boyum

**AYES:**

Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
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**NAYS:**

Mayor McCollar called the meeting back to order with no action taken in executive session.

**14. 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 Venus Mack
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**AYES:**

Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
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**NAYS:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm