



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

9:00 AM

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Jonathan McColiar called the meeting to order

**2. Invocation and Pledge**

Pastor Mark Burgess gave the Invocation and Mayor McColiar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McColiar	Mayor	Present	
Tangie Johnson	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
Ginny Hendley	Councilmember	Absent	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Absent	
Shari Barr	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, IT Support Specialist Allen Schleder, 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) 08-19-2025 Work Session Minutes

b) 08-19-2025 Council Minutes

c) 08-19-2025 Executive Session Minutes

**B) Consideration of a motion to surplus a 2013 Caterpillar 816F Compactor from the Solid Waste Division of Public Works and Engineering.**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

**RESULT:**

Approved (Unanimous)

**MOVER:**

Councilmember Tangie Johnson

**SECONDER:**

Councilmember Paulette Chavers

**AYES:**

Johnson, Chavers, Barr

**ABSENT:**

Councilmembers: Ginny Hendley and John Riggs

## 5. Public hearing to solicit input on the proposed 2025 millage rate for property taxes.

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, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmembers: Ginny Hendley and John Riggs

City Manager Charles Penny presented the City of Statesboro Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget. The objectives to this year's budget is to retain and recruit exceptional employees with an emphasis on public safety. The budget highlights show a 6% total expense decrease due to less transfers and an 8% increase in general fund expenses. Mr. Penny highlighted the city compensation and benefits that includes the continuance of pay for performance, and no increases to employee health benefits. Current and future opportunities are to position Statesboro for growth in the region and to keep the pay plan up to date. The concerns and unknowns are that nearly 25% of the total assessed property in Statesboro is tax exempt and we are still dealing with labor market challenges. Mr. Penny shared a graph comparing property tax millage rates with other communities around the state. The graph shows Statesboro somewhere in middle at 8.625. The current rates for Bulloch County are 11.350, the Board of Education at 10.400, and a proposed rate for the City of Statesboro of 8.625. While the city has experienced growth the tax base is smaller than that of the county which means it generates less revenue per mill than that of the county and board of education. Mr. Penny reviewed the General Fund and Fire Fund highlighting that the General Fund budget is 62.7% for salary and benefit costs. The police department budget is funded out of the General Fund and is \$12,665,715. In addition, the Fire Fund transfer from the General Fund is \$3,200,000. The estimated increase on a home with a \$250,000 value would be approximately \$66.25. Staff recommends keeping the millage rate at 8.625.

No one spoke for or against the proposed millage rate.

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 Tangie Johnson
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Chavers, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmembers: Ginny Hendley and John Riggs

Mayor McCollar announced that another hearing would be held this evening at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

**6. Public hearing to solicit input regarding a multiyear installment sale agreement, subject to annual renewal, to be entered into between the City of Statesboro and Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., a Georgia nonprofit corporation, relating to the acquisition and construction of a new fire station in the City of Statesboro, Georgia.**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

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>	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Chavers, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmembers: Ginny Hendley and John Riggs

**7. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance 2025-09: An Ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Statesboro Code of Ordinance to allow for a Local Distillery alcohol license classification.**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<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>	

Allen Muldrew with the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority spoke in favor of the request.  
No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve the first reading and move forward for the second reading of **Ordinance 2025-09**: An Ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Statesboro Code of Ordinance to allow for a Local Distillery alcohol license classification.

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

**8. Public Hearing & Consideration of a Motion to approve application for an alcohol license in accordance with The City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13 (a)**

**Reliance 17412 Inc.**

**Owner: Pashav Shah**

**Location: 17412 US 301**

**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 Tangie Johnson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Chavers, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmembers: Ginny Hendley and John Riggs

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 Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
<b>AYES:</b>	Johnson, Chavers, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmembers: Ginny Hendley and John Riggs

A motion was made to approve an application for an alcohol license in accordance with The City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13 (a) issued to Reliance 17412 Inc., Owner: Pashav Shah, Located: 17412 US 301, License Type: Package Sales – Beer and Wine Only.

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

- 9. Consideration of a motion to rescind the previous approval of the application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartments for funding under the Security enhancement Incentive Program in the amount of \$9,969.50, and conditionally approve an application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartment for funding under the Security Enhancement Incentive Program in the amount of \$13,000.00 subject to the fulfillment of all eligibility requirements.**

A motion was made to approve to rescind the previous approval of the application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartments for funding under the Security enhancement Incentive Program in the amount of \$9,969.50, and conditionally approve an application submitted by Centurion Property 111 South, LLC dba South Apartment for funding under the Security Enhancement Incentive Program in the amount of \$13,000.00 subject to the fulfillment of all eligibility requirements.

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

**10. Consideration of a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Pineland Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities authorizing the distribution of Statesboro Area Transit vouchers.**

A motion was made to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Pineland Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities authorizing the distribution of Statesboro Area Transit vouchers.

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

**11. Consideration of a motion to approve the Fifth Amendment to the lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS (AT&T) regarding the Claude Howard Water Tank at 600 Park Avenue to include upgrades to existing cellular equipment.**

A motion was made to approve the Fifth Amendment to the lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS (AT&T) regarding the Claude Howard Water Tank at 600 Park Avenue to include upgrades to existing cellular equipment.

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

**12. Consideration of a motion to donate five (5) Motorola Portable Radios from the Statesboro Fire Department to the Citizens Assisting in Fire Emergencies (C.A.F.E.).**

A motion was made to donate five (5) Motorola Portable Radios from the Statesboro Fire Department to the Citizens Assisting in Fire Emergencies (C.A.F.E.).

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

**13. Consideration of a motion to approve a change order on the ENG-122k West Main Street Sidewalk Project with HD Construction in the amount of \$124,180.00, to be funded by TSPLOST.**

A motion was made to approve a change order on the ENG-122k West Main Street Sidewalk Project with HD Construction in the amount of \$124,180.00, to be funded by TSPLOST.

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

**14. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of a 2026 HX260 International Dump truck from Roberts International Trucks in the amount of \$206,450.94 for the Solid Waste Disposal Division, to be funded by Solid Waste Disposal reserve funds and insurance total loss funds reimbursement.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a 2026 HX260 International Dump truck from Roberts International Trucks in the amount of \$206,450.94 for the Solid Waste Disposal Division, to be funded by Solid Waste Disposal reserve funds and insurance total loss funds reimbursement.

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

**15. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford F-150 Supercab XL in the amount of \$41,178.00 and one (1) 2026 F-250 4x2 Superduty w/utility bed in the amount of \$55,253.00 from JC Lewis Ford for the Water & Sewer Division of the Public Utilities Department. These items to be purchased with funds approved in the FY2026 CIP Budget, WWD-136 funded by system revenues.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford F-150 Supercab XL in the amount of \$41,178.00 and one (1) 2026 F-250 4x2 Superduty w/utility bed in the amount of \$55,253.00 from JC Lewis Ford for the Water & Sewer Division of the Public Utilities Department. These items to be purchased with funds approved in the FY2026 CIP Budget, WWD-136 funded by system revenues.

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

## 16. Other Business from City Council None

## 17. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny shared that a second public hearing on the proposed 2025 millage rate would take place this evening at 6:30 pm in the council chambers. Mr. Penny brought attention to an annexation petition of 3.01 acres located at 355 Langston Chapel road. The property is for improvements to the existing Bird's Pond water retention area. Mr. Penny also shared that with the proposed changes to the massage therapy and salon ordinances, two stakeholder meetings will be held on Monday September 8, 2025 at 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

## 18. Public Comments (General):

Anthony Hendrickson introduced his plans to launch a local Police Athletic League Program through his non-profit organization Lead by Example & Reverse the Trend, Inc. Mr. Hendrickson stated they have secured the former Habitat building on West Main Street and turn it into a place for mentoring, job readiness, and violence prevention programs. Annie Bellinger voiced her concern of children swimming in the ditches stating the fee for the pool at Luetta Moore Park is too high. Ms. Bellinger raised another concern about tax rates increasing stating that longtime residents are being pushed to their breaking point. She also brought attention to a tree on Johnson Street that has a piece of tin in it from the last storm, which needs to be removed.

The city will send someone out to look at the tree situation. There are vouchers available at the Honey Bowen Building for the pool at Luetta Moore Park.

Marcus Toole representing Habitat for Humanity shared his support for Mr. Hendrickson's proposal and that this use of the former Habitat building is the highest possible use of that space.

## 19. 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).

At 9:57 a.m., a motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss "Personnel Matters" in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b).

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

At 10:23 a.m., a motion was made to exit Executive Session.

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

## **20. 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, Barr
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmembers: Ginny Hendley and John Riggs

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

---

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

---

Leah Harden, City Clerk