



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 07, 2021

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

Marcus Toole gave the Invocation and Councilmember John Riggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Phil Boyum	Councilmember	Present	9:01 am
Paulette Chavers	Mayor Pro Tem	Absent	
Venus Mack	Councilmember	Present	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present	
Shari Barr	Councilmember	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Attorney Cain Smith, City Clerk Leah Harden and IT Support Specialist Allen Schleder.

3. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

4. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

- a) 08-17-2021 Work Session Minutes
- b) 08-17-2021 Council Minutes
- c) 08-24-2021 Special Called Meeting Minutes
- d) 08-31-2021 Public Hearing Minutes (12:00 pm)
- e) 08-31-2021 Public Hearing Minutes (6:00 pm)

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda letter A.

RESULT:

Approved (Unanimous)

MOVER:

Councilmember Venus Mack

SECONDER:

Councilmember John Riggs

AYES:

Mack, Riggs, Barr

ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers & Councilmember Phil Boyum

B) Consideration of a motion to approve the due date of December 20th, 2021 for the City of Statesboro Property Tax Bills.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda letter B.

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

5. Public Hearing and Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2021-33: A Resolution setting the millage rate for ad valorem (property) taxes for the 2021 calendar year for the City of Statesboro, Georgia at 7.308.

A Motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

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 Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers

A Motion was made to approve **Resolution 2021-33** setting the millage rate for ad valorem (property) taxes for the 2021 calendar year for the City of Statesboro, Georgia at 7.308.

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

6. Consideration of a motion to approve the affordable housing plan for the City of Statesboro, Georgia.

A motion was made to approve the affordable housing plan for the City of Statesboro, Georgia.

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

7. Consideration of a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Bulloch County, City of Statesboro, Bulloch County Board of Education, Georgia Southern University, Ogeechee Technical College, City of Brooklet, and the Towns of Portal and Register relating to maintenance of county-wide P-25 radio system. Contract is one year with four additional one-year renewal terms.

A motion was made to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Bulloch County, City of Statesboro, Bulloch County Board of Education, Georgia Southern University, Ogeechee Technical College, City of Brooklet, and the Towns of Portal and Register relating to maintenance of county-wide P-25 radio system. Contract is one year with four additional one-year renewal terms.

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

8. Consideration of a motion to approve the acceptance of the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), which has been awarded to the Statesboro Fire Department.

A motion was made to approve the acceptance of the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), which has been awarded to the Statesboro Fire Department.

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

9. Consideration of a motion to approve the acceptance of the 2020 FP&S Grant which has been awarded to the Statesboro Fire Department.

A motion was made to approve the acceptance of the 2020 FP&S Grant, which has been awarded to the Statesboro Fire Department.

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

10. Consideration of a motion to approve the award of contract to Hawk Construction for the construction of classrooms and a use of force/de-escalation “laboratory” at the joint Sheriff’s office/Police department range training facility in the amount of \$66,210.00. Funding for this project is from the CJCC grant proceeds.

A motion was made to approve the award of contract to Hawk Construction for the construction of classrooms and a use of force/de-escalation “laboratory” at the joint Sheriff’s office/Police department range training facility in the amount of \$66,210.00.

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

11. Consideration of a motion to approve payment to Stacy Underwood, LLC (dba Uncle Shug’s, 434 South Main Street) in the amount of \$29,235.02 for sign relocation and construction easement acquisition. Expenses will be paid from TSPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve payment to Stacy Underwood, LLC (dba Uncle Shug’s, 434 South Main Street) in the amount of \$29,235.02 for sign relocation and construction easement acquisition. Expenses will be paid from TSPLOST funds.

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

12. Consideration of a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding & Agreement with Georgia Southern University for development of Akins Boulevard, Phase 2.

A motion was made to approve a Memorandum of Understanding & Agreement with Georgia Southern University for development of Akins Boulevard, Phase 2.

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

13. Other Business from City Council: None

14. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny stated that as we enter the fall season outdoor activities/events are on the increase. Some of the events require city staff, which raises a concern. The current infection rate is 27 % positivity, with that kind of an infection rate, we need to be socially distancing. We are not trying to support a super spreader. Having to utilize City resources in order to support an event that could actually help the spread of COVID is a concern we want to bring to your attention. The reason I raise this issue is because our city forces are impacted by COVID as well. We have staff that is out and its putting a strain on our resources. We are not trying to close the city down but with such a high positivity rate in our community, that is a concern.

Mr. Penny stated last March Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), from which the city will receive these funds through the state of Georgia in the amount of \$12.3 million dollars. On July 12, 2021, the city received \$6.1 million of these funds. The remaining balance of these funds will be transmitted to the city in 12 months. The intent is

to use the ARPA funds to help transform and improve neighborhoods, extend infrastructure, and address the food insecurities issue in Statesboro. The proposed use of these funds include \$1.5 million for housing rehabilitation in the target area of Johnson Street neighborhood, \$1 million for scattered site housing rehabilitation, \$3 million for water/sewer infrastructure installation, \$500,00.00 for food insecurities and the remaining funds of \$153,1100.00 for lost revenue. Public meetings will be held sometime in October in order to receive input from citizens on the proposed use of these funds. The City has until December 2024 to have plans in place for the use of the funds and has until December 2026 to expend all the funds. The proposal for use of the second round of funding is similar to the first. More details will be presented at the next Council Work Session on September 21, 2021.

Mr. Penny updated Mayor and City Council about the previously proposed vaccination incentives. Additional research done by city staff on the aspect of conducting a drawing for a chance to win monetary or material gifts determined that only a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization could conduct such raffle/lottery type drawings. Even though the city cannot do the drawings, we can identify and contract with a non-profit organization to assist with the drawings. In the meantime, we can continue to utilize the \$50 gift cards and offer the remaining balance of previously approved gift cards to participants receiving a vaccination. The Health Department has a City sponsored vaccination clinic scheduled on September 18th from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm at the Jones-Love building located at Luetta Moore Park. Discussion ensued regarding an agreement with a nonprofit organization to be brought back to council for authorization at the next meeting and to continue with the \$50 gift card give away.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of 168 additional \$50.00 gift cards for vaccine incentives.

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

Mr. Penny stated that the Grady Street Park completion is slated for mid-September. It is pretty much done except for getting the basketball goals up, one piece of playground equipment in and laying of sod. Once completed, we will schedule a small ribbon cutting so folks can start utilizing the park.

15. Public Comments (General): None

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

No Executive Session was held.

17. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 am.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk