

### CITY OF STATESBORO COUNCIL MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

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

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr gave the Invocation and Councilmember John Riggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ATTENDENCE**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Vacant	Councilmember	Vacant	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
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 Affairs Manager Layne Phillips, City Attorney Cain Smith and City Clerk Leah Harden

#### 3. Recognitions / Public Presentation:

A) Presentation of a retirement Award to Don Hollingsworth in the Public Utilities Department, who is retiring effective October 1, 2024 after 31 years of service.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar read a statement made by Matt Aycock, Assistant Director of Public Utilities, honoring Don Hollingsworth's years of dedicated service to the City of Statesboro. He then presented to him at retirement award.

- 4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None
- 5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda
  - A) Approval of Minutes
    - a) 09-03-2024 Council Minutes
    - b) 09-03-2024 Executive Session Minutes
  - B) Consideration of a motion to approve the surplus and disposition of a 1996 Freightliner RV (CAFÉ 1) in the Statesboro Fire Department.
  - C) Consideration of a motion to approve the due date of December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for the City of Statesboro property tax bills.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

#### 6. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve:

- (a) <u>APPLICATION AN 24-07-01</u>: Blue Fern Management, LLC requests Annexation of approximately 714 +/- acres of property in order to allow for the development of a mixed-use subdivision on Burkhalter Road (Tax Parcel # 093 000004 000).
- (b) <u>APPLICATION V 24-07-02</u>: Blue Fern Management, LLC requests a Variance from Section 2.2.12.F of the Unified Development Code in order to reduce the mixed-use concurrency requirement on a proposed 714 acre development on Burkhalter Road (Tax Parcel# 093 000004 000).
- (c) <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-07-03</u>: Blue Fern Management, LLC requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-40 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the PUD (Planned Unit Development) zoning district in order to develop a 1794 unit mixed housing residential subdivision on approximately 714 acres of property on Burkhalter Road (Tax Parcel # 093 000004 000).

The applicant requests removal of this project from the agenda and place a temporary hold on the request.

A motion was made to accept the applicants request removing this request from the agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

7. Public Hearing and Consideration of a motion to approve <u>Resolution 2024-25</u>: A Resolution setting the millage rate for Ad Valorem (Property) Taxes for the 2024 calendar year for the City of Statesboro, Georgia.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

City Manager Charles Penny reviewed the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The objectives to this year's budget is to retain and recruit exceptional employees, increase the tax base, with an emphasis on utility infrastructure growth and public safety. The budget highlights show a 10 % total expense decrease due to less transfers and a 13.5 % increase in general fund expenses. Mr. Penny highlighted the city compensation and benefits that include a new pay plan that was implemented in January of this year, the continuance of pay for performance, and no increases to employee health benefits. The current and future opportunities are to position Statesboro for growth in the region and to keep the pay plan up to date. Concerns and unknowns are that nearly 25% of the total assessed property in Statesboro is tax exempt and there are still labor market challenges. The property tax millage rate comparison with other communities places Statesboro in the middle at 8.125. The current rates for Bulloch County are 11.350, the Board of Education at 7.932, and a proposed rate for the City of Statesboro of 9.125. 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. The increased expenditures in the FY2025 budget are salaries & benefits, debt service, liability insurance, one new position in the planning department, and transfers to the Fire and CIP funds. Of the General Fund budget 62.7% is salary and benefit costs. The police department budget is funded out of the General Fund and is \$11,268,470. In addition the Fire Fund transfer from the General Fund is increased to \$3,200,000 due to the increase of 25 positions, 4 dispatchers and 21 firefighters. A millage rate of 9.125 would bring in \$10,045,560 of tax revenue which would provide the needed revenue to operate during fiscal year 2025. The estimated increase on a home with a \$200,000 value would be approximately \$140.00.

In summary Mr. Penny stated that the question remains, could we balance the City's budget without increasing the millage rate. The answer is yes however it would require the use of 1.4 million of fund balance which would further erode this "emergency" fund. The recommendation is a 1.799 mill increase to have a balanced budget without using fund balance.

Don Armel stated that he lives in the city and supports the plan because of the safety feature we're talking about EMS, fire, and police. Keeping their salaries current and to be competitive across other municipalities. With approximately 4,000 new housing units coming the city needs to be looking further down the road and prepare now for the increase in population. He also stated his concern about balancing the budget by taking the city's "emergency fund" down to its minimum, because we may still need those funds in the future. We got lucky with the last storm but we don't know what the year is going to be weather wise. We may still have more that we need to be ready for. Another important part is the city's ability to respond for citizens' safety and also not ignoring the other employees in public works, streets, parks, etc. Ed Neubert stated he did not know about the public meeting last week until he seen it on a Savannah news station and that he is troubled that for such an important subject none of the council members were present during the first two public hearings and asked why they were not here. He stated they don't have to answer but that is was troubling to him that the people elected to be at public meetings are not there to hear what the public has to say.

Councilmember Paulette Chavers stated she would like to respond. She stated she was unable to attend because her father was in the hospital.

Mr. Neubert asked that with all the new building coming up that would increase the tax revenue. Is that correct.

City Manager Charles Penny stated that yes it would eventually. At this point we cannot project what the increase in tax revenue would be because it is not built yet.

Cassandra Mikell stated that the city is not in compliance with the Tax payer Bill of Rights due to the lack of a quorum during the public hearings. She stated that if the city wants to get the tax bills out by October 1st the only option would

be to adopt the full rollback rate of 7.326. She continued to state otherwise she will be forced to file an injunction against the city if they adopt the proposed rate of 9.125.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated she assumes we will move forward with our deliberations and vote on the millage what it should be and then if there's any legal complications we have to deal with we'll deal with them later but we'll proceed because as we understand we are in compliance right now.

Councilmember Paulette Chavers stated that before we go forward with the meeting, this same thing came up last year and I begged you guys, let's do it now it was a couple of people who came in and influenced you to do something differently but we are here again. I don't like to keep taxing people over and over and over again. That was the purpose of doing it the first time. Now we are back in this situation and I'm a little pissed off that we're back in this situation because we could have handled it when we had the opportunity but now here all these people are going to be upset with us because we have to do what we have to do but we should have done that last year.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr asked may I clarify, I understated you wish a majority had agreed to increase it more last year because if that had happened we might now be in the same position as the county in that we would have more money coming in and we could've rolled back instead, or we might not have to increase as much. Is that what you're thinking?

Councilmember Chavers stated she is saying that we should have increased it to the full amount last year. So we wouldn't have to be in this spot this year coming back talking about increasing taxes. My statement was let's do it now so that we won't be back here again this year. That's on record.

Mayor McCollar I think the public kind of needs some context about the conversation that's occurring. The context of this conversation is that we knew last year that it was going to be a \$2.3 million dollar pay plan implementation and so what the staff wanted to do was get out in front of that and recommended an increase of 2.1 some odd mills last year. Council decided to not raise it to the full extent but we still moved forward with paying our police officers, firefighters, and other employees that work in our water department in public utilities and public works. The city went from having a police department that had eighteen vacancies and now we have seven. We have expanded the fire department we have also been able to address sanitation, water, and public works. The city organization is stable right now because the community decided that we needed to make sure our police officers, firefighters, and those that support this city are worth keeping. Mayor McCollar stated regardless of what the decision is his stance is to back the blue and it's time for us to pay the blue.

Councilmember Ginny Hendly stated she respects everything the Mayor and Mr. Penny said and she also backs the blue and fire department and all the city employees they do a great job. She continued stating she hears what you're saying also about the city expanding and growing. My point of view, I'm not asking that we decrease millage but I cannot support going up on it at this time. I feel for many it might be too much of a hardship on a lot of people to function and continue their businesses, and single family homeowners as well. I think that there's enough in the fund balance if an emergency were happen. I just don't feel comfortable rolling it up at this time.

Mayor pro Tem Shari Barr stated that she think similarly and appreciates everything the mayor said. We certainly want public safety but that's not really the debate we've already agreed to that. The debate now is how we are going to pay for it. Whether we're going to increase taxes to cover all this necessary expense or whether we're going to dip into the rainy day fund and get it closer to the level we said we don't want to go beneath. And I'm of all with you and I hear you Ms. Chavers and I remember clearly you tried to talk us into doing it last time but I can't go back and say if we had where might we be now. Where we are now is deciding how we're going to pay for this very important, necessary budget.

So I'm with you I want to pay for it with a little less of a tax increase I'm more comfortable with getting the 28% to the 25% margin that we try to maintain in our fund balance.

Councilmember John Riggs state he is voting against this item as a real estate appraiser, that's my day job, which is what I was out doing during the two hearings. As real appraiser I have witnessed the unprecedented and steady rise in market values over the past two years in Bulloch County I want to attempt to prognosticate the future but I do feel that this is not the time to raise the millage rate. I'll follow up on some things that Ginny Hendley said I appreciate you, you put it well.

Ms. Chavers stated y'all do understated that we are going to have to come back to this next year. We're here to look out for the present and the future. I'm just tired of being in the spot over and over and over again when we can take care of it now. We should have taken care of it last year but now just like I stated we are back here again and we're going to have to come back next year. Just be assured we will be back in the same spot next year.

There was council discussion regarding the fund balance and what the impact of a lower millage rate would make on it.

Mayor McCollar stated that as a point of privilege he would allow public comment.

Len Fatica came forward and stated they needed to consider that if the city cuts firefighters the City's ISO rating would drop which would place tax indirectly on the homeowners because their insurance rates would increase.

Ed Neubert stated he thinks the best way to compromise would be to look into the "emergency fund" and see what's reasonable to take out of it and then drop the millage rate. People would agree with some increase because of the need for police and all of those things that's so vital to the community.

Councilmember John Riggs stated no matter what we decide today, raise it, lower it, or make a compromise no one who works for the City of Statesboro, PD, Fire, Public Works, everybody up here, and everybody out there is not going to lose their job. There will be no decrease in public safety, it's not going to happen.

After further discussion Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr made a motion to approve **Resolution 2024-25** setting the City of Statesboro millage rate at 8.625.

Mayor McCollar stated we have been having this discussion for the past three years and if we are unable to go with the 9.125 he would advocate for 8.725.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr amended her motion to setting the City of Statesboro millage rate at 8.725.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved 3-2 (Mayor McCollar broke the tie in favor of the motion )
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Chavers, Barr, Mayor McCollar – as the tie breaker
NAYS	Councilmember John Riggs and Councilmember Ginny Hendley

#### 8. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve:

A. <u>APPLICATION AN 24-08-01</u>: Nesmith Properties, LLLP requests Annexation of approximately 139.2 acres of property in order to develop a single-family detached subdivision on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcel # MS57000012 000).

B. <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-02:</u> Nesmith Properties, LLLP requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-40 (Single-Family Detached) zoning district to the R-6 (Single-Family Detached) zoning district in order to construct an approximately 253-unit subdivision on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcel # MS57000012 000).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

Ryan Porter a civil engineer with Maxwell Reddick & Associates representing the applicant spoke in favor of the request. Lawton Sack voiced his concern about flooding on the property.

Mr. Porter stated the 100 year flood plain is on the backside of the property and the sketch plan shows the proposed development is out of the flood zone.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions <u>APPLICATION AN 24-08-01</u>: Nesmith Properties, LLLP requests Annexation of approximately 139.2 acres of property in order to develop a single-family detached subdivision on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcel # MS57000012 000) and <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-02</u>: Nesmith Properties, LLLP requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-40 (Single-Family Detached) zoning district to the R-6 (Single-Family Detached) zoning district in order to construct an approximately 253-unit subdivision on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcel # MS57000012 000).

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

9. Consideration of a Motion to Approve: <u>APPLICATION SUB 24-08-03</u>: Five Guys Development, LLC requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT on a portion of a 111-acre parcel, in order to develop the townhome phase of the proposed subdivision at 6922 Burkhalter Road (Tax Parcel # MS108 000002 000).

A motion was made to approve <u>APPLICATION SUB 24-08-03</u>: Five Guys Development, LLC requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT on a portion of a 111-acre parcel, in order to develop the townhome phase of the proposed subdivision at 6922 Burkhalter Road (Tax Parcel # MS108 000002 000).

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

10. Consideration of a Motion to Approve: <u>APPLICATION SUB 24-08-04</u>: Horizon Home Builders requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT in order to develop a 220-unit townhome subdivision on approximately 39.97 acres of property on East Main Street & Abbey Road (Tax Parcel # MS82000035 000).

A motion was made to approve APPLICATION SUB 24-08-04: Horizon Home Builders requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT in order to develop a 220-unit townhome subdivision on approximately 39.97 acres of property on East Main Street & Abbey Road (Tax Parcel # MS82000035 000).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

- 11. Consideration of a motion to approve Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve:
  - A. <u>APPLICATION AN 24-08-05</u>: Dennis Rhodes requests Annexation of approximately 23.15 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 002).
  - B. <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-06</u>: Dennis Rhodes requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-40 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the R-3 (Medium-Density Residential) zoning district on approximately 23.15 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 002).
  - C. <u>APPLICATION AN 24-08-07</u>: Dennis Rhodes requests Annexation of approximately 2.5 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 000).
  - D. <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-08</u>: Dennis Rhodes requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-40 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the R-3 (Medium-Density Residential) zoning district on approximately 2.5 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 002).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

Planning Director Kathy Field stated that due to the proposed density and lack of compatibility with the adjacent road network staff recommends denial of the requests. However if approved by Mayor and Council, the amendment does not grant site and/or building plan approval as submitted and staff recommends that the project will be required to meet all City Ordinances and applicable building codes, the applicant must submit a traffic impact analysis before completion of the project subdivision to ensure the appropriate right-of-way and traffic calming measures can be implemented, and the applicant will be required to provide right-of-way to enhance the section of Whispering Pines Boulevard being impacted by the development of this subdivision in accordance with any traffic study requirements. The Planning Commission recommended approval the requests and staff conditions with a 3-2 vote.

John Dotson with Maxwell Reddick & Associates representing the applicant spoke in favor of the request. Paul Newman stated he feels this will be an asset to the community.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions <u>APPLICATION AN 24-08-05</u>: Annexation of approximately 23.15 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 002); <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-06</u>: a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-40 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the R-3 (Medium-Density Residential) zoning district on approximately 23.15 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 002); <u>APPLICATION AN 24-08-07</u>: Annexation of approximately 2.5 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 000), and <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-08</u>: a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-40 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the R-3 (Medium-Density Residential) zoning district on approximately 2.5 acres of property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Cypress Lake Road (Tax Parcel # MS33000023 002).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved 3-1
MOVER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs
NAYS	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr

12. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-09</u>: Mitchell Ball requests a zoning map amendment from the R-15/HOC (Single-Family Residential/Highway Oriented Commercial) zoning district to the R-6 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district on a portion of approximately 3.69-acre property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Zetterower Road (Tax Parcel #S06 000002 000).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

Hadyon Rollins with Hussey Gay Bell representing the applicant 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)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve <u>APPLICATION RZ 24-08-09</u>: Mitchell Ball requests a zoning map amendment from the R-15/HOC (Single-Family Residential/Highway Oriented Commercial) zoning district to the R-6 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district on a portion of approximately 3.69-acre property in order to develop a residential subdivision on Zetterower Road (Tax Parcel #S06 000002 000).

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

# 13. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of contract with the Coastal Regional Commission to complete the City of Statesboro Strategic Plan.

A motion was made to approve an award of contract with the Coastal Regional Commission to complete the City of Statesboro Strategic Plan.

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

14. Consideration of a motion to approve a contract amendment with Insight Planning & Development, LLC to complete remaining Housing Rehabilitation projects.

A motion was made to approve a contract amendment with Insight Planning & Development, LLC to complete remaining Housing Rehabilitation projects.

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

15. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of six (6) new patrol vehicle for the Statesboro Police Department in the amount of \$272,903.56 from Metter Ford. This purchase will be paid from 2019 SPLOST funds.

Mayor McCollar announced that this item has been removed from the agenda due to a discrepancy with the bid numbers. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

16. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) Sutphen 75' Aerial Apparatus and one (1) 100' Aerial Platform Apparatus for the Statesboro Fire Department through Sourcewell contract #113021-SUT with Williams Fire and Equipment in the amount of \$3,674,819.32. This purchase will be paid for from 2019 SPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of one (1) Sutphen 75' Aerial Apparatus and one (1) 100' Aerial Platform Apparatus for the Statesboro Fire Department through Sourcewell contract #113021-SUT with Williams Fire and Equipment in the amount of \$3,674,819.32. This purchase will be paid for from 2019 SPLOST funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

#### 17. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr congratulated the Finance Department for receiving an award of excellence. She also announced that the city is currently accepting applications for the One Boro Commission and the Keep Statesboro Bulloch Beautiful Advisory Board. She encouraged anyone who may be interested to turn in their application to the City Clerk before the applications close on Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### 18. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny recognized that participants of this year's Leadership Bulloch class was in attendance of this evenings meeting but had to leave before being officially recognized. He stated that the Assistant to the City Manager Olympia Gaines is a participant in Leadership Bulloch this year.

Mr. Penny announced there will be a public meeting regarding the Brannen Street Corridor Study on Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 beginning at 5:30 pm at the Statesboro YMCA, where members of the public are invited to share their ideas and vision for the Brannen Street corridor.

Mr. Penny also shared that Bill Gross developer of Brayant's Landing at the old Julia P Bryant School has been approved for the second phase of the development. An additional 50-60 units will be added.

The last item Mr. Penny brought to Mayor and Council's attention was a memo in their FYI packet regarding the Whitesville Park and the use of \$1.2 million in ARPA funding for park improvements. It is taking longer than expected to commit the remaining money toward sewer projects before the December 31, 20204 deadline.

A motion was made to approve the use of \$1.2 million of ARPA funds for the Whitesville Park project.

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

#### 19. Public Comments (General):

Marcus Toole with Habitat for Humanity stated that the Statesboro Re-Store has been barley breaking even for a number of years and Habitat got an opportunity to make enough money on the sale of the building to build a fair number of homes which is what habitat does. Mr. Toole shared some statistics on the Habitat for Humanity organization.

20. 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).

No Executive Session was held.

## 21. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	
The meeting was adjourned	l at 8:02 pm.  ———————————————————————————————————
	Leah Harden, City Clerk