



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 3, 2023

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**

Councilmember John Riggs called on Allen Muldrew to give the Invocation and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Public Information Officer Layne Phillips, 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) 09-19-2023 Work Session Minutes
- b) 09-19-2023 Council Minutes
- c) 09-19-2023 Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

**RESULT:**

Approved (Unanimous)

**MOVER:**

Councilmember Venus Mack

**SECONDER:**

Councilmember Paulette Chavers

**AYES:**

Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr

**ABSENT**

**5. Public Hearing and consideration of a motion to approve an application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro Alcohol Ordinance Sec. 6-13(a):**

**Reliance (Convenience Store)**

**17412 US Hwy 301 North**

**Statesboro, Ga 30458**

**License Type: Package Sales – (Beer and Wine only) and Sunday Sales**

A Motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

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 (Convenience Store) located at 17412 US Hwy 301 North Statesboro, Ga 30458 for License Type: Package Sales – (Beer and Wine only) and Sunday Sales.

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

**6. Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance 2023-16: An Ordinance amending Chapter 38, Article VII Blight Tax of the Statesboro Code of Ordinances.**

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 Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT</b>	

City Attorney Cain Smith explained the amendment is to increase the multiplier of the property tax rate to 7 for any properties identified in blighted condition. It also allows that any property removed from blighted condition would receive a reduction in property taxes for three years.

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 Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>ABSENT</b>	

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated the multiplier number should be removed from the ordinance and placed in the City's Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Fines.

After some council discussion a motion was made to remove the multiplier from the ordinance and place it in the Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Fines and to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-16.

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

**7. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2023-44: A resolution approving application for funding from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to conduct a lead water service line study.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2023-44**: A resolution approving application for funding from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to conduct a lead water service line study.

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

**8. Consideration of a motion for award of contract to Vickery Farms Sodscapes, LLC in the not to exceed amount of \$61,200.00 for supplemental maintenance of the Eastside Cemetery.**

A motion was made to approve an award of contract to Vickery Farms Sodscapes, LLC in the not to exceed amount of \$61,200.00 for supplemental maintenance of the Eastside Cemetery.

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

**9. Consideration of a motion for award of contract to S.A. Brown Enterprises in the amount of \$128,140.00 for the “Bulloch Street Sidewalk Project”. Project will be funded from the 2018 TSPLOST Fund.**

A motion was made to approve an award of contract to S.A. Brown Enterprises in the amount of \$128,140.00 for the “Bulloch Street Sidewalk Project”. Project will be funded from the 2018 TSPLOST Fund.

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

**10. Consideration of a motion for award of contract to S.A. Brown Enterprises in the amount of \$100,250.00 for the “Sidewalk Improvements Project”. Project will be funded from the 2018 TSPLOST Fund.**

A motion was made to approve an award of contract to S.A. Brown Enterprises in the amount of \$100,250.00 for the “Sidewalk Improvements Project”. Project will be funded from the 2018 TSPLOST Fund.

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

**11. Consideration of a motion authorizing the Mayor to execute a purchase agreement and related documents for right-of-way and easement acquisition at 323 West Main Street for the West Main Street Sidewalk Project. Funding is provided from 2018 TSPLOST.**

A motion was made to approve the Mayor to execute a purchase agreement and related documents for right-of-way and easement acquisition at 323 West Main Street for the West Main Street Sidewalk Project. Funding is provided from 2018 TSPLOST.

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

**12. Consideration of a motion to amend the West Main Street Drainage Improvements Project contract with McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$119,947.44. This work will be paid by fund balance in the 2018 TSPLOST Fund.**

A motion was made to approve an amendment to the West Main Street Drainage Improvements Project contract with McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$119,947.44. This work will be paid by fund balance in the 2018 TSPLOST Fund.

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

**13. Other Business from City Council:**

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr shared that its' First Friday time and October is Ag Night out from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm in downtown.

**14. City Managers Comments**

City Manager Charles Penny reviewed a few things from the FYI packet about the transit ridership increase. In addition Habitat with Humanity received a grant in the amount of \$9000 to be used to help promote the transit program. Mr. Penny stated back in 2020 during COVID the city approved the use of funds through Action Pact to help people with water, sewer, and gas bills. The agreement with Action Pact has remained in place but there has been very little activity. Of the \$62,000 about \$10,000 has been used. The current agreement requires the use of these funds to be because of COVID related issues. The question is would you like to continue using those funds to help citizens in need. If so we would need to revise the agreement with Action Pact and would have it for consideration at the next council meeting. Councilmember Paulette Chavers stated there has been a lot rhetoric throughout the community regarding certain ordinances and commended the Mayor for stepping up and addressing and answering questions people had in the community. She also stated since the last council meeting it has been on her mind about the city being down 17 police officers, we need to do some sort of push to fill these vacancies so police can do adequate patrol throughout the community.

Mr. Penny stated he and Police Chief Mike Broadhead are working on some recruitment incentives and some pay incentives for those who sign on with the Statesboro Police Department. We will push as hard as we can to get these spots filled.

Mayor McCollar stated he, Councilmember Paulette Chavers, and several members throughout the community are doing a walk to take back our neighborhoods and invites all members of the community to come out on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm to be a part of this. The march will begin at Kent Street Park on West Grady Street and end at Louetta Moore Park where there will be an open town hall addressing issues on the mind of citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr shared other activities going on this coming weekend, the Statesboro Fire Department will be doing a fire alarm blitz on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9am with their concentration on the mobile home parks in the area. Also on Saturday there will be a Community Resource Family Funding Day, hosted by Statesboro Village Builders, held at Luetta Moore Park from 10 am to 3 pm and prior to that event DSDA will be hosting Scare on the Square from 9am to 1 pm in downtown Statesboro.

Councilmember Phil Boyum stated the city needs to put together a coordinated campaign for recruiting police officers, similar to the one we did for the fire department as well as put together a six month plan for hiring police.

**15. Public Comments (General): None**

**16. 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 9:40 am a motion was made to enter into executive session for “Personnel Matters” and “Potential Litigation”.

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

At 10:09 a motion was made to exit executive session.

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

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the regular meeting back to order

A motion was made to appoint Alyson Prude to the Greener Boro Commission and to appoint Len Fatica to the Statesboro Planning Commission.

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

## 17. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 am.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk