



**CITY OF STATESBORO
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 15, 2019 4:00 PM**

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on October 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Joe Brannen Hall, 58 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McCollar; Council Members: Phil Boyum, Sam Lee Jones, Jeff Yawn, John Riggs and Derek Duke. Also present was City Clerk Leah Harden, City Attorney Cain Smith, City Manager Charles Penny.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jonathan McCollar. Mayor McCollar explained these work sessions are to inform Council of things going on in the City and the status of projects. The following topics were discussed:

a) Special Event Permits

City manager Charles Penny presented to Mayor and Council the results of research done comparing Special event permits in other jurisdictions to our own. There are three options presented option 1, keep the Ordinance as is; option 2, allow for-profit organizations to obtain permits without limitations; option 3, allow for-profit organizations to obtain a permit but limit the number of permits per year and limit the venue to the same number of events it can host.

b) Moratorium on Apartments

City Manager Charles Penny presented to Mayor and Council statistics regarding the total number of housing units in Statesboro and the breakdown of owner occupied and tenant occupied units. A moratorium needs to have a timeframe and in that timeframe a study would need to be done regarding housing needs, demographic projections, housing policy and housing strategy recommendations.

c) Blight Tax

Blight tax also known as Community Redevelopment tax incentive is to encourage reinvestment, rehabilitation or removal of deteriorated or dilapidated property. For properties deemed blighted the property would have a seven fold millage rate increase. This tax is to be used as a tool we do not want negative impact on property owners. The standard for the blight tax to be imposed would be for reasons such as, uninhabited property, inadequate provisions for ventilation light or air sanitation have imminent harm to life, illegal activity on the property and/or maintained below City standard for a year. City Attorney Cain Smith presented an overview on how the City of Albany uses the blight tax.

d) Census Presentation

Curtis Woody with US Census Bureau spoke about the importance of the census and the impact it will have to the community. The census can bring in better representation and more money based on the number of residents to a community. The census is on April 1, 2020 and forms will need to be submitted on line. Mr Woody encourages us to promote the census so everyone is counted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm

