



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2023

Mayor & Council Work Session

50 East Main Street

3:30 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on October 17, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 50 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McColiar; Council Members: Paulette Chavers, Venus Mack and Shari Barr. Also present was City Clerk Leah Harden, City Attorney Cain Smith, City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles and Public Information Officer Layne Phillips. Absent was Councilmembers John Riggs and Phil Boyum.

1. Personal Mobility Ordinance

Caleb Rasicot with TSW presented a follow up on the discussion at the last meeting on personal mobility devices. There are two types of regulations, shared mobility devices such as lime and general operations. Regulating these devices in two separate ways. The first way is applying a series of standards that apply to every device regardless of who owns it. The second is consolidating the standards related to a company coming in and requesting to use public right of ways to lease and rent scooters, separating the operations from the ownership. Caleb's presented the operational proposal to make several changes to chapter 48 of the city code that regulates all the various types of non-motorized devices. First amending part of the code 78-9 roller skates and skateboards renaming it non-motorized devices, clarifying that it includes razor scooters and skateboards. Prohibiting these devices on any public street, only operate on sidewalks, and allowing mayor and council to prohibit them from certain parts of the city. Caleb also recommends adopting by reference all the state of Georgia's requirements for bicycles. Also to set very clear standards for the operations of electronic scooters in the City of Statesboro. Allow them on roadways with a speed limit of 35mph or less, allow on bicycle lanes, trails, and only on sidewalks when the adjacent roadway speed is over 35mph and the sidewalk is wide open 5 ft. because of the American Disability Act they cannot recommend anything lower than that. Along with recommending max speed of 15mph, minimum age 15, under 16 years of age you have to wear a helmet. It is recommended that chapter 70 is amended by adding the additional standards. City Manager Charles Penny recommends having sessions with the public and having their input, and bring back to another work session after hearing feedback from the public.

2. Alcohol License for Convenience Stores

City attorney Cain Smith presented the recommended amendment to 6-5(f) adding language to read application may be brought before mayor and council for consideration prior to acquiring a certificate of occupancy, but no license allowing sales shall be granted until such times as the certificate of occupancy is granted. Then add sect 6-5(r) licensees with multiple locations, licensees currently holding a package beer-wine licenses for two or more locations in the City of Statesboro shall be exempt from fingerprinting and background check requirements. City Attorney Cain Smith recommends both the addition to 6-5(f) and 6-5(r) to brought back for first reading at the next council meeting. Councilmember Venus Mack would like to have a time limit placed, a lot could happen in time, they could commit a crime in another state and we wouldn't know. Councilmember Shari Barr asked if you could background check without the fingerprinting. City Attorney Cain Smith stated background only goes with fingerprinting and the state does not do background checks on beer and wine. After further discussion direction was given to further amend the ordinance by adding if the licensee has been through the full application in the past 3 years and has 2 more locations they would be exempt and the place on the next November 7th regular meeting agenda for 1st reading.

3. Sewer Laterals

Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles stated the sewer lateral is the sewer line that runs from a house or structure to the city sewer main, sometimes the sewer main is in the right of way, in the roadway, under the roadway, across from your house, or in an easement outside of a public right of way. Currently the city's policy is the sewer lateral is the property owner's responsibility and not the city's. Staff recommends the city enact a sewer replacement assistance program for owner-occupied single-family home owners to mitigate the costly repair of the sewer lateral located within the public right of way of public utility easement. One way to enact the assistance program would be the unit price of impacted public improved surfaces and another would be based on depth. Our recommendation would be \$50/sf and \$50/lf. Will move forward with staff recommendation of an assistance program for owner occupied single family homes to mitigate the costly repair of a sewer lateral located within the public right of way or public utility easement.

4. Police Recruitment

City Police Chief Broadhead presented to Mayor and Council a graph showing staffing issues over the past 4 years, where employees are going, a snapshot of applicants hiring process in 2023, and stating that in exit interviews employees feel overworked and underpaid. Chief Broadhead went over the different ways they have been trying to recruit, as well as the incentives. Chief Broadhead is proposing \$2,500 signing bonus for non-certified, \$5,000 signing bonus for 3-5 years' experience and \$10,000 signing bonus for more than 5 years' experience, moving the entry level pay up to \$50,000. Retention would consist of pay raises commensurate with recommendations from Condrey and Associates, maintain ongoing training, maintain state certification, 5% pay for K-9 handler and S.W.A.T., with Condrey and Associates pay adjustments implemented by January 1st 2024.

5. Personnel Benefits

Human Resources Director Demetrius Bynes spoke to Mayor and Council about the upcoming 2024 employee benefits. Demetrius presented a graph showing employees by age and stated that claim rates start going up at the 40-49 age group, as well as showing in 2023 there has been less claims than in 2022 both in net and total claims. The proposed plan is for bi-weekly payroll premiums to remain the same for CY 2024; however, the out of pocket maximum and emergency room copays/coinsurance will increase. The emergency room visit will go from from \$100 to \$300 + 20% coinsurance with the gold plan and from \$100 to \$150 +20% coinsurance on the platinum plan. The wellness incentives include the biometric screening, annual physical and coaching- 2 or more risk factors get 2 coaching sessions and 4 or more risk factors will have 4 coaching sessions.

6. Development Projects for Statesboro

Planning director Kathy Fields presented the Mayor and Council with the breakdown of all the new development that was approved with in the last couple of years. Approved developments include 377 single-family detached, 223 single-family attached, 914 townhomes, 517 multi-family, totaling 2031 new units. This number does not include smaller developments of less than 20. There are 216 multi-family units on Lovett Road, 90 townhome units on Westside Road, and 90 single-family detached units on Stockyard Road that are awaiting approval . Upcoming projects consist of 335 single-family and townhome units on Burkhalter Road, and 102 townhouse units on Langston Chapel Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk