



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 18, 2022

Mayor & Council Work Session

50 East Main Street

4:00 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on October 18, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 50 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McCollar; Council Members: Phil Boyum, Paulette Chavers, Venus Mack, John Riggs, 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.

1. One Boro Report

Stacey Smallwood Chairperson of the One Boro Commission presented to Mayor and Council what they have been doing over the past year. Since the passing of the Non-Discrimination ordinance there was one complaint filed, five hate crimes reported, and 22.25 % of city contracts went to MFBE's. The Violence Prevention Task Force held a "securing Statesboro" forum on September 10, 2022 and Work Force Development has been working on opportunities for your people and returning citizens. Some recommendations from One Boro include increasing the visibility and promotion of the discrimination complaint form, increase promotion of the MFBE incentive structure, and accelerate the DEI training process, and expanding equity metrics across all departments.

2. Presentation of Savvy Award

Mayor and City Council had photos taken with Public Information Officer Layne Phillips and the Boro Bulletin Committee for receiving the 3CMA Savvy award.

3. Creek on the Blue Mile Update

Charles Crowell with Freese and Nichols gave a project update on the Creek on the Blue Mile. The items that have been completed to date include topographic and utility survey, concept design report, geotechnical investigation and first charrette for memorial park design. Mr. Crowell reviewed the flood control conditions, the creek channel and promenade that will run from the railroad embankment to South Main Street and then from South Main Street ending at South Zetterower Avenue. The creek channel from South Zetterower Avenue to Gentilly Road will consist of an embankment and water quality structures. Bridges will be constructed on South Main Street, Fair Road and South Zetterower Avenue. The upcoming activities for the project are to continue 30% design of attenuation reservoir, 30% level design of promenade and set R-O-W, addressing utility conflicts, start GDOT bridge design and USACE permitting process, and schedule the next Memorial Park design charrette. Design for this project began in April 2022 and a concept design report was submitted August 2022. A 30% design submittal is scheduled for November 2022, a 60% design submittal is scheduled for February 2023 and a 90% design submittal is scheduled for May 2023. Mr. Crowell also reviewed the probable construction costs that include general conditions \$3,147,250, water and quality wetland system \$743,635, promenade segments \$3,236,080, bridge crossings \$2,682,902, roadway approaches \$3,318,570, crest gate detention structure \$967,320, improvements to the east of S. Zetterower Ave. \$1,809,700, north spur park channel design \$1,069,595, existing channel abandonment \$448,160, contingency at 20% \$3,484,600, and inflation factor at 20% \$3,484,600 for a total of \$24,392,412.

4. Right Start Presentation

Director of Planning and Development Kathy Field presented the Right Start meeting and process timelines. The purpose of Right Start is to allow developers opportunities to have their concept plans reviewed by departments and to provide feedback to developers before further investment is made by them. A meeting can be set up by contacting the Department of Planning and Development. Meetings must be scheduled by at least noon on the Monday prior to the meeting which is held every Thursday at 2:30 pm. Before the meeting the developer is required to submit documents showing the location/parcel information, a preliminary sketch, and the proposed use. The meeting consists of the developer, planning and Development, Public Works, Fire Department, and Public Utilities. The City Clerk and Police Department are informed of these meetings and projects as well. After the Right Start Meeting has taken place the applicant will receive a note sheet of all meeting items, a rebate package if natural gas is needed, a dumpster detail specifying build requirements, and any deliverables explicitly discussed at the meeting. Mrs. Fields reviewed the general timeline of a project beginning with a project consultation meeting and ending with permit issuance. If a project does not require a zoning variance or a change in zoning, a permit to begin a project can be issued in about 14 days depending on the applicant. If a zoning variance or zoning change is required the amount of time increases due to submission deadlines and Planning Commission meetings and could take up to 60 days depending the applicants' submission of items.

5. Virtual Fire Permit Process Presentation

Prevention Chief Stephan Hutchins presented the virtual fire inspection program overview and process. The program is voluntary that has no cost to the customer, it is quicker than in person inspections and has a no cast re-inspection. The program can be used on a variety of platforms such as FaceTime, zoom, meets, etc. Virtual inspections are a cheaper and safer option for the Fire Department as well as increases effectiveness and efficiency. The total number of inspections done from 2020 – 2022 was 4852 and 1227 re-inspections. The average time spent on a first time inspection is 11 minutes and 39 seconds for re-inspections it is 6 minutes and 7 seconds. Virtual re-inspections will recover an estimated 125 hours of time. This program does not replace in person inspections. This program will be used for re-inspections not initial inspections.

6. Business Commission

City Attorney Cain Smith presented an overview of what a Business Commission would look like for the City of Statesboro. The commission would consist of seven members for a two year term, their purpose would be to inform the governing body on policy matters related to the impact of local ordinances and procedures on business opportunities and operations within the city.

There was council discussion regarding the purpose of the commission is for business owners the opportunity in the city to give input regarding processes or procedures that impact their business. It will give the city an opportunity to hear input on how to make our services more business friendly. It was also discussed to stagger the terms of the members and to require anyone one interested in serving on the commission need to be authorized representatives of an entity holding an occupational tax certificate with the City of Statesboro.

Direction was given to have City Attorney Cain Smith to draft the language for the Business Commission and to have the first reading at the November 1st meeting.

7. Healthy Boro Commission

This item will be addressed at later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk