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CITY OF STATESBORO  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
OCTOBER 19 2021

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Mayor & Council Work Session

50 East Main Street

4:00 PM

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A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on October 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 50 East Main Street. Present was Mayor Jonathan McCollar; Council Members: Paulette Chavers, 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 Councilmember Phil Boyum and Venus Mack.

City Manager Charles Penny informed Mayor and Council that the City held three public meetings to gather input on the use of ARPA funds. In addition a feedback form is posted on the City's webpage for citizens to fill out with ideas as to how these funds should be used.

#### **Creek on the Blue Mile Update**

Eric Neese with Freese and Nichols presented the final report on the Flood Study for the Creek on the Blue Mile. Mr. Neese showed a map of the overall concept for the creek on the Blue Mile. The major changes from the original project is the consideration of the reservoir as an alternate, add a bridge at South Zetterower and shape the channel from Zetterower to Gentilly. Next Mr. Neese presented a map of the 100-year floodplain that showed the FEMA mapped 100-year floodplain and the recently studied 100-year floodplain. The next map showed the proposed floodplain for the project. The next steps for this project is to complete a flood study of the entire basin upstream of the bypass and side streams then submit a letter of map revision (LOMR) for existing conditions. When the city is ready with the financing of the project then Engineering and project permitting can begin. Once construction is complete, submit a final letter of map revision (LOMR).

City Manager Charles Penny stated that the city contracted with Freese and Nichols to analyze the flood maps and they were able to identify where the floodplain actually is and we see that the floodplain has changed to the benefit of the project. Which is critical because that will determine how much property is actually developed. The other thing Eric brought up is the other tributaries that will need to be mapped for an up to date map where flooding is concerned. We will get a proposal from Freese and Nichols of what it will cost to map out those other areas.

#### **Proposal to add Fire Dispatch to City Services**

Fire Chief Tim Grams presented to Mayor and Council a proposal to add fire dispatch to city services. The proposal is to utilize the Statesboro Police Communications Center to dispatch and communicate with Statesboro Fire Department units and personnel during an emergency. The Statesboro Police Department utilizes Bulloch County 911 to receive emergency calls. When these calls come in 911 gathers pertinent information and notifies the Police Department Communications Center. Dispatchers then dispatch officers/units and manage communications for the incident until it is resolved. The Statesboro Fire Department also utilizes Bulloch County 911 to receive and dispatch emergency calls. This arrangement has met the needs of the Fire Department in the past but due to the current staffing levels of Bulloch County 911 and the call volume they receive there are critical objectives of the Fire Department that have not been achieved or implemented. This arrangement in dispatching for the Statesboro Fire Department creates limitations and concerns when it comes to incident management and communications. This proposal is based on three primary

objectives, increased safety of emergency personnel; improved efficiency getting appropriate units dispatched, and improved accountability through a Quality Assurance Program. The total cost to implement this proposal is approximately \$416,253.37 and includes hardware, software, and additional personnel at the communications center. A recommendation will be brought forward for consideration at the second meeting in November.

**Transit System Update**

Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles updated Mayor and Council on the City’s Transit System. The Coastal Regional Commission will operate the system and will run two routes in the City. The schedule is Monday – Friday, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm with two buses running on each route. Mr. Boyles reviewed the budget impact of the transit system. At this time, we are unable to give a definitive timeline as to when this program will begin. The money from the Federal Government to help fund this program goes through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). GDOT sent an email stating, “Due to the nationwide shortage of computer chips and steel for manufacturer vehicle chassis there are no estimated times for deliveries of any of the FY2021 or FY2022 vehicles.”

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk