



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Mayor & Council Work Session

50 E. Main St. Statesboro, Ga

3:30 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on November 16, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 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. Georgia Industrial Systems and Robotics Training Campus at Ogeechee Technical College

Vice President for Economic Development at Ogeechee Technical College Jan Moore presented to Mayor and City Council the proposed GA Industrial Systems and Industrial Robotics Training Campus operated by Ogeechee Technical College. Currently the program is housed at the OTC Industrial Technology Building. The primary purpose is to train individuals in industrial maintenance there is also a FANUC robotics lab where individuals are trained to operate and maintenance manufacturing robots. The current facility is 12,500 square feet. The proposed new training building will be 37,000 square feet allowing for increased training capacity, located at the entrance of Gateway Industrial Park. The impact of the new campus will increase the number of individuals trained each year from 274 to 780, it will also attract manufacturers to our area bringing in higher skilled and higher paying jobs.

2. One Boro Report

One Boro Commission Chairperson Stacy Smallwood, updated Mayor and City Council on the work One Boro Commission is doing. One Boro now has subcommittees such as Equity Metrics and Assessment, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training, The Longest Table, Workforce Development, and Violence Prevention Task Force. The Equity Metrics and Assessment subcommittee has developed a nondiscrimination ordinance complaint form along with a list of equity metrics. The Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training committee focuses on the review of DEI training curricula and the implementation of this training. The longest table subcommittee is aiming to hold this event in 2022 as it has been on hold due to COVID-19. One Boro has also created a violence prevention Task Force that focuses on assessment, culture competence, and resource sharing. The task force held a "Securing Statesboro" Town Hall on March 6th where data presentations from local law enforcement agencies, Teal House, and Safe Haven were given. The One Boro Commission will develop a City of Statesboro equity metrics report, work with city staff on the planning and implementation of DEI training, and continue to foster cross sector conversations and collaborations, particularly around training and workforce development.

3. Package Stores

City Attorney Cain Smith presented to Mayor and City Council different jurisdiction policies of package store sales. State requirements for the licensing of package store sales of distilled spirits include proximity to protected establishments, merchandise available for sale, hours of operation and required signage. A majority of surveyed jurisdictions rely on state standards with no local enhancement. In these jurisdictions, the market forces determine the number and placement of package stores. Some jurisdictions such as Brookhaven and Augusta have placed proximity requirements between licensed establishments to avoid clustering. Other jurisdictions exercise the local option to limit the number of licenses granted for package stores. Limiting the number of licenses requires the consideration of other issues such as store size, deciding population milestones, and creating a system to address the discrepancy between the number of applications and the number of available licenses. Mr. Smith presented a document comprised of liquor store ordinances from other jurisdictions, statewide regulations, and a final draft of the City of Newnan's recently adopted liquor store ordinance. Primary considerations for drafting a liquor store ordinance include, number of licenses allowed, requirements to square footage and inventory, proximity to vulnerable establishments, proximity between licensed establishments, allowed zoning districts, restrictions on merchandise offered for sale, hours of operation, allowance in freestanding vs. shopping center, and application process.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar stated he would create an Ad Hoc Committee to be comprised of citizens, business owners, and law enforcement to get feedback from the community.

Councilmember John Riggs encouraged citizens to go to the City of Statesboro website and review the information that was presented today.

Direction was given to have City Attorney Cain Smith draft an ordinance based on State requirements and present it at the next Work Session on December 21, 2021.

4. Housing Rehabilitation Process

Planning and Development Director Kathy Field presented to Mayor and City Council the proposed process for the Housing Rehabilitation Program. The funds received from the American Rescue Program Act (ARPA) will fund the program. Due to the complexity of establishing a Housing Rehabilitation Program the city will solicit proposals from third-party consultants to develop and operate the program. It is anticipated to have a proposed contract brought to City Council for consideration in December. The consultant will be required to prepare a "Housing Rehabilitation Policies and Procedures Handbook" that will include procedures for housing inspection, cost estimations, solicitation of bids, loan/grant processes, project close-outs, etc. Once the "handbook" is approved by the City, the consultant will work with City staff to establish an acceptable program implementation plan. In addition, the consultant must develop a detailed financial reporting system for the program, create a public information process explaining the program's goals and policies, and hold at least three public meetings explaining the details of the program. The Director of Planning and Development and staff will administer the program. Per ARPA requirements the program must be completed by December 2026.