



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 19, 2023

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember Paulette Chavers gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Phil Boyum	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
Venus Mack	Councilmember	Present	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present	
Shari Barr	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Public Information Officer Layne Phillips, City Attorney Cain Smith and City Clerk Leah Harden

3. Recognitions / Public Presentation:

A) Presentation of a retirement award to Keith Perkins Water & Sewer Superintendent who is retiring effective January 1, 2024 after 36 years of service.

Mayor McCollar stated that Keith Perkins was unable to attend this evening. He thanked Mr. Perkins for his years of service to the City of Statesboro.

B) Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Councilmember Venus Mack for her dedicated service to the City of Statesboro.

Mayor McCollar read and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Councilmember Venus Mack. He also thanked her for her dedicated service to the City of Statesboro.

C) Presentation of a Certificate of Achievement from the Georgia Municipal Association to Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr for her completion of 72 hours to training.

Pam Helton, GMA Member Service Representative congratulated and presented a Certificate of Achievement to Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr for her completion of 72 hours of training with the Georgia Municipal Association.

D) Presentation of a Certificate of Dedication from the Georgia Municipal Association to Councilmember Phil Boyum for his completion of 276 hours of training.

Pam Helton, GMA Member Service Representative congratulated and presented a Certificate of Dedication to Councilmember Phil Boyum for his completion of 276 hours of training with the Georgia Municipal Association and the Carl Vinson Institute for Local Government.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 12-05-2023 Council Minutes

b) 12-05-2023 Work Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

6. Public Hearing and Consideration of a motion to Approve: APPLICATION RZ 23-11-01: Danny Jones requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the PUD/MX (Planned Unit Development/Mixed-Use) zoning district to the R-2 (Townhouse Residential) zoning district on approximately 2.63 acres of property located on Gentilly Road.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

Director of Planning and development Kathy Field stated the original layout of the subdivision has been modified so the open space is on the side of the single family residential and the townhomes will be built on the business side of the property.

Arthur Sparks stated he had concerns about this development but he spoke with the contractor and they have come up with a solution to his concerns.

Cody Rogers with EMC Engineering spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION RZ 23-11-01**: Danny Jones requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the PUD/MX (Planned Unit Development/Mixed-Use) zoning district to the R-2 (Townhouse Residential) zoning district on approximately 2.63 acres of property located on Gentilly Road.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

7. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION SUB 23-11-02: Karen Lovett requests a Preliminary Subdivision Plat of approximately 16.47 acres of property located on Brannen Street.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

John Dotson with Maxwell Reddick and Associates spoke in favor of the request.

Alan Gross stated that this would be a good benefit for Statesboro.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION SUB 23-11-02**: Karen Lovett requests a Preliminary Subdivision Plat of approximately 16.47 acres of property located on Brannen Street.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

8. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION SUB 23-11-03: SLA Communities LLC, request a Preliminary Subdivision Plat of approximately 36.55 acres of property in order to construct a 124-unit Single-Family detached subdivision on Beasley Road.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

Ashley Durrence with Smith Family Homes spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION SUB 23-11-03**: SLA Communities LLC, request a Preliminary Subdivision Plat of approximately 36.55 acres of property in order to construct a 124-unit Single-Family detached subdivision on Beasley Road.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

9. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve APPLICATION RZ 23-11-04: West District Development requests an amendment to an existing PUD (Planned Unit Development) in order to complete the phase 2 development of the West District located at 40 West Cherry Street.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

Josh Whitfield spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION RZ 23-11-04**: West District Development requests an amendment to an existing PUD (Planned Unit Development) in order to complete the phase 2 development of the West District located at 40 West Cherry Street.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

10. Public Hearing and Consideration of a motion to approve application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13(a):

**Express One Stop
3190 Northside Dr. W.
Statesboro, Ga 30458
License Type: Package Sales – Beer and Wine Only**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

No one spoke for or against the request.

A motion was made to approve close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

A motion was made to approve the application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13(a): issued to Express One Stop located at 3190 Northside Dr. W. Statesboro, Ga 30458 for License Type: Package Sales – Beer and Wine Only

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

11. Second Reading and consideration of a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-20: An Ordinance amending Chapter 10, Article I of the Statesboro Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made to approve Ordinance 2023-20: An Ordinance amending Chapter 10, Article I of the Statesboro Code of Ordinances.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

12. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2023-51: A Resolution to approve the Employee Compensation Plan for Public Safety (Police Officers and Firefighters) effective January 1, 2024 and General Government employees effective July 1, 2024.

There was council discussion regarding the increased cost of implementation of all employees effective January 1, 2024. Councilmember Phil Boyum stated this will increase this year's budget by \$1.1 million which is half the annual cost and place the city that much further in the hole.

City Manager Charles Penny stated the cost to implement the Compensation Plan for all employees from January 2024 – June 2024 is \$1.1 million with \$500,000 from the General Fund, \$200,026 from the Fire Fund, and \$348,000 from the Enterprise Fund.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2023-51: approving the Employee Compensation Plan to include every employee of the City of Statesboro effective January 1, 2024.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous) 3-2
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Chavers, Mack, Riggs
ABSENT:	
NAYS:	Boyum and Barr

A motion was made to rescind the previous his previous motion to allow for more discussion.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous) 3-2
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Boyum, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	
NAYS:	Chavers and Mack

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated she understood that when the study was done we were going to get the results for public Safety first because that is the biggest need and to implement it for them in January 2024. The only reason we are able to consider everyone is because the results for all employees came in earlier than anticipated. She stated she values city staff and at this point is willing to support the motion and move forward.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2023-51**: for the Employee Compensation Plan with the stipulation that all employees, general government and Public Safety (Police Officers and Firefighters) all begin the compensation plan on January 1, 2024.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

13. Consideration of a Motion to Approve Resolution 2023-52: A Resolution authorizing the opening of a separate bank account for the 2023 TSPLOST.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2023-52**: A Resolution authorizing the opening of a separate bank account for the 2023 TSPLOST.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

14. Consideration of a motion to approve a Temporary Special Event Permit in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-8(d)(3) issued to the Blue Room for December 31, 2023 from 7pm to 12am. The location of the event is 1830 Chandler Road.

A motion was made to approve a Temporary Special Event Permit in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-8(d)(3) issued to the Blue Room for December 31, 2023 from 7pm to 12am. The location of the event is 1830 Chandler Road.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

15. Consideration of a motion to approve an amendment to the contract with Tyler Technologies Software for on premise license and maintenance.

A motion was made to approve an amendment to the contract with Tyler Technologies Software for on premise license and maintenance.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

16. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) 2023 or newer Ford F-450 Super Duty XL 4WD 7.3 L V8 or equivalent at a cost, not to exceed, \$80,000. If approved, this purchase would be funded out of Natural Gas operating funds.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of one (1) 2023 or newer Ford F-450 Super Duty XL 4WD 7.3 L V8 or equivalent at a cost, not to exceed, \$80,000. If approved, this purchase would be funded out of Natural Gas operating funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

17. Consideration of a motion to approve a Water - Sewer Agreement with Blanchard Equipment not to exceed \$325,350.00 to extend a 12” water main approximately 3800’ on Miller St. Extension to Veteran's Memorial Parkway. Work to be paid for with funds from System Revenues in the Water Sewer Fund.

A motion was made to approve a Water - Sewer Agreement with Blanchard Equipment not to exceed \$325,350.00 to extend a 12” water main approximately 3800’ on Miller St. Extension to Veteran's Memorial Parkway. Work to be paid for with funds from System Revenues in the Water Sewer Fund.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

18. Consideration of a motion to award a contract for professional engineering services for Phase 2 of the South Main Street/Blue Mile Streetscape Improvements Project to T.R. Long Engineering in the not to exceed amount of \$399,420.00. The project will be paid from 2018 TSPLOST Funds.

A Motion was made to approve an award a contract for professional engineering services for Phase 2 of the South Main Street/Blue Mile Streetscape Improvements Project to T.R. Long Engineering in the not to exceed amount of \$399,420.00. The project will be paid from 2018 TSPLOST Funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Phil Boyum
SECONDER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

19. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Jonathan McCollar thanked Olympia and her team for all their work during the Toy Drive this year he also thanked the citizens along with community partners for their contributions. He stated this is the fifth year the City of Statesboro has been a part of Toy Drive.

20. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny highlighted some items in the FYI packet. The first item is about an annexation on Burkhalter Road. The second item is regarding the housing rehabilitation program policy. The policy allows for either \$50,000 or \$70/sf per home. The challenge is that bids are coming in more than \$50,000. It is staff recommendation to focus the bidding strategy on the \$70/sf unit price. This will allow for immediate award of housing rehabilitation bids.

Councilmember Riggs stated that 220 years ago today December 19th 1803, Governor John Milledge in the capital City of Louisville signed an act of the Georgia Legislature creating the town of Statesborough.

21. Public Comments (General): None

**22. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss “Personnel Matters”
“Real Estate” and/or “Potential Litigation” in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).**

No executive session was held.

23. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Venus Mack
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT	

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk