



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2021

Mayor & Council Work Session

50 E. Main St. Statesboro, Ga

4:00 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on December 21, 2021 at 4:00 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, and Public Information Officer Layne Phillips. Absent was Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles.

1. Package Store Presentation

City Attorney Cain Smith presented to Mayor and City Council the draft ordinance for package stores based on state requirements. He reported a summary of the recommendations from the Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on December 14, 2021. The committee reviewed and discussed the primary considerations for the drafting a liquor store ordinance. The first consideration is the number of licenses allowed, and suggestions included limiting licenses to one per council district, increasing the proximity between licensed establishments, and basing the number of license on population. Second was square footage/inventory with a conclusion of no recommendation on square footage but a recommendation to require \$200,000 in distilled spirits inventory. Third discussion point was proximity to vulnerable with a recommendation to follow state proximity law. Fourth was the proximity between licensed establishments with an option to increase distances between stores, which would indirectly limit the number of licenses. Fifth was regarding the allowed zoning districts for licensed establishments and the recommendation is to follow the zoning districts already set out in Chapter 6 which includes HOC, LI, CR, and CBD. Sixth is restrictions on merchandise offered for sale. There was no discussion regarding the products available for sale in these licensed stores. Seventh was the hours of operation with a recommendation to follow state law. Eight was the allowance in freestanding vs. shopping center with no restriction to freestanding establishments. The final discussion point was the application process. No final recommendation was made, as the question of whether to limit the number of licenses allowed still stands.

Mr. Smith reviewed the alcohol application process for the City of Statesboro. Completed Application submissions include the following, copy of lease or proof of ownership, a floor plan, a proximity map completed by a registered surveyor, and a copy of alcohol liability insurance policy declaration. The application is then reviewed and evaluated by the Fire Department, Police Department, Zoning Department, and the City Attorney. After each department has submitted their comments a sign is posted in front of the establishment giving public notice of the place and time for a meeting of Mayor and Council for consideration of the application seven days prior to the meeting. Some noteworthy items include an Occupational Tax Certificate must be obtained before the issuance of an alcohol license. Licenses are not transferable and must be approved by Mayor and Council at an open meeting of the body. In addition, failure to open a licensed establishment within 45 days of license issuance would result in the forfeiture and/or cancellation of the license.

Council discussion included increasing the number of days for a store to open after the issuance of the license, limiting the amount of stores, zoning districts, inventory minimums, and hours of operation.

The directive was given to draft an ordinance restricting package stores to CR (Commercial Retail), CBD (Central Business District), and HOC (Highway Oriented Commercial) zoning areas, and to set closing time

to 10:00 pm. Products offered for sale and proximity requirements between licensed establishments and to vulnerable establishments to follow state regulations.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar stated he would like 50 percent of the tax revenue derived from Distilled Spirits package store to go to youth and social services.

Councilmember John Riggs stated he would like the other 50 percent to go to Public Safety.

The first reading of this ordinance will take place on January 4, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk