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CITY OF STATESBORO  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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Mayor & Council Work Session

50 East Main Street

3:00 PM

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A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on February 16, 2021 at 3:00 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.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order.

### **Police Department Report**

Statesboro Police Chief Mike Broadhead began his presentation with data regarding the Polices department's issues with hiring new officers stating the department is short six officers as of today. Of the interviews conducted last year, 38% of the individuals were hired, 6% withdrew from the process, 15% had psychological disqualifications, 15% has background disqualifications, and 26% had interview disqualifications. Chief Broadhead continued stating the training hours for officers in 2020, averaged 196.9 hours for sworn officers and 42.8 hours for civilian employees. The enforcement numbers presented include, calls for service, citations, warnings, DUI, and arrests. There has been a 3% increase overall in calls for service from the previous year and a 15% increase in DUI arrests; however, there has been a 31% decrease in citations, a 40% decrease in warnings, and a 40% decrease in arrests. Vehicle crash numbers have decreased from the previous years. Violent crimes are down by 7% from the previous year even though homicides were higher than normal; however, of the nine homicides eight arrests have been made. Property crime declined by 10% from the previous. Chief Broadhead presented an example of the program Fusus that is a law enforcement video sharing program. The program allows the police department to view live video from businesses and housing complexes with cameras and participating in the program. Chief Broadhead showed Mayor and City Council what the live feed looks like from one of their participants McKeithen Hardware cameras. He stated Fox Ridge Apartments participate in the program as well. Their participation has dramatically improved the safety component there as well as the calls for service have declined. So far there have been four businesses signed up to be a part of this program. The Statesboro Police Department is seeking participation across the city from businesses and housing complexes who have video cameras. We will be working with different departments within the City to get them on board with this program.

### **Fire Department Report**

Statesboro Fire Chief Tim Grams began his presentation with the City of Statesboro Fire Departments 2020 accomplishments that include the remodel and update to Live Fire Training Facilities to allow for safer and more efficient training. Other accomplishments, the receipt of \$78,000.000 in grant funding and the participation in Occupational Cancer Reduction Trainings, sleep studies and behavioral health and work related stress studies. Next, Chief Grams presented the 2020 statistics for Statesboro fire service. The calls for service includes the City, Fire District and the outside primary response area. Other statistics include

average response time, average time on-scene, number of overlapping incidents, and arson investigations. The Statesboro Fire Department averaged 315 training hours per individual in the past year. Chief Grams reviewed prevention activities of the past year stating due to COVID the community education part for prevention could not be done in person however, safety videos were created and posted on social media for the public to view. In addition, 1000 fire inspections were completed and 71 smoke alarms were installed in 45 residences. Chief Grams concluded his presentation with the Statesboro Fire Departments community outreach stating despite COVID personnel donated hundreds of canned good and money to the Statesboro Food Bank; they also raised over \$1,300.00 in the annual Cancer Awareness T-shirt sale and on Veterans Day placed crosses on the Bulloch County Courthouse lawn.

### **Downtown Master Plan**

Bill Tunnell with TSW presented the planning process for the Downtown Statesboro Master Plan. He started with introducing team member who will be working on this Master Plan. Mr. Tunnell stated TSW helps small towns find their niche to transform their downtowns. The planning process will happen in four phases. Phase 1 begins with listening and learning, phase two visioning and strategy that includes community engagement, phase three is master planning and zoning and phase four the implementation of the plan. The study areas are the entire downtown including historical places, working through zoning issues and housing in the downtown area.

### **IPMC Presentation**

Planning Director Kathy Field presented the background and purpose of the International Property Maintenance Code. The purpose for consideration of this code is the City's current "nuisance" code lacks specificity; it limits the degree to which a case can be made in court and lack adequate guidance to the violator for remediation. Code compliance officers are allowed to investigate conditions on any private residential or commercial property to determining whether the structures are not in compliance with applicable codes, and to determine if they are an endangerment to the public health or safety as a result of unsanitary or unsafe conditions. To ensure the public was familiar with the proposed new code public information meetings were held, copies of the new and existing code were made available and code compliance officers were available to answer any specific questions from the audience. Other efforts for public notice include press releases, website notifications, social media posts and the current and proposed codes were made available on the Planning and Development web page. Staff recommends the adoption of this code as it is essential for the City's neighborhood revitalization efforts. The adoption of this code will better support code compliance and strengthen the goals of the GICH program, it will enhance the City's competitiveness for the CHIP and CDBG grant applications, it will provide more clarity to homeowners/investors regarding the minimum housing standards and will identify that the City is committed to revitalizing its neighborhoods.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk