



CITY OF STATESBORO  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 17, 2021

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 Venus Mack 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	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Venus Mack	Councilmember	Present	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present Via Zoom	
Shari Barr	Councilmember	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. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None**

Councilmember Shari Barr announced that an award for City Clerk of the Year was presented at the GMA Annual Convention and that even though our City Clerk, Leah Harden, was not chosen Mayor and Council presented her with a certificate of nomination.

Councilmember John Riggs encourages anyone who has not been vaccinated to visit your doctor, nurse, health department, or pharmacy and ask them, are you vaccinated why or why not; then ask should I get vaccinated and listen to what they have to say.

Mayor McCollar stated we are at a critical point with COVID 19 we are currently experiencing high numbers of individuals in our hospitals. The biggest thing talked about from day one is the threat to our medical infrastructure. There have been as many as fifteen individuals on ventilators. COVID is very real and it is something we have to deal with.

Councilmember Phil Boyum shared a personal story about a COVID experience and stated that if you have people that rely on you and you choose not to get the vaccine, make sure you organize your affairs because you just never know.

Councilmember Shari Barr shared that Augusta Health center has 110 people in the hospital with COVID as of yesterday of those individuals 104 were unvaccinated. The vaccine works. The unvaccinated are bearing the brunt of it but they are spreading it to others. So please seriously consider getting vaccinated.

Mayor McCollar stated East Georgia Regional Medical Center has 47 COVID patients and 16 of those are on ventilators. Let us keep those individuals in prayer.

**4. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda**

**A) Approval of Minutes**

**a) 08-03-2021 Council Minutes**

**b) 08-03-2021 Executive Session Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**5. Public Hearing & Consideration of a Motion to approve application for an alcohol license Sec. 6-5:**

**A. Sneaux La La  
408 S Main St  
Statesboro, Ga 30458  
Owner: Annie Natson**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

City Attorney Cain Smith stated his stance on this application is for Council's consideration.

Annie Natson spoke in favor of the application and presented their business plan to Mayor and City Council. She stated that regular snow balls would be served in Styrofoam cups and any alcohol snowballs would be served in clear cups, either glass or plastic whichever the Department of Health approves.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers

<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

Councilmember Venus Mack asked what are you going to put in place to make sure that once you serve the alcohol that the patron cannot leave.

Annie Natson stated we plan to post signs stating you cannot leave the premises with the beverage. In addition, staff will be outside cleaning tables and engaging with customers.

Councilmember Shari Barr brought up a concern about the clear plastic cup stating it should be made of some kind of crockery/glass material something that is not intended to leave the premises.

Councilmember John Riggs stated I feel it is too much of an opportunity for a patron to take advantage of the outside nature of the business establishment, when it comes to underage drinking, passing it off. He stated I am sorry I am going to have to vote against it.

A Motion was made to approve the alcohol application for Sneaux La La located at 408 South Main Street with the condition of having specific glasses for the adult beverages and signage.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs

**6. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION SE 21-07-01: Oscar Mauricio requests a special exception from Article VIII, Section 801 of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance to allow for the operation of a virtual car dealership at 22 South Main Street (Tax Parcel # S28 000068 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

Oscar Mauricio spoke in favor of the request.  
No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION SE 21-07-01**: Oscar Mauricio requests a special exception from Article VIII, Section 801 of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance to allow for the operation of a virtual car dealership at 22 South Main Street (Tax Parcel # S28 000068 000).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Phil Boyum
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**7. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION RZ 21-07-02: John White requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R8 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the R4 (High-Density Residential) zoning district, in order to develop a duplex on Parker & West Grady Street (Tax Parcel # S11 000031A000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

No one spoke for or against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION RZ 21-07-02**: John White requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R8 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the R4 (High-Density Residential) zoning district, in order to develop a duplex on Parker & West Grady Street (Tax Parcel # S11 000031A000).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

8. **Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION V 21-07-03: Whitfield Signs requests a variance from Article XXX, Section 3005 of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to place a 289 square foot vinyl wrapping on the wall of the developing Dolan's BBQ at 239 South Main Street (Tax Parcel # S19 000019 001).**

The applicant withdrew this application.

9. **Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION V 21-07-04: Renfroe Outdoor LLC request a variance from Article XV, Section 1511(H) of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to upgrade the existing billboards to LED displays at 75 Northside Drive (Tax Parcel # MS84000100F00).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

Matt Mathews spoke in favor of the request.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

During council discussion, Councilmember Paulette Chavers brought up the issue for the need of an update to the City of Statesboro Sign and Zoning Ordinances.

City Manager Charles Penny stated updates like these are a great undertaking; staff will work on a proposal to update the Sign and Subdivision ordinance for your consideration.

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION V 21-07-04**: Renfroe Outdoor LLC request a variance from Article XV, Section 1511(H) of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to upgrade the existing billboards to LED displays at 75 Northside Drive (Tax Parcel # MS84000100F00).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulete Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**10. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION V 21-07-05: Renfroe Outdoor LLC request a variance from Article XV, Section 1511(H) of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to upgrade the existing billboards to LED displays at 17874 Highway 67 (Tax Parcel # MS75000012 002).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

Matt Mathews spoke in favor of the request.  
No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION V 21-07-05**: Renfroe Outdoor LLC request a variance from Article XV, Section 1511(H) of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to upgrade the existing billboards to LED displays at 17874 Highway 67 (Tax Parcel # MS75000012 002).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**11. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION V 21-07-06: Encounter Church requests a Variance from Article XV, Section 1509, Table 6 of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to place a sign exceeding the 12-foot maximum height of building signs in the CBD (Central Business District) at 39A West Main Street (Tax Parcel # S18 000064 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

No one spoke for or against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION V 21-07-06**: Encounter Church requests a Variance from Article XV, Section 1509, Table 6 of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to place a sign exceeding the 12-foot maximum height of building signs in the CBD (Central Business District) at 39A West Main Street (Tax Parcel # S18 000064 000).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

## 12. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve:

- A. **APPLICATION AN 21-07-07**: Nesmith Properties LLLP, requests Annexation of 1.58 acres of property in order to complete the development of a proposed subdivision on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcel MS57000000 000).
- B. **APPLICATION RZ 21-07-08**: Nesmith Properties LLLP, requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R40 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the PUD (Planned Unit Development) zoning district for two properties located on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcels # MS57000004 000 & MS57000006 000).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chaves
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	



Joey Maxwell spoke in favor of the request.  
No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember John Riggs
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION AN 21-07-07**: Nesmith Properties LLLP, requests Annexation of 1.58 acres of property in order to complete the development of a proposed subdivision on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcel MS5700000 000) and **APPLICATION RZ 21-07-08**: Nesmith Properties LLLP, requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R40 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the PUD (Planned Unit Development) zoning district for two properties located on Lakeview Road (Tax Parcels # MS57000004 000 & MS57000006 000).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chaves
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Phil Boyum
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**13. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION V 21-07-10: The Statesboro Convention & Visitors Bureau requests a variance from Article XI, Section 1102(D) of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to increase the footprint of the secondary structure on the lot, in order to create a concrete slab and lean-to roof for exterior cooling & freezer units at 228 South Main Street (Tax Parcel # S29 000030 001).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

Jamie Cartee spoke in favor of the request.  
No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION V 21-07-10**: The Statesboro Convention & Visitors Bureau requests a variance from Article XI, Section 1102(D) of the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance, in order to increase the footprint of the secondary structure on the lot, in order to create a concrete slab and lean-to roof for exterior cooling & freezer units at 228 South Main Street (Tax Parcel # S29 000030 001).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Phil Boyum
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**14. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve: APPLICATION CBD 21-07-11: Justin Peay requests plan approval for the expansion of the existing Divy Desk facility located at 19 Courtland Street (Tax Parcel # S28 000023 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Phil Boyum
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

Justin Peay spoke in favor of the request.  
No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION CBD 21-07-11**: Justin Peay requests plan approval for the expansion of the existing Divy Desk facility located at 19 Courtland Street (Tax Parcel # S28 000023 000).

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Shari Barr
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**15. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2021-30: A Resolution approving the amendment to Completion of Construction date in the current Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for the Creek on the Blue Mile project and authorization to execute contract document Exhibits E & F.**

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2021-30** approving the amendment to Completion of Construction date in the current Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for the Creek on the Blue Mile project and authorization to execute contract document Exhibits E & F.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**16. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2021-31: A Resolution approving application with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for State Fiscal Recovery Funds for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.**

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2021-31 approving application with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for State Fiscal Recovery Funds for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**17. Consideration of a Motion to approve Resolution 2021-32: A Resolution granting approval to the Statesboro Police Department to apply for a grant through the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) in the amount of \$9,649.50.**

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2021-32 granting approval to the Statesboro Police Department to apply for a grant through the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) in the amount of \$9,649.50.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chaves
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**18. Consideration of a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Blue Mile Foundation, Inc. for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.**

A motion was made to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Blue Mile Foundation, Inc. for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**19. Consideration of a motion to approve the affordable housing plan for the City of Statesboro Georgia.**

This item was tabled until 9-7-2021

**20. Consideration of a Motion to approve the purchase of eight new patrol cars including “up-fitting” with required equipment, as well as a replacement detective vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$572,014.00. This purchase will be paid from 2019 SPLOST funds.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of eight new patrol cars including “up-fitting” with required equipment, as well as a replacement detective vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$572,014.00. This purchase will be paid from 2019 SPLOST funds.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**21. Consideration of a Motion to approve the purchase of two (2) Pierce Fire Engines in the amount of \$1,342,410.00. This purchase will be paid for from 2019 SPLOST funds.**

A motion was made to approve the purchase of two (2) Pierce Fire Engines in the amount of \$1,342,410.00. This purchase will be paid for from 2019 SPLOST funds.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

**22. Consideration to set the dates for the required three (3) public hearings to solicit input regarding the millage rate of 7.308 for the 2021 property taxes. 1st Public Hearing August 31st 2021 at 9:00 am, 2nd Public Hearing August 31st 2021 at 6:00 pm, 3rd Public Hearing September 7th 2021 at 9:00 am.**

A motion was made to set the dates for the required three (3) public hearings to solicit input regarding the millage rate of 7.308 for the 2021 property taxes. 1st Public Hearing August 31st 2021 at 9:00 am, 2nd Public Hearing August 31st 2021 at 6:00 pm, 3rd Public Hearing September 7th 2021 at 9:00 am.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved (Unanimous)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Venus Mack
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers
<b>AYES:</b>	Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr
<b>NAYS:</b>	

### **23. Other Business from City Council:**

Councilmember Venus Mack thanked everyone for your prayers and support for her and her daughter.

Councilmember Shari Barr announced that the Youth Council is having a vaccination clinic featuring the Pfizer vaccine, which is approved for 12 – 17 year olds at Luetta Moore Park this Saturday August 21, 2021 from 11am to 3 pm.

### **24. City Managers Comments**

City Manager Charles Penny stated the Health Department would be administering the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccinations at City Hall on September 1, 2021 from 9 – 11 am and it is open to the public.

Mr. Penny announced that Georgia Cities Magazine had a feature article about the City of Statesboro's Youth Connect Program. He also stated that Grady Street Park is nearing completion and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held later this month.

Mr. Penny stated that he and Bulloch County Manager Tom Couch met with the Statesboro Food Bank yesterday and found out there is grant money available for "Food Bank". The Food Bank has to relocate their facility due to the senior housing project and this grant money would help them in securing a new facility. The City or the County needs to be the applicant for these grant funds and the recommendation is to have the county be the applicant for them.

Councilmember Phil Boyum asked why we are not going for grant funding to put sewer infrastructure in neighborhoods like Foxlake, Merrywood, and on Ramble Road.

Mr. Penny stated we have a commitment for about \$12.3 million dollars coming to the City of Statesboro. We do not have all the guidelines for how those funds can be used but we do know that neighborhood improvements are eligible as well, a water and sewer infrastructure. In a couple of weeks, we will present to you those neighborhoods that have been without water and sewer to use those funds to extend that infrastructure into those areas.

### **25. Public Comments (General):**

Madeline Smith stated she is a visually impaired student at GSU and the president of the Students with Disabilities Advocacy Group on GSU campus. She introduced Breanne Dollar who is in a wheelchair who would like to address Mayor and Council regarding the accessibility issues she has around Statesboro.

Breanne Dollar stated she is vice-president of the Students with Disabilities Advocacy Group and shared with Mayor and City Council some of the struggles she has had since moving here last week. Issues include wheelchair ramps at her apartment and on campus, sidewalk travel in a wheelchair is difficult due to conditions, the roads on campus are an issue as well as they are made of cobblestone and the stones are lifting up and there are many potholes. Other issues are elevators not having sensors and buttons being too high to reach. Ms. Dollar asked that when planning try and think about it, if you were in a chair how you would get into this space.

Councilmember Shari Barr read a letter written by Shannon Killebrew founder of Shannon’s Hope for House Calls & Home Medical Care. Shannon thanked Mayor and Council for their interest and consideration of her suggestion for park and recreation accessible items for Statesboro. The focus on inclusion is essential for people with all abilities and unique needs. Our community is at the forefront of revitalization projects and this is the perfect opportunity for accommodating methods of inclusion for safety, daily life, and socialization.

Madeline Smith stated that the Accessibility for people with Disabilities is something that is not talked about. She noted that the American Disabilities Act (ADA) has not been amended in over 25 years. All we need is for people to listen and help as much as they can to make our city a more fair, equal and equitable place to live.

Nicholas Douglas – was a no show.

**26. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss “Potential Litigation” in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b).**

There was no Executive Session.

**27. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn.

**RESULT:**

Approved (Unanimous)

**MOVER:**

Councilmember Venus Mack

**SECONDER:**

Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Chavers

**AYES:**

Boyum, Chavers, Mack, Riggs, Barr

**NAYS:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

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Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

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Leah Harden, City Clerk