

**CALLED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2005**

A Special Called Meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held April 14, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed schematic design and elevation of the new Statesboro Police Department with the architect, and to review the plans. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members Will Britt, Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis and Tommy Blitch. Councilman John Morris was absent. Also present were City Manager George Wood, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, Police Chief Stan York, Major J. R. Holloway, and City Engineer Maz Elhaj. City Attorney Sam Brannen was absent.

Local architects John Rule and Burney Martin of Martin and Rule Architect Firm and Architect Jim Stumbo of Stewart, Cooper & Newell Architect Firm of Gastonia, N.C. were present. Mr. Stumbo gave the presentation.

Mr. Stumbo discussed the site, floor plans and elevations of the project. The new Police Station will be a two-story facility located on West Grady Street at the site of the Old Grady Street Gym, which would be demolished. There will be a total of 60 spaces of secure parking for staff and patrol cars. Public entries will be along the front coming from public parking. Uniformed officers and staff will have access through gated entries. Officers bringing in detainees will drive into a sally port from a secure environment for processing. The sally port area will have automatic closable doors.

Mayor Hatcher inquired about the City having a setback for property North of the parking area. Mr. Stumbo assured the Mayor all requirements had been met. Mayor Hatcher had concerns about all possible parking being utilized. Mr. Wood said parking was taken into consideration.

As for the accessory building, the property owner has agreed to encroach on the existing setback requirements which allowed the architects to redesign the entire parking lot. This has been signed by the property owner and will go before the Planning Board as a variance.

Mr. Stumbo said to clarify the question about parking, we hope to pick up aligned spaces adjacent to College Street. This will be sufficient parking. Councilman Lewis asked would the drainage problem from Grady Street to Bulloch Street be eliminated? Mr. Wood said the City Engineer is working on this. He said we do not have on-site retention because we have blocked the way from one of the major regional detention ponds.

Mr. Stumbo said a chain link fence will go around the front of the building from Grady Street to MLK. The main entry on the front would be for the public. Administrative Staff and Uniformed Officers would use the two main entries on the back and side of the building. There will be three holding cells for adults and one for juveniles.

The two main departments upstairs will be the administrative offices for the Chief and Deputy Chief. The Detectives, Sergeants, and Corporals will be located downstairs. They will have workstation type cubicles with a large open floor plan with furniture style cubicles instead of hard walls.

Mr. Stumbo said the main areas that will need expansion in the Police Department are the storage evidence areas. Mr. Wood said surveillance cameras will be located all over the building and in the parking lots. The camera fee will come from the communications fund.

Mr. Wood reported with public access through the front doors, the only thing they will be able to enter is conference rooms #1 and #2 and the public foyer. There is no other access beyond this point unless doors are released. This is for the safety of the employees. The communications center will be separate from records, so dispatchers can focus on radio traffic.

Mr. Wood said the open area in the front entrance will be a good place for the plaques to commemorate the Grady Street Gym. They were removed from the property during the demolition of the gym.

Councilman Blich said the Mayor and Council may want to review the plans again to make certain nothing needs changing. Mr. Stumbo asked the City Manager to make sure the list have been reviewed since the last changes were made. Mr. Wood suggested having everyone review this again, and if all is agreeable to approve it at the April 19, 2005, Council Meeting. No action was taken and all agreed to this.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting.