

**COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held on February 19, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor William Hatcher, Council Members Tommy Blitch, Will Britt, Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, and Travis Chance. Also present were City Manager George Wood, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, and City Attorney Sam Brannen.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. TOM FREIJO OF THE MERCER GROUP FOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES FOR THE CITY MANAGER POSITION.

Tom Freijo from Mercer Group gave a presentation. Mayor Hatcher asked who will be the lead contact on this project. Mr. Freijo stated the individual who gives the presentation does the research. Councilman Blitch asked for a time frame. Mr. Frajo stated 71 days.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. SAM TRAGER OF SLAVIN & ASSOCIATES FOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES FOR THE CITY MANAGER POSITION.

Sam Trager from Slavin and Associates gave a presentation. Councilman Blitch asked for a time frame. Mr. Trager stated 60 to 90 days.

After a brief discussion of the two presentations Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting for a reception to honor the service of City Manager George A. Wood.

COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED:

The regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council reconvened at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor William Hatcher, Council Members Tommy Blitch, Will Britt, Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, and Travis Chance. Also present were City Manager George Wood, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Planning Director Jim Shaw, and City Engineer Maz Elhaj.

Councilman Britt asked for a moment of silence in Memory of three sisters of Kappa Delta Sorority: Jamie Carter, Melissa Eustice, and Jessica Fulmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 5, 2008.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008. Councilman Blitch, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

RECOGNITIONS: CITY MANAGER GEORGE WOOD

Mayor Hatcher presented a Resolution and a key to the City to City Manager George Wood in recognition of his seven years of service to the City. Mayor Hatcher read the Resolution and thanked Mr. Wood for his service. City Manager George Wood thanked the Council, the employees and the citizens.

MOTION TO ADOPT ON SECOND READING ORDINANCE #2008-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE STATESBORO MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING OCCUPATIONAL

TAXES FOR INSURANCE COMPANIES AND AGENTS.

Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to adopt Ordinance 2008-02. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2008-03: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2008 BUDGET.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Chance, to adopt Resolution 2008-03. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2008-04: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND PAY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF STATESBORO, GEORGIA.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to adopt Resolution 2008-04. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2008-05: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CHANGE THE CITY CHARTER

City Manager George Wood stated this is the Resolution the Council asked to be prepared based on the recommendation given at the work session. He said this would change the governing body of the City of Statesboro to one Mayor elected at large, two Council members elected at large, and three Council members elected from districts. He said this will create three Council Districts and the three Council members elected in the November 2007 election shall represent the three districts for a four year terms. Mr. Wood stated the other two Council members elected November 2005 shall represent the City at large for the remainder of their full four year terms. He said in the November 2009 election, the Mayoral at large seat and the two Council member at large seats will be up for election. He said November 2011 the three district seats will be up for election.

Councilman Chance asked who granted the City Manager and City Clerk the authority to use tax dollars to travel to Atlanta during a work week to draft a proposal and map that would force a charter change? Mr. Wood stated they were already up there for another meeting and this was discussed with the Mayor, City Attorney, and Councilman Lewis. He said Councilman Lewis brought the issue up regarding the minority district no longer being a minority district. Councilman Chance stated this was discussed with Mayor Hatcher and Councilman Lewis. The entire Council should have been given proper notification on this matter. He stated he has spoken to Mr. Wood on more than one occasion and nothing came up. He stated he spoke to Mrs. McCorkle and his exact words were, "he was excited about the GMA conference he went to". He asked Ms. McCorkle if she remembered that conversation. Mrs. McCorkle stated yes. Councilman Chance stated before he knew about this he said he would like to address Councilman Lewis's concerns and asked **you** when this will be covered. He stated he is of the opinion that this was kept not only from the public, but the Council as well and he is not going to stand for it. Mr. Wood stated he told the Council at the work session he had to see if this was possible or not and if this scenario would work. He said he would not come to the Council and recommend something unless he knew it would work. He said he came back to the Council and recommended a work session to discuss redistricting and we did

that. Mr. Wood stated this is a proposal to the Council and what the Council does with it is up to the Council.

Councilman Britt stated as an elected official he is concerned about how the redistricting came to be. He said the public was told the Department of Justice officially wanted this redistricted and that was not true. He said the public was told members of the minority community were clearly informed and that was not true. He said we were all told this plan was done to satisfy concerns brought up during the last election and that is true. Councilman Lewis was correct when he said this was about control and he feels those in control manipulated the process which has to be addressed in 2010.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Chance, to deny Resolution 2008-05.

Councilman Lewis stated he wanted to set the record straight and he said he called the Justice Department. He met with the Mayor and NAACP. He said there are two minority districts and only one is showing because Tommy Blich's district was moved into his district to make. He said this would ensure one minority would be on the council and not a possible chance for two. Councilman Lewis stated it was felt that a minority could not win at large. Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen, to table Resolution 2008-05. Councilman Blich, Brannen, and Lewis approved the motion and Councilman Britt and Chance denied the motion. The motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2008-06: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OPENING OF A SEPARATE BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE 2008 FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT, AND CLOSING THE 2007 FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to adopt Resolution 2008-06. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2008-07: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHANGING OF SIGNATURES ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to adopt Resolution 2008-07. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2008-08: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF ANY PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) BY THE STATESBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY TO THE CITY OF STATESBORO FOR THE 2007 TAX YEAR.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to adopt Resolution 2008-08. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2008-09: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF LOT #11, 304 TENNER COURT IN STATESBORO POINTE SUBDIVISION TO THE STATESBORO-BULLOCH COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY FOR SALE TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BULLOCH COUNTY, INC. FOR \$5,000.

Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to adopt Resolution 2008-09. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF THE THREE CITY APPOINTMENTS TO THE STATESBORO FIRE SERVICES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

City Manager George Wood stated in the Fire Service Agreement the City agreed to set up a separate fund for the Fire Department. He said we also agreed that by April 20th of each year a committee of six appointees would review the budget and make recommendations to both the City and County. He said three appointees are from the City and three from the County. Mr. Wood stated the Council members need to look at who they would like to appoint, because under the agreement we have to have a proposed budget to them by April 20, 2008.

Mayor Hatcher made the following recommendations: 1) Larry Allen, insurance agent, 2) Biff Thompson, developer, 3) Marshal Thigpen, Accountant. Councilman Britt asked if this was advertised. Mr. Wood stated no, he mentioned it at the Council meeting and asked the Council to begin considering candidates. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen, to approve Larry Allen, Biff Thompson, and Marshal Thigpen as the City's Fire Service Advisory Committee. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated they would like to begin the Steering Committee and they would like to have the appointments at the next meeting, so they can make the deadline for the State. City Manager George Wood asked how many appointments are there. Mr. Shaw stated 12 to 15 appointments.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

Mayor Hatcher asked to defer this until the end of the meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF AN EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN THE RECRUITMENT OF A CITY MANAGER.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to appoint Slavin Management Consultant. After discussion Councilman Blich rescinded his second to the motion. Councilman Britt left the motion on the table. All the Council members agreed that both firms made an excellent presentation and both come highly recommended. Councilman Chance seconded the motion to appoint Slavin Management. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DONATION OF 30 CONFISCATED BICYCLES TO THE STATESBORO ARTS COUNCIL FOR THE TOUR DE GEORGIA.

Tim Chapman, Executive Director of the Averitt Center, stated the bicycles will be used for art. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the donation of 30

confiscated bicycles to the Statesboro Arts Council. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER # 1 TO THE GATEWAY INDUSTRIAL PARK, PHASE II, WATER AND SEWER PROJECT TO REDUCE THE CONTRACT PRICE BY \$67,759.35, DUE TO TRUING UP THE ACTUAL UNIT QUANTITIES USED VERSUS THE QUANTITIES ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED IN THE CONTRACT.

Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to approve change order 1 to the Gateway Industrial Park, Phase 2. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE AN ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH HGBD, INC. AT THEIR CUSTOMARY RATES, NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$16,000, TO MEET THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED BY THE GEORGIA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE DRAFT GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT.

City Manager George Wood stated the City needs to get a permit from the State of Georgia to withdraw water from the Florida Aquifer. He said periodically they'll issue a new permit and this is the draft. They have added some conditions. Director of Wastewater Wayne Johnson stated the conditions were placed in every water system permit across the State of Georgia. He gave the Council a copy of the conditions and read them. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to approve an engineering service contract with HGBD Inc. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE AN ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH HGBD, INC. AT THEIR CUSTOMARY RATES, NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$47,500, FOR DESIGN OF THE NEW BROOKS WELL; AND THE CLOSING AND CAPPING OF THE TWO EXISTING BROOKS WELLS, AND WELL #7 AT PUBLIC WORKS.

Wastewater Director Wayne Johnson stated there were two existing wells from Brooks Park which use to be the Army Air Base from the 1930's. He stated the Council authorized the City to do a study to see if those wells can be reclaimed. He stated it was more cost efficient to drill new wells than reclaim those wells.

Mr. Johnson stated well #7 is caving in on Braswell Street. He said the GEFA Loan for the west side sewer and Grady Street rehab came in lower than expected, \$660,000 and GEFA said the City could amend the scope of the work to pay for this. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve an engineering service contract with HGBD, Inc. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL CHANGE ORDER FOR THE POLICE STATION LANDSCAPING CONTRACT WITH SURESCAPES, INCREASING THE AMOUNT BY \$7,008.50.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to approve the final change order for the Police Station. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LETTER OF INTENT WITH GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY REGARDING A WATER RE-USE SYSTEM FOR IRRIGATION.

City Manager George Wood stated at the last work session the Council discussed this in detail. He said what they plan on doing is taking treated wastewater and pump it from Birds Pond to Georgia Southern and that will be used for irrigation only. Georgia Southern hired Maxwell and Reddick Associates to do a study. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the Mayor to execute a letter of intent with Georgia Southern University regarding a water re-use system. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE AN ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HGBD, INC. FOR MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE FAIR ROAD FIRE STATION FOR A FEE OF \$19,750.

City Manager George Wood stated he and Fire Chief Merrifield brought Robert Armstrong with HGBD, Inc in to evaluate the Fair Road Fire Station. He said there are two major problems: 1) it is open faced brick; and 2) the roof was not capped properly. This is causing water problems. He has asked HGBD, Inc to give the City a detail design and they brought in Hunter Saussy who is a structural engineer to accomplish this. Now they are prepared to do the detail plans and specs, for repairs to be made. He said it will be three separate phases: 1) roof and flashing; 2) masonry; and 3) interior. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve an architectural service agreement with HGBD, Inc. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE UNDER STATE CONTRACT FROM AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT NETWORK FOR POLICE SOFTWARE FOR THE MOBILE DATA TERMINALS OF \$20,935 (ONE TIME CHARGE PAID FROM RECENT GRANT) AND \$1,590 MONTHLY FOR NETWORK ACCESS FOR 53 UNITS (PAID FROM THE NEW TECHNOLOGY FEE).

City Manager George Wood stated the City received a Federal Grant to deploy mobile data terminals along with hand held units. He said this grant also pays for the one time charge for the software. He said the monthly fees would come from the new technology fee from the last meeting. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve a sole source purchase from American Law Enforcement. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

CITY MANAGER GEORGE WOOD: 1) Mr. Wood stated he included a letter in the council packet to Chief York from the FBI office out of Atlanta, Georgia, thanking the Police Department for the help on the recent 56 Count indictment. 2) Chief Merrifield placed a letter in the packet updating the Council on the Sugar Mill fire.

PLANNING DIRECTOR JIM SHAW: Mr. Shaw stated there will be two public hearings on the next council agenda: 1) Marlin Nesmith requesting an 8 foot variance to the 25 foot front yard setback to permit construction of a front porch at 306 Gentilly Road.

2) Bird Lane LLC requesting rezoning from PUD / R-4 with a density of 6 units and 24 bedrooms per acre to PUD / R-4 with a density of 8 units and 21 bedrooms per acre for the property at 4 and 6 Bird Lane and 5 Lanier Drive.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session of the Statesboro City Council was held on February 19, 2008 to discuss a personnel matter. Present were Mayor William Hatcher, Council Members Tommy Blicht, Joe Brannen, Will Britt, Travis Chance, and Gary Lewis. Also present were City Manager George Wood, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle and City Attorney Sam Brannen. No action was taken and the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

RECONVENED SESSION

The regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council reconvened after the executive session on February 19, 2008 at 7:39 p.m. Mayor William Hatcher announced a personnel matter was discussed in executive session and no action was taken.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

Mayor Hatcher recommended Chris Adleton for the position of Interim City Manager to begin on February 25, 2008 at a salary of \$7,500 a month. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to hire Chris Adleton to begin February 25, 2008 at \$7,500 a month with no benefits. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.