

**COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held on March 7, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor William Hatcher, Council Members Tommy Blicht, Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, and Travis Chance. Also present were City Manager George Wood, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, City, City Attorney Sam Brannen, City Planner Jim Shaw, and City Engineer Mazhar Elhaj. Absent was Councilman Will Britt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 19, 2008.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

RECOGNITIONS: CHRIS ADDLETON, INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

Mayor Hatcher introduced Interim City Manager Chris Addleton.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

APPLICATION V 08-02-02; MARLIN NESMITH REQUESTS AN 8 FOOT VARIANCE TO THE 25 FOOT FRONT YARD SETBACK TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF A FRONT PORCH AT 306 GENTILLY ROAD.

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated this item has been advertised. This property is legally nonconforming because it is half the size of the minimum lot size in the R-15 zoning district. He said the main part of the residence is in compliance with the setback requirements. He stated the applicant has undertaken some significant renovations and did obtain a permit prior to beginning work. Mr. Shaw stated a decision was made to enlarge the porch. The building inspector did not realize the porch was not part of the permit. He said the porch extends out eight feet from the house which is 17 feet from the property line instead of the required 25 feet. He said given the limited size of the lot and the placement of the existing structure there were very few options for improvement to the house. Staff and Planning Commission recommended approval.

Marlin Nesmith stated he built an eight foot porch for the safety of his five grandchildren. He said he did not know he was doing anything wrong. Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve application V 08-02-02. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated he previously provided the Council with information regarding the committee. He said the committee will be a citizen group that will provide recommendations on policy issues related to preparation of the comprehensive plan. He said they solicited applications through the January newsletter and the City's Public Information Officer sent out information. This generated the 22 applications that were previously provided to the Council. They are looking for 9 to 15 people to serve on this committee.

Councilman Brannen stated he understands this committee will meet eight times a year. He asked are those joint meetings with the County? Mr. Shaw replied no. This is for the

City's portion of the plan. Mayor Hatcher stated other citizens have expressed an interest in the committee and he recommended deferring this to the next Council meeting. Council agreed.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION # 2008-10: A RESOLUTION DECLARING TWO TRAILERS AND A MOBILE OFFICE AT THE TRANSFER STATION IN THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FUND AND A BREATHING AIR COMPRESSOR AND RELATED COMPONENTS AT THE STATESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF THIS EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE GOV DEALS ONLINE AUCTION PROCESS.

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated the City has two trailers and a mobile office that need to be declared surplus at the transfer station and a compressor at the Fire Department. He recommended approval. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to adopt Resolution 2008-10. Councilman Brannen asked Mr. Colson if they start on Gov Deals with a minimum bid. Director of Public Works Bobby Colson stated yes. The two trailers minimum bid would be \$5,000 and the minimum bid for the mobile office would probably start at \$500. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

MOTION TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY FOR THE WIRELESS COMMUNITIES GEORGIA GRANT.

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated this is for the GTA grant in the amount of \$323,298. The City's portion of the grant is \$163,902. He said there is still the question of who will operate and maintain the system. Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to execute a memorandum of understanding with Georgia Technology Authority.

Councilman Brannen stated this is the first phase and he understands there is a second phase. City Clerk Judy McCorkle replied yes. In the first phase the Council authorized the application for the grant which was awarded. A consultant was hired and they met with interested members of the community to receive input to determine their needs and the uses for broadband wireless. This information was used in the grant application. Next, they went to Atlanta and made a presentation to GTA as part of the grant application. When the Council authorized the application for the grant we committed to a match in the amount of \$163,902.

Ms. McCorkle stated the consultant has now done what they were contracted to do. The City has paid \$24,000 for the consultant to hold the community meetings, assist in the grant application, and to come back with a financial plan which is part of the MOU. She stated the consultant will now need to have a planning meeting with the Council to discuss his recommendations and to authorize extending his contract for the second phase. She will try to set this planning meeting up as soon as possible. Under the second phase of the contract the consultant will work to develop a business model for the Council to approve which will determine who will own, operate and maintain the system. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BOBBY COLSON AND INTERIM CITY MANAGER CHRIS ADDELTON TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH WILLIAMS BROTHERS FOR

THE TRANSFER OF SOLID WASTE AND SLUDGE TO BROADHURST IN WAYNE COUNTY FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated the next three items on the agenda are a recommendation to move bidding out contracts for one year. He stated the reason is we have a heavy workload and it is causing a strain on the staff. Mayor Hatcher asked the City Attorney if this can be done. City Attorney Sam Brannen stated yes. Councilman Brannen asked if the extended terms are the same as the current terms? Public Works Director stated yes. Councilman Brannen combined items 9, 10, and 11 and made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve recommendations to extend the contracts for Williams Brothers for the transfer of solid waste and sludge, Williams Brothers for grinding, and Stubbs Oil for gas, fuels, and lubricants for one full year. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BOBBY COLSON AND INTERIM CITY MANAGER CHRIS ADDELTON TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH WILLIAMS BROTHERS FOR GRINDING OF LEAVES, LIMBS AND SMALL LOGS INTO MULCH FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BOBBY COLSON AND INTERIM CITY MANAGER CHRIS ADDELTON TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH STUBBS OIL FOR GAS, FUELS, AND LUBRICANTS FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO RECEIVE STATE FUNDING FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL, ROUNDABOUT AND ROADWAY WIDENING AT THE U.S. 301 AND RUCKER LANE INTERSECTION

City Engineer Mazhar Elhaj stated the City received \$200,000 from the Georgia Department of Transportation for participation in this project. He stated the total cost is \$500,000 and \$200,000 is from the State. He said the scope of the work is to install a traffic signal at South Main and Rucker Lane, widen the crossing road to three lanes, and the installation of a round about on Forest Drive. Mayor Hatcher asked if the total cost is \$500,000 and this contract gives us \$200,000 from GDOT? Mr. Elhaj stated yes. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with Georgia Department of Transportation.

Councilman Blicht asked if GDOT is paying \$200,000 and is the City left with the balance. Mr. Elhaj stated yes, and this is a planned project in the CIP. He said the funding will come from SPLOST. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

INTERIM CITY MANAGER CHRIS ADDLETON: (1) Mr. Addleton stated he received a letter from Laura Cooper, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Bulloch County Inc., requesting permission to continue the annual event of displaying blue bows during the month of April. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to allow the display of blue bows for the Prevention of Child Abuse during the month of April. Mayor Hatcher asked how long they will be displayed. Mr. Addleton stated March 31, 2008 though

April 30, 2008. Mayor Hatcher asked if the bows were on the light poles and if the City puts them up and takes them down. Mr. Addleton stated yes to both questions. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

(2) Mr. Addleton stated on September 18, 2007 the City adopted an agreement in principle between Flying J Inc., the City, the County, and the Board of Education to provide water and sewer to the Highway 301 and Interstate 16 interchange. He said we're now ready to adopt a contract with Flying Jay and he recommended approval. Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to approve the contract with Flying J Inc.

Councilman Brannen stated the investment is 6 million dollars and we would borrow that money from GEFA or Revenue Bonds and the annual pay back is \$447,002. He said the Flying J Inc. said they can generate SPLOST funds in the amount of \$358,000 to be applied to the debt service. Mr. Addleton stated the contract states the first party indicates the annual SPLOST should generate \$358,000. Councilman Brannen stated the Flying J Inc. is going to guarantee the City \$250,000. He said if the SPLOST money does not come in at \$358,000 the City is guaranteed the \$250,000 and we'll be stuck making up the \$108,000 a year. Wastewater Director Wayne Johnson stated in the event the sales do not generate sufficient SPLOST funds, the Board of Education will release \$100,000 from the Hospital Authority from the County which will add up to \$350,00 which leaves the City making up the difference from the \$350,00 to the 447,002. He said he anticipates revenue from the Flying Jay alone to be \$135,000 a year and we're comfortable that we can cover it.

Councilman Brannen stated there is a timeline and the contract states they will redesign the facility to be constructed in four months after this agreement is signed. Mr. Johnson stated they would submit it to the County and receive the permits first. Councilman Brannen stated we are then granting them a hold after the permits are approved for a 12 month period. He asked if the construction of the facility would take affect after the 12 month holding period? Mr. Johnson stated yes. Councilman Brannen asked how long will it take to have water and sewer to be placed out there? Mr. Johnson stated the timeline is once this contract is executed we have 20 months to have the water and sewer out there and they will be in operation 3 months after that, so 23 months. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION/CITY CLERK JUDY MCCORKLE: Mrs. McCorkle stated the City's liability insurance is covered through GIRMA which is through the Georgia Municipal Association. GIRMA has added a new benefit to their program at no additional cost to the City. She said the GIRMA Inmate Medical Program went into effect on March 1, 2008. (2) The annual GMA Convention is June 21-24, 2008. (3) Public Works Director Bobby Colson wanted the Council to know they're trying to set the next Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan. She stated they have a draft of the solid waste plan and she asked the Council members to see Anita Hall for a copy of the plan.

CITY ENGINEER MAZHAR ELHAJ: Mr. Elhaj stated they have worked four years on the streetscape project and they have just received approval from the State to proceed with the Streetscape. He said they placed an ad in the paper to solicit bids. He said they're planning to complete the streetscape project by the summer of next year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Hatcher asked if the Council was available on Wednesday to discuss the wireless communication. Mrs. McCorkle stated she would call the Council with three different dates and to determine when they are available.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.