

**COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held on November 20, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor William Hatcher, Council Members Tommy Blicht, Will Britt, Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, and John Morris. Also present were City Manager George Wood, Director of Finance & Administration, Planning Director Jim Shaw, and City Engineer Mazhar Elhaj. Absent was City Attorney Sam Brannen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 6, 2007.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to approve the minutes of November 6, 2007. Councilmen Blicht, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2007-50: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN RECORDS.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to adopt Resolution 2007-50. Councilmen Blicht, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2007-51: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS FROM THE 2007 SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS.

City Manager George Wood stated the City has the opportunity to recruit Flying J to the community. He said the agreement entails expanding the water/sewer to the intersection of I-16 and 301 South. He said the project estimated cost is \$6,000,000; however, the Flying J will generate enough sales tax revenue under the SPLOST to more than pay this over a 20 year period. Mr. Wood said the City plans to apply for a 20 year GEFA loan for the cost and enter into an agreement with Flying J where they will guarantee the minimum payment of \$447,000. a year. He said the amendment changes the SPLOST agreement so the City can use the allocation within the current agreement. The County passed this agreement at their meeting this morning.

Mr. Wood said further down on the agenda is an update on the Flying J and if there are no objections he would update the Council now. The Mayor agreed. Mr. Wood stated if this agreement is approved the City would go to the other three municipalities in the County and ask for their approval. The City Attorney sent the agreement to Flying J and they made four changes and the City agrees with three of the changes. Mr. Wood said the City will meet with the County regarding the fourth issue and send our response back. Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to adopt resolution 2007-51. Councilmen Blicht, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

ELECTION REPORT FROM THE CITY'S ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007 MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

City Clerk Judy McCorkle stated she provided the Council with a copy of the returns from the 2007 General Election. Let the record show: Districts #2 Gary Lewis received 368 votes and Nathan Queen received 312; District #3 Will Britt received 335 votes and Harry Bubba Probe received 210; District 5 Travis Chance received 413 votes and John Morris received 369.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE EASEMENTS RELATED TO THE STATESBORO CROSSING DEVELOPMENT'S PUBLIC ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY.

City Manager George Wood stated the County wanted assurance when the City took the road over we would maintain it. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blitch, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an easement related to Statesboro Crossing Development. Councilmen Blitch, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AWARD A BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$217,168.00 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, CARL GREGORY DODGE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF 8 DODGE CHARGERS FOR POLICE VEHICLES.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris, to award a bid to Carl Gregory Dodge. Councilman Brannen asked Chief York if he was going for the V6 engine because of the economy. Police Chief Stan York stated yes, due to the economy and the way gas prices are heading he thought it would be a very prudent manner to size down the engine. He said they would still get the horse power movement out of the V6. Councilmen Blitch, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AWARD A BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$146,832.50 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, ELLIS WOOD CONSTRUCTION, FOR THE SAVANNAH AVENUE EXTENSION, RUCKER LANE, AND GENTILLY ROAD PAVING PROJECT.

City Manager George Wood stated this is three projects combined: Savannah Avenue extension or Blue Devil Alley, Rucker Lane and Gentilly Road Paving. Engineer Director Mazhar Elhaj explained the Rucker Lane project. He said the intersection there needs a traffic signal because no one can pull onto US 301 from Rucker Lane. He said the City proposed to put a three lane section with a turn lane going to the left of US 301. The other side would have a right turn lane from US 301 on to Old Register Road. Mr. Elhaj stated at the next section of US 301 and Forrest Drive there will be a right turn lane onto US 301, a left turn lane and a through lane onto US 301. He said on Forrest Drive currently there is a four way stop where approximately 11,000 cars a day come in and out. He said we are proposing a round about. Mr. Elhaj stated the GDOT has already approved the traffic signal at US 301 South at Rucker Lane.

Mr. Wood stated the study was done four years ago with Georgia Southern and GDOT. He said the City looked at all the intersections coming in and out of Georgia Southern tying into our road network. He said this, along with the traffic signal going up at Akins Blvd. and Veterans Memorial Parkway, are the last two projects discussed in the study. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blitch, to award the bid to Ellis Wood Construction. Councilmen Blitch, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris

voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote. Mayor Hatcher stated the motion will read # 1 Blue Devil Alley, Rucker Lane, and Gentilly Road Project instead of Savannah Avenue Extension. Council agreed.

MOTION TO SET THE DATE OF DECEMBER 11, 2007 AT 6:00 PM IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BULLOCH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHICH WILL BE DEVELOPED JOINTLY BY THE COUNTY AND ALL FOUR MUNICIPALITIES.

Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen, to set a Joint Public Hearing on December 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Solid Waste Management Plan. Councilmen Blich, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION ON THE REQUEST TO RENAME EDGEWOOD PARK TO ROCKER PARK.

City Manager George Wood stated the City sent out notices to residents requesting their input. He said 26 residents responded. Nine residents voted for Rocker Parker, 11 wanted Alvin Rocker Park, and 6 did not want it changed. Councilman Britt made a motion, to change the name to Alvin Rocker Park. The motion died for lack of a second. Councilman Blich made a motion to change the name to Rocker Park. The motion died for lack of a second.

UPDATE ON GEFA LOAN FOR CAWANA ROAD PROJECT.

City Manager George Wood stated the City received the GEFA loan approval for the Cawana Road Project up to \$625,000.00.

UPDATE ON PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF THE WENDWOOD DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD OPPOSING THAT RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR THE S&S GREENWAY, PHASE TWO.

City Manager George Wood stated the County was approved for the S&S Greenway for a T Grant in the amount of a half a million dollars. He said the County plans on having a trail head on Gentilly where it crosses the big ditch. Mr. Wood stated that will then tunnel under the parkway and then ultimately head to Brooklet. He stated the first phase will go to the corner of Pretoria Rushing and Burkhalter Road and coming back from the big ditch at Gentilly. He stated the County has been looking for a way to tie that back into the City's McTell Trail. Mr. Wood stated Mr. Rollins talked to some of the neighbors because of the petition that the residents signed going against the extension along Wendwood Drive. He gave the Council the updated plans. He said the question is does the community want this extension to connect to our Greenway or would it be preferable to come down Gentilly Road.

Engineer Director Mazhar Elhaj stated extending the trail down Gentilly Road is a logical location, because there is a nice trail. Mr. Wood suggested the Council members think about this and at the next the work session it can be thoroughly discussed. Council agreed.

UPDATE ON THE FUNDING REQUEST TO THE GDOT ON THE PROPOSED JOINT TRANSPORTATION PLAN WITH BULLOCH COUNTY.

City Manager George Wood stated a part of the comprehensive plan update was a detailed transportation study. He said it makes sense to do a joint transportation study with the County, because roads can not be planned leaving the City and going nowhere in the County and visa versa. Mr. Wood stated the County has agreed and there is a letter from G.D.O.T. stating their participation.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

CITY MANAGER GEORGE WOOD: Mr. Wood stated there was a nice note from Ewing Southeast Realty thanking the staff for working with them on Statesboro Crossing Development. The other two items in the packet was a continuance of the water plan and the drought.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION/CITY CLERK JUDY MCCORKLE: Ms. McCorkle stated the Christmas Party is December 7, 2007 at Snellas Place at 6:30 p.m.

PLANNING DIRECTOR JIM SHAW:

Application RZ 07-11-01; Heard Development, LLC requests rezoning from CR (Commercial Retail) and R-4 (High Density Residential) to CR (Commercial Retail) and R-4 (High Density Residential) to modify the zoning boundaries within the parcel containing approximately 66.6 acres located on the east side of Highway 67 and on the north side of Burkhalter Road.

Application V 07-11-02; Larry Reed of Artech Design Group requests a variance to increase the maximum wall sign area from five percent of the wall area to seven percent of the wall area for the proposed Statesboro Crossing development located on the south side of Brannen Street and on the west side of Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Application V 07-11-03; Lise Tillman Vranches requests variances of the parking design requirements to allow parking that is not paved and allow vehicles to back onto a public street for 17 West Jones Avenue.

Application T 07-11-04; Amendment of Article 4, Improvements Required and Design Standards, of the Subdivision Ordinance to require fire apparatus access roads for certain subdivisions.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.