

**COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held on November 6, 2007 at 9:00 a.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, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Planning Director Jim Shaw, and City Engineer Maz Elhaj.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 16, 2007.

Councilman Brannen made a few minor changes to the minutes from the October 16, 2007 meeting. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to approve the amended minutes of October 16, 2007. Councilmen Blicht, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

APPLICATION RZ 07-10-01: VERNA TREMBLE BENNETT REQUESTS REZONING FROM CR (COMMERCIAL RETAIL) TO R-3 (MEDIUM DENSITY MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) AND VARIANCES TO REDUCE THE SIDE YARD SETBACKS FROM 20 FEET TO 9 FEET AND REDUCE THE MINIMUM LOT AREA TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF DUPLEXES AT 119 AND 121 PROCTOR STREET.

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated the desire of the owner is to construct a duplex on each vacant lot. He said the owner not only owns those two lots but she also owns the adjacent lot to the west. He said the properties are zoned east and west - Commercial Retail; south - Light Industrial; and, north -R4. Mr. Shaw stated the variances that have been requested are necessary to make use of the existing non-conforming lot and both the lots are less then 60 feet wide. Staff and Planning Commission recommended approval of the zoning change and the variances. Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to approve Application RZ 07-10-01. Councilmen Blicht, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

REQUEST FROM BIRD LANE, LLC TO CLOSE AN ADDITIONAL PORTION OF BIRD LANE.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to close a portion of Bird Lane. Councilmen Blicht, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING ON THE APPEAL OF CLYDE A. AMERSON III FROM A REVOCATION OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS' ALCOHOL LICENSE BY THE ALCOHOL CONTROL BOARD. (A REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE TO DECEMBER 4, 2007 HAS BEEN RECEIVED.)

City Manager George Wood stated the City had received a request for a continuance until December 4, 2007. Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to table this until December 4, 2007. Councilmen Blicht, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON CAPITAL COST RECOVERY FEE DISTRICTS WITH THE BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

City Manager George Wood stated the City adopted an Ordinance in May 2007 authorizing the creation of the Capital Cost Recovery Fee Districts. He said the purpose of this was to recoup some of the capital cost for water and sewer. Mr. Wood said an engineering study was done which details how much a person should pay on an R-14 lot. He said when the property is sold and becomes developed a building permit is issued. At that point they would pay the capital cost recovery fee. He said that fee would go into the water and waste water fund to help recoup some of the cost. He said some of the properties will be outside the City limits but when they are developed they will be annexed into the City. He said the City will have trunk lines in the County and according to Georgia law the City needs to have an agreement with the County to do this.

Mr. Wood stated in District 1 the County has some concerns because of the Greenway they're building. He said the County wanted to make sure where there are roads in the new subdivisions which interface with the Greenway, the City would approve those areas jointly with the County. Mr. Wood said the bid is the next item on the agenda and he recommends the bids be accepted contingent on two items: (1) the County adopts this agreement, and; (2) the City receives approval on their G.E.F.A. application. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement on Capital Cost Recovery Fee Districts with Bulloch County. Councilmen Blich, 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 \$421,552.71 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, TYSON UTILITIES CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE CAWANA ROAD WATER AND SEWER PROJECT IN CCR FEE DISTRICT #1, CONDITIONED UPON COUNTY APPROVAL OF THE CCR FEE DISTRICT AGREEMENT, AND APPROVAL OF THE CITY'S GEFA LOAN FOR THIS PROJECT.

City Manager George Wood recommend the Council approve this with two conditions: 1. the County Commission approves the Capital Cost Recovery Fee Intergovernmental Agreement 2. G.E.F.A. Loan approval. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to award a bid to Tyson Utilities Construction Inc with the two conditions Mr. Wood spoke of. Councilmen Blich, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE WATER AND SEWER AGREEMENT WITH THE 2195 GROUP, INC. FOR THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT 104 SPRINGHILL DRIVE.

Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with 2195 Group Inc. Councilmen Blich, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A SUBDIVISION INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLATION AGREEMENT WITH STATESBORO CROSSING, LLC.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with Statesboro Crossing LLC. Councilmen Blich, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND RE-ADVERTISE FOR THE W. GRADY

STREET CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT BASED UPON THE ONLY RESPONSIVE BID BEING \$18,100.00 OVER THE PROJECT BUDGET OF \$35,000.00, OR 37% TOO HIGH.

City Manager George Wood stated there were four bids and the low bid was United Ground Maintenance Service; however, they are not a licensed utility contractor in the state of Georgia. He said there was only one valid bid and that bid was considerably higher. Mr. Wood recommended to reject all bids and to re-advertise and re-bid. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blitch, to reject all bids and re-advertise for the West Grady Street Culvert replacement project. 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 \$167,988.00 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, CARL GREGORY DODGE/FORD, FOR 6 FORD CROWN VICTORIA POLICE PATROL VEHICLES.

City Manager George Wood asked if the Council would table this item until November 20, 2007. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blitch, to table the bid for 6 Ford Crown Victoria Police Patrol Vehicles. 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 \$15,412.00 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, PRATER FORD, FOR A FORD 1/2 TON PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Blitch made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to award a bid in the amount of \$15,412 to Prater Ford for a 1/2 ton pickup truck. 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 \$18,036.00 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, ROZIER FORD, FOR A FORD 3/4 TON PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blitch, to award a bid in the amount of \$18,036 to Rozier Ford for a 3/4 ton pickup truck. 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 \$284,625.00 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, WALL ASPHALT SERVICES, INC. PER THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE'S ENGINEERING CONSULTANT, FOR THE CRACK SEALING, PAVEMENT REJUVENATION AND MARKING ON RUNWAY AND TAXIWAY PAVEMENTS. (THE CITY IS JOINT OWNER OF THE AIRPORT WITH BULLOCH COUNTY, WHICH WILL OVERSEE THIS CONTRACT. IT WILL BE PAID FROM THE COUNTY'S AIRPORT FUNDING SOURCES.)

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blitch, to award a bid in the amount of \$284,625 to Wall Asphalt Services Inc for the crack sealing, pavement rejuvenation and marking on runway and taxiway pavements. Councilmen Blitch, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE CHRISTMAS BONUSES OF \$85.00 IN NET PAY AFTER FICA FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES AND BOARD MEMBERS.

City Manager George Wood stated for the past three years the Christmas bonus was \$75.00; however, with inflation the City recommends an increase to \$85.00. Councilman Brannen

made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blitch, to authorize a Christmas Bonus of \$85.00 in net Pay after FICA for eligible employees and Board Members. Councilmen Blitch, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris 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 gave the Council a letter from Heath Seymour, Director of DSDA/Main Street Statesboro requesting to block traffic on Savannah Avenue between the hours of 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. on December 6, 2007 for the Holiday Celebration Parade. Mr. Seymour stated December 6, 2007 events include the Chili Cook off, Home Tours, and the Parade. Friday will be the regular First Friday with a Christmas slant to it. Councilman Blitch made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen, to close Savannah Avenue on Thursday December 6, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the Holiday Celebration.

(2) Mr. Wood discussed e-mails from other people concerning the drought around the state and stated we are all sympathetic with the people in the metro area on the drought, but there is a growing concern on what will be done long term.

(3) In an update on the Flying J Mr. Wood stated the City and County met yesterday to complete the final draft for the Flying J Agreement and that will be sent back to the Flying J attorney no later than Thursday. They also discussed the amendment to the SPLOST. Agreement and the County's Staff Attorney will have that finished. He said the County Staff Attorney will be handling the agreement between the Board of Education and the County relative to the Hospital Authority money. With those three agreements we will be ready to move forward.

CITY ENGINEER MAZ ELHAJ: (1) Mr. Elhaj updated the Council on the progress of the Statesboro High School stating they are almost through with the Statesboro High School Road. The only item left is the resurfacing or repaving of the road and the bid opening will be in a few weeks. (2) The Engineering Department conducted a study of Gentilly and Fair Road for the installation of the left turn elements on Gentily and Fair Road and the study was taken to G.D.O.T.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Brannen asked Mr. Wood to update the Council on Effingham County being awarded the Portuguese company. Mr. Wood stated Statesboro was number two on the list. He said the proximity to the Port was a key issue for them. He said Statesboro had a better site and more land, but Effingham has the Port.

Councilman Britt asked Chief York for an update on the Charger vehicles they received and on the new Police Station. Chief York stated the Chargers are holding up very well. He said the only questions were on the unibody on the Dodge Chargers. He was told there was a problem with it bending in the middle. Chief York stated he is doing some research on this. Chief York stated the new Police Headquarters building is coming along very well and we will have our open house on Friday November 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.