

**COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2006-6:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held January 18, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members John Morris, Gary Lewis, Joe Brannen, Tommy Blich and Will Britt. Also present were City Manager George Wood, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, City Engineer Maz Elhaj and Planning Director Jim Shaw.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-JANUARY 4, 2006

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the minutes of January 4, 2006. Councilman Brannen, Britt, Blich, Morris and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

ELECTION OF A MAYOR PROTEM FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to re-elect Councilman Brannen as Mayor Protem until year 2008. Councilmen Blich, Britt, Brannen, Morris and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2006-1: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FIRST ADMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET

City Manager George Wood brought before Council an attachment for the resolution of the 2006 Fiscal Year Budget stating most of the carry over was from the capitol project not finished in the last fiscal year. There was not much impact on the budget because Fund Balances not used in the previous year were used.

Councilman Joe Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to approve the Resolution to adopt the First Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget. Councilmen Britt, Brannen, Blich, Morris and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE INSTALLATION OF NO THRU TRAFFIC SIGNS AT EITHER END OF ZETTEROWER ROAD

City Manager George Wood presented a memorandum from City Engineer Maz Elhaj along with a signed petition from citizens in the neighborhood. He stated that City Engineer Maz Elhaj has reviewed this request and is recommending the installation of No Thru Truck signs at each end of Zetterower Road which would have the effect of prohibiting heavy vehicles such as tractor trailer, log trucks and dump trucks from using this route. Mr. Wood added that this would be a No Thru Truck only, so if someone is making a delivery they can do so. It is our feeling they (the heavy trucks) can use Hwy 80 and North Main. This will provide for more safety on what is primarily a residential street.

Mr. Elhaj stated this is a winding road that lacks proper shoulders at some locations. The speed limit is 45 MPH then graduates to 35 MPH which is suitable for the heavy traffic. The majority of the trucks belong to the City of Statesboro, Bulloch County and private waste disposal companies who use this to shorten their destination between Hwy 80 and North Main Street in route to and from the Transfer Station, but tractor-trailer, log trucks, and dump truck also use this road.

Mr. Elhaj asked Public Works Director Bobby Colson if he had any comments. Mr. Colson stated it was O.K. with him to place the signs as long they have accessibility to provide services for the garbage and trash trucks.

Mayor Hatcher introduced Jim Nichols, a resident of the area to speak. Mr. Nichols stated there are twelve streets going into the road. Over the past months increasingly heavy thru-truck traffic from highway 80 and North Main has come to endanger the children playing outside and mature people that walk on the road, as well as the children that come and go from Mattie Lively School. There are six or seven new homes being built at the end of the road which means more children.

He has witnessed trucks speeding at 50 or 60 mph. It is not well policed and the trucks do not mind the speed limit. He also stated many animals have lost their lives including two this week and ask Council for support before a child gets hurt.

Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich to install No Thru Traffic Truck signs at both ends of Zetterower Road. Councilman Blich asked that the City and County trucks be exempt. Mr. Wood stated they are already exempt and what No Thru Traffic Signs means is the road can not be used as a thru route, but a fire truck, garbage truck or delivery truck will have no problem

Councilman Britt asked how much would the fine be and what would the Police Department do? Mr. Wood stated the maximum fine would be \$1,000. He confirmed this with City Attorney Sam Brannen.

Councilman Blich asked if we could give a first offense warning. Chief York stated people will become accustomed to it and they will work it in with the traffic units, he also suggested it be published in the Statesboro Herald. He will increase patrol in the area after the signs are posted to enforce the new rule and they will be more visible if a citizen has a complaint. If someone is cited they will see the Judge and Municipal Court.

Councilman Brannen asked if 35 MPH was an adequate speed or do we need to lower it? Chief York stated it was adequate for the area. Mr. Elhaj stated this is a connector road between North Main & Hwy 80. It has a lot of curves and you can't drive more than 35 MPH.

Councilman Blich had a concern about the blind spot on Lakeview, stating he was almost hit at one time.

Councilman Lewis asked if we could put a sign stating all Unauthorized Trucks-\$1,000 fine? Mr. Wood stated the Uniform Traffic Manual said to install a regulatory sign to say No Thru Trucks and also the judge may charge less than \$1,000. After conferring with City Attorney Sam Brannen, Mr. Brannen stated the judge may charge a violator \$250 so you would not want to put \$1000 on a sign.

Councilmen Britt, Brannen, Blitch, 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 \$27,361.35 UNDER THE STATE CONTRACT, TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, WADE TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT FOR A REPLACEMENT TRACTOR AND MOWER AT THE LAKEVIEW LANDFILL AND TRANSFER STATION

Public Works Director Bobby Colson stated bids from four dealers plus a State Contract quote was received to replace the 1990 tractor and mower used at the landfill to cut grass. The low bidder was Wade Tractor and Equipment of Griffin, Georgia. They bid the state contract in the amount of \$27, 361.35 and met all specifications. Councilman Morris asked what would be done with the old tractor and mower. Mr. Colson said it would be sold as surplus.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to award the bid to Wade Tractor and Equipment in the amount of \$27,361.35. Councilmen Britt, Brannen, Blitch, Lewis and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO AWARD A BID TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, EMPIRE PIPE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,495 FOR 1,700 FEET OF 6" STEEL PIPE AND 2,500 FEET OF 4" STEEL PIPE FOR THE NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Wood stated the low bidder was Empire Pipe of Birmingham, Alabama. This bid will replenish inventory. Mayor Hatcher asked if this included freight and delivery. Mr. Wood said yes.

Councilman Blitch made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to award the bid to Empire Pipe in the amount of \$29,495. Councilmen Blitch, Brannen, Britt, Morris and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote

STAFF REPORTS:

In reference to the hostage situation on January 16-17, 2006, Mr. Wood commended Chief York, the Police Department and other agencies for their efforts to bring the situation under control without anyone getting hurt.

Mr. Wood asked the Council to consider Saturday, March 4, 2006 or Friday, March 10, 2006 for a planning retreat.

Mayor Hatcher commended Chief York on the hostage situation stating on behalf of the City and other elected officials, we express our appreciation for a job well done by

you and your department. He also commended Mr. Wood being there through the whole thing and showing his support. Mayor Hatcher then asked Chief York if he had any comments.

Chief York stated he agreed with Mayor Hatcher about Mr. Wood and said Mr. Wood was always there and was very effective. It meant a tremendous amount to have the support of the Mayor, Council and City Manager for any resources that was needed to end this situation in a peaceful manner. He also thanked Interim Fire Chief Emerson Melton and the Fire Department and Public Information Officer Maggie Fitzgerald.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle stated the date for last years' budget retreat was April 15th, Good Friday. She asked if the Council would like to set the date for this year's budget retreat for April 14th which would again fall on Good Friday. After discussion it was decided the retreat would be held on Friday, April 21, 2006.

PLANNING DIRECTOR-PUBLIC HEARINGS

Planning Director Jim Shaw reported the following public hearing is scheduled for the February 7, 2006 Council meeting.

Case No. RZ 06-01-01: Sam DiPolito, on behalf of Haywood D, Frye, requesting a zoning change from R-20 (Single-Family Residential) to R-4 (High Density Residential) for a 2.75 acre tract located at 223 Vista Circle.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- LEGAL

Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen, to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing two legal matters. Councilmen Brannen, Blicht, Britt, Morris and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Carlos Brown, President of the local NAACP thanked the public officials for resolving the situation in the hostage crisis on Monday, January 16, 2006. He said it made us look good but he would like to see what could be done to make it better. One problem in their community was the Martin Luther King parade was scheduled for that day. He was staying in contact with officers by cell phone. The information went out that everything was cancelled for that day which wasn't true, but he was not notified of the cancellation on time. To avoid the miscommunications, he stated someone should have gotten in contact with the leadership of that committee to get out the correct information. When he talked to the officers earlier they said the decision would be made at 12:30 P.M. and they would contact him, which they never did. Long before that time he began receiving calls that per the media everything was cancelled. Mr. Brown said, in the future, we should look for ways to include organizations that are involved, such as the NAACP, in the information that is going out.

He thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing them to have the parade on the following Saturday. He said he would like to see more Council members participate. He extended an early invitation for their Banquet the first week in November and the Martin Luther King events in January 2007. A formal invitation will be mailed at a later date.

Mayor Hatcher stated he had overheard an officer saying we had learned from this and would be better prepared in the future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session of the City Council was held on January 18, 2006 to discuss two legal matters. Present were Mayor William Hatcher, Council Members John Morris, Gary Lewis, Joe Brannen, Will Britt, and Tommy Blich. Also present were City Manager George Wood, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle.

RECONVENED SESSION

A regular meeting of the City Council reconvened after the Executive Session. Mayor Hatcher announced two legal matters were discussed and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Being of no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.