

**COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2005-6:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held July 19, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, Tommy Blitch, Will Britt, and John Morris. Also present were City Manager George Wood, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, City Engineer Maz Elhaj and City Planner Hawa Samatar.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 6, 2005, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to approve the July 6, 2005, minutes as presented. Councilmen Brannen, Britt, Blitch, Morris, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0.

RESOLUTION #2005-22 APPROVING THE UNCOLLECTABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX BILL LIST AND AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF TAXES FROM THE CITY'S TAX DIGEST

Mr. Wood reported the City has made a good faith effort to resolve the uncollectable personal property taxes, which are hard to collect. The list of write-off's totals \$3,313.51 with penalties. Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle said the remaining balance of uncollectable personal property taxes for all years is \$231.00.

Councilman Blitch made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to adopt resolution #2005-22 approving the uncollectable personal property tax bill list and authorizing the removal of these taxes from the City's Tax Digest. Councilmen Blitch, Lewis, Britt, Morris, and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE NORTH STREET ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,500

City Engineer Maz Elhaj reported unsuitable material has been encountered at the end of the referenced roadway. He said sediment including organic material has been washing away from the road. The cost estimate to stabilize this would be \$7,500.00. He recommended the approval of the additional work to complete the paving of North Street.

Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to approve Change Order #1 for the North Street Roadway Construction Project in the amount of \$7,500. Councilmen Morris, Britt, Lewis, Brannen, and Blitch voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE A REQUEST TO MODIFY APPROVED LIGHTING BID WITH GEORGIA POWER FOR THE LINEAR PARK

City Engineer Maz Elhaj reported aesthetics plays an important feature for the Linear Park. The original bid with Georgia Power included the installation of 28 new fiberglass poles with cobra head style fixtures.

It also included the mounting of 8 cobra head luminaries on existing poles owned by Georgia Power. He said the post-mounted fixtures would be more appropriate than cobra heads. He requested the Council to approve the change out of the lights originally ordered with the new lights. The poles would increase from 28 to 50. Georgia Power's charge to install 50 new fiberglass poles with post-mounted fixtures instead of cobra heads would be \$19,500 as a lump sum and \$761.55 as a monthly charge. The cost addition to change to post-mounted style type fixtures is \$2,420 as a lump sum and \$317.51 for a monthly maintenance charge.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the lump sum of \$19,500 and the monthly maintenance fee of \$761.55 with Georgia Power for the Linear Park. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Blich, Morris, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATION OF RIGHT OF WAY AGREEMENT WITH GDOT FOR THE SAVANNAH AVENUE AND NORTHSIDE DRIVE PROJECT

Mr. Wood reported this is a standard contract, and the GDOT has to make sure it is being done on the public right-of-way. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a certification of right-of-way agreement with the GDOT for the Savannah Avenue and Northside Drive Project. Councilmen Blich, Britt, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO SOLID WASTE TRAILERS TO BE USED AT THE STATESBORO/BULLOCH COUNTY TRANSFER STATION TO TRANSPOWER

Public Works Director Bobby Colson reported the price of the solid waste trailers have increased since last year due to the cost of steel. Transpower submitted the low bid of \$61,900 for each trailer, with a trade-in of \$23,000 for each used trailer. This would be a total of \$77,800. He recommended awarding the bid to Transpower. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen to award the bid for the purchase of two solid waste trailers to be used at the Statesboro/Bulloch County Transfer Station to the low bidder, Transpower of Douglas, Georgia, in the amount of \$77,800 based on the recommendation of the Public Works Director. Councilmen Blich, Brannen, Morris, Britt, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO SET THE DATE FOR THE MILLAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Wood recommended setting the proposed millage rate public hearing date for July 26, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. He also reported the millage rate would remain the same as last year, and would be adopted at the next meeting. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to approve the recommendation of the City Manager. Councilmen Brannen, Morris, Lewis, Blich and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote. Mrs. McCorkle reported the next meeting will require a quorum for the adoption of the millage rate.

REQUEST TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE ANNEXATION FROM THE LAST MEETING TO AUGUST 15, 2005

Mr. Wood reported although the date of the annexation from the last meeting says August 1, 2005, the rezoning would not be until August 2, 2005. The property owners have requested the City to allow them more time, because the surrounding property owners do not want the property annexed if it is not sold. He made a recommendation to make the effective date of annexation August 15, 2005, instead of August 1, 2005.

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to approve the extension of the annexation for property owned by James Lanier, Jr. and Donald NeSmith to August 15, 2005. Councilman Blich said this means if the property is not sold it would not be annexed and would nullify the annexation. Councilmen Britt, Morris, Brannen, Lewis, and Blich voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER– PROJECTED MULTI-FAMILY STUDENT HOUSING

Mr. Wood said one way to limit the amount of potential blighted areas on campus is to limit the number of acres rezoned to R-4 in the future, so developers of multi-family housing would know that they have to acquire existing R-4 zoned property and redevelop it, rather than attempt to get vacant property rezoned to R-4.

He and the Engineering Department have worked on an analysis of the number of acres already zoned R-4 that are considered “student” complexes or are vacant land in those areas, and whether there is sufficient acreage zoned R-4 to accommodate the expected growth of GSU. Multi-family housing complexes and duplexes that are not occupied by students, including public housing owned by the housing authority, and privately owned subsidized housing are excluded.

GSU estimated they would add 2,000 beds in the next few years. Mr. Wood said it is evident there is sufficient R-4 zoned property near the university, provided some of it is redeveloped. No one would redevelop them if the City continues rezoning other properties to R-4. After the Mark Bryant development on Lanier Road and the Coleman property (partially R-4) on Georgia 67, he proposed that no additional rezoning to R-4 be allowed until some of this existing property is acquired and redeveloped at a higher density fact.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - ALCOHOL CONTROL BOARD MEETING

Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle reported the Alcohol Control Board administrative hearings are scheduled for August 4, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. to address citations for gambling.

HOTEL/MOTEL TAX AUDIT

Mrs. McCorkle reported the Mayor and City Council should receive information regarding the Hotel/Motel Tax Audit before the next meeting. She also reported the City should recover revenue from this.

CITY ENGINEER – LORETHA STREET BIDS

City Engineer Maz Elhaj reported the bidding has been completed for Loretha Street Project.

CITY PLANNER – PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Planner Hawa Samatar reported the following public hearings are scheduled for the next Council meeting:

- 1) Mrs. Elizabeth Smith is requesting to rezone a 0.46 acre parcel bounded by Proctor Street and W. Main Street from R-3 residential to CR-Commercial Retail. The property is currently a convenience store.
- 2) Mrs. Verna Bennett is requesting multiple variances to allow the expansion of Dani’s Playground and Learning Center at 208 Institute Street.
- 2) Mr. Garth Long is requesting a variance to construct a duplex at the corner of Mulberry Street and East Grady Street (107 E. Grady Street).
- 4) An application by Great Southern Properties to initially zone, following an annexation, for 75 +/- acres fronting GA 67 & Burkhalter Rd. to a combination of CR-Commercial Retail for a portions fronting GA 67, and R-4 Multi-family residential for the portions in the rear of the tract.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEW PLANNING DIRECTOR

The City’s new Planning Director is scheduled to report to work on August 2, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further discussion, Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.