

**COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 06, 2005-9:00 A.M.**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held July 6, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, Tommy Blicht, Will Britt, and John Morris. Also present were City Manager George Wood, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle and City Engineer Maz Elhaj. Absent were City Planner Hawa Samatar and City Attorney Sam Brannen.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 21, 2005, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the June 21, 2005, minutes as presented. Councilmen Morris, Lewis, Brannen, Blicht and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS: MRS. JANIS RAYMOND & COUNCILMAN JOHN MORRIS

Mayor Hatcher recognized Mrs. Janis Raymond, City of Statesboro Payroll/Insurance Technician, for successfully completing the requirements for a designated Certified Human Resource Manager from the Georgia Local Government Personnel Association at the University of Georgia. He presented her with a plaque.

Mayor Hatcher recognized Councilman John Morris for receiving a Certificate of Recognition for completing forty-two hours of training through the Georgia Municipal Association.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #2005-08 TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY 76 ACRES OF LAND FRONTING GA 67 FROM BRIARWOOD ROAD TO BURKHALTER ROAD INTO THE CITY OF STATESBORO

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht to approve the second reading of ordinance #2005-08 to annex approximately 76 acres of land fronting GA 67 from Briarwood Road to Burkhalter Road into the City of Statesboro. Councilmen Brannen, Blicht, Morris, Britt, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #2005-21 ACCEPTING A PORTION OF STAMBUK LANE AS A PUBLIC STREET

Mr. Wood reported this is the property Mr. Eddie Rushing of the T.E. Rushing Estate is developing where the Monster Storage is located. It curves from the Veterans Memorial Parkway to the properties of Mr. Robert Stambuk and the Garden District. He confirmed this is not the entire road back to GA. Hwy 67, but a portion the Rushing Estate has developed. The streets were built to City standards. Councilman Blicht inquired about ingress and egress traffic. Mr. Wood said although this is a private road; it can be used. Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to adopt resolution #2005-21 accepting a portion of Stambuk Lane as a public street to be owned and maintained by the City of Statesboro. Councilmen Blicht, Morris, Lewis, Britt, and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

ALCOHOL CONTROL BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR TWO LICENSE HOLDERS AND ONE CITIZEN AT LARGE

Mr. Wood reported the terms of Alcohol Control Board members Jim Lanier (license holder) and Bennie Herring (citizen) have expired. He also reported Jeff Yawn is resigning his seat because he is no longer a license holder. Mayor Hatcher recommended appointing Jim Lanier and Robert Hane to fill the license holder vacancies, and Ray Frye to fill the citizen-at-large position for two year terms. Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the Mayor's recommendations to the Alcohol Control Board. Councilman Morris, Lewis, Brannen, Britt, and Blich voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

AGREEMENT WITH THE BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MR. CHARLES TSANG TO CONSTRUCT A 3-LANE ACCESS ROAD TO THE CURRENT SHS SITE, WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS

Mr. Wood reported that the site of the new Statesboro High School (SHS) has been approved by the Bulloch County Board of Education to remain at the present location. There were concerns about the traffic on Lester Road where it comes into Hwy 80. The Board of Education would like another access point. They were unaware of the approval for a traffic signal and the realignment of Savannah Avenue. With the new traffic signal, there would be a left turn arrow to enable a better flow of traffic onto Hwy 80. Mr. Charles Tsang is in agreement with this. The City Engineer cost estimates to add the road would be approximately \$250,000.00. Everything such as the infrastructure, stadium, etc. is already in place at the current SHS site. Keeping the SHS at the present location has a value to the City by remaining in the City limits.

Mr. Wood made a recommendation to authorize the approval of the agreement. David Robinson, a resident of Savannah Avenue, wanted to make certain that their properties would not be affected during the realignment. Mr. Wood said they would not. Property owner Dr. Paul Whitlock inquired about drainage. Mr. Wood said a large portion of the cost of the alignment project involves drainage in this area. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to authorize an agreement with the Bulloch County Board of Education and Mr. Charles Tsang to construct a 3-lane access road to the current SHS site, provided the Board of Education builds the new SHS on this site, Mr. Tsang provides the necessary right-of-way at no cost to the City of Statesboro, and the GDOT approves of the design as it accesses US 80. Councilmen Blich, Morris, Brannen, Lewis, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR TO AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENTS RECENTLY MADE TO GIRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to authorize the Mayor to ratify the appointments recently made to the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency Board of Directors as follows:

- **Slot G** – Mayor Keith Brady, City of Newnan
- **Slot H** – Mr. John Bennett, City Manager, City of Rome

- **Slot I** – Mayor Ronnie Dixon, City of Vidalia

The terms will expire June 30, 2009. Councilmen Brannen, Britt, Blich, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

ADDENDUM TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Mr. Wood reported when the proposal was accepted from Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects, an additional service for furniture acquisitions and interior decorations were included. They recommended Barbara Ratchford of Incore Planning Associates, Inc. who has an extensive background in interior design for police departments. City Attorney Sam Brannen has reviewed the contract and is comfortable with it.

Mr. Wood said the City would agree on the furniture layout of each room, and should receive a better price on the furniture as well as a savings discount from fees. He recommended approving the addendum to the contract. Councilman Blich asked if the percentage was separate. Mr. Wood said everything is included in the not-to-exceed cost. Councilman Blich asked if local vendors could bid. Mr. Wood said yes. Councilman Blich also asked if there would be a separate contract for A & E Design Basis. Mr. Wood said he does not anticipate the need for a separate contract. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the addendum to the Police Department Contract. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Blich, Morris, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER–CENSUS BUREAU; SEWER FOR FOXLAKE SUBDIVISION

Mr. Wood reported the updated population in 2004 for the City of Statesboro from the Census Bureau estimates approximately 24,604.

He reported Councilman Blich inquired about the possibility of sewer connection to the Foxlake Subdivision. According to a memo from Water/Wastewater Superintendent Wayne Johnson it would take 2100 t/- feet for the connection of sewer to the Foxlake Subdivision.

Mr. Johnson reported there are other areas such as the Ramblewood Subdivision, which the design is almost complete, Oakcrest, and the major area is Merrywood Subdivision that needs City sewer. He said there has been discussion of placing a pump station in Oakcrest that would have less contingency. Councilman Blich requested the City to order the engineering design and implement sewer in Foxlake. Councilman Lewis agreed due to having been notified by citizens of the area years ago regarding sewer services. Mr. Johnson said their focus is to get engineering designs and specifications done to areas in the City that does not have sewer. Then if a large number of residents begin having trouble with their septic tanks as money becomes available; we would be ready to bid the project and start construction. Councilman Blich said the Foxlake Subdivision is a low lying area and it is not sanitary for the septic tanks, especially with the massive amounts of rainfall we have had lately.

Mr. Wood said the sewer line on the Westside would probably be the most expensive especially if we are going to have growth and development. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to authorize the design and construction documents for the possibility of connecting sewer to Foxlake. Councilman Brannen asked about the cost. Mr. Wood said the cost would be \$170,000.00, but a lot of contingency was put in there. Mayor Hatcher confirmed the motion is not to authorize \$170,000.00. Mr. Wood said the engineering design would cost approximately \$15,000.00.

Mr. Johnson said Foxlake Road does not have true pavement, and the entire street needs resurfacing. Councilmen Blich, Lewis, Britt, Brannen, and Morris voted in favor of having the engineering design performed for the possibility of sewer to Foxlake. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION – PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle reported all taxes were collected on Wednesday, July 5; therefore, no tax sale was conducted. She said 99.89% of property taxes have been collected, and .11% was uncollected for 2004. The total due for all outstanding taxes which includes penalties, etc. was \$12,626.00. Of this amount, the taxes are only over \$6,500.00 for most personal property. She reported \$4,500 of the \$12,000.00 were properties we could not sell this year because it would have been an excessive levy. She recognized Property Tax Clerk Lyn Dedge for an outstanding job in tax collections.

CITY PLANNER

In the absence of the City Planner, Mr. Wood reported three items will be brought before the Planning Board at their next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

ANNUAL WATERMELON AND PEANUT BOIL

Mayor Hatcher announced the annual watermelon and peanut boil will be held Friday, July 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Public Works Department on Braswell Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further discussion, Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.