

**COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 3, 2005-9:00 A.M.**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held May 3, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members Gary Lewis, Joe Brannen, Tommy Blich, and Will Britt. Councilman John Morris was absent. Also present were City Manager George Wood, City Engineer Maz Elhaj, City Planner Hawa Samatar, City Attorney Sam Brannen and Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 14, 2005, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AND APRIL 19, 2005, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to approve the special called meeting minutes for April 14, 2005, and the regular meeting minutes for April 19, 2005, as presented. Councilmen Brannen, Britt, Lewis and Blich voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

LT. COLONEL MARK DAVIS OF THE 648TH ENGINEERING BATTALION

Mayor Hatcher recognized Lieutenant Colonel Mark Davis of the 648th Engineering Battalion of the Georgia Army National Guard of Statesboro, Georgia, as well as representatives from the Family Readiness Group: Nancy Scott, Alicia Collins, and Pvt. First Class Robert Scott of the 648th Engineering Battalion who will be deployed. Mayor Hatcher reported the military banners attached to posts throughout the downtown area shows that the City of Statesboro supports and salutes them on this mission.

As a token of appreciation, on behalf of the City of Statesboro, Mayor Hatcher presented Lt. Colonel Davis with a large replica flag resembling the displayed banners. He presented Mayor Hatcher with a Commanders Coin from the 648th to show gratitude for the support from the City of Statesboro.

KIMBERLEY KUEBLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KEEP BULLOCH BEAUTIFUL

Mayor Hatcher recognized Kimberly Kuebler Executive Director of Keep Bulloch Beautiful. She gave an update on what KBB is doing in partnerships with Georgia Southern Botanical Gardens, the Statesboro Regional Library and the Garden Clubs of Bulloch County. She reported last year KBB received a Tree Smarts Grant that is funded through the Georgia Forestry Commission. Mrs. Kuebler presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining why trees are so important to our community and their benefits. She said the City of Statesboro is a leader in preserving trees in the State of Georgia, and discussed things they hope to do in the future to continue this effort. She asked the City to support KBB as they go forward with this approach, and to work with them as they develop partnerships with different people in the community to preserve and protect the trees we already have.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN BAPTIST STUDENTS UNION MISSION TRIPS

Pastor Jerry Johnson from Georgia Southern Baptist Students Union reported he and seven (7) students called the Road Rules Team participated on a five (5) country mission trip during their Spring break to Germany, Netherlands, France, Denmark and Belgium. The students visit different parts of the world to help in a variety of ways. As a greeting, Pastor Johnson presented a City of Statesboro 2003 Bicentennial Plate and a letter from the City signed by Mayor Hatcher. In exchange, the Mayor of Jever sent a copy of a news article of Pastor Johnson’s presentation, a milk glass and a lapel ministry pen showing people holding hands representing prayers around the world.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

MR. ANTHONY WATERS-VARIANCE FROM SECTION 1510, AREA 3 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ERECT TWO WALL SIGNS OF 48 SF EACH, IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALLOWED BY THE ORDINANCE

Mayor Hatcher reported Mr. Anthony Waters is requesting a variance from Section 1510, Area 3 of the Zoning Ordinance to erect two wall signs of 48 SF each, in addition to those allowed by the ordinance. City Planner Hawa Samatar reported the Statesboro Planning Commission recommended approval of the request, which was properly advertised.

Mr. Anthony Waters spoke in favor of the request. He explained the new renovation plans for L.A.Waters located near the Statesboro Mall and is requesting a signage change. The design requires two towers located on the right and left boundaries of the store. There needs to be a total of two 4x12 signs on each of the towers. No one spoke in opposition to the request. Councilman Brannen made a motion to approve the request, which was seconded by Councilman Lewis. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Blich abstained due to a conflict of interest. The motion carried by a 3-0 vote with one abstention.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #2005-07 TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY 78.9 ACRES OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE GARDEN DISTRICT APARTMENTS INTO THE CITY AT THE REQUEST OF 100% OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS

Mayor Hatcher announced this item has been deferred to the next council meeting.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2005-13 RENAMING A PORTION OF BRANNEN STREET, AND NAMING A SECTION OF THE NEW STREET BETWEEN BRANNEN STREET AND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY

Mr. Wood reported all adjoining property owners connected to this street have been notified. The City ordinance requires they petition for the change. He said the original resolution has an error that indicates Lovett Street, which should be Lovett Road. This resolution changes the name of the Brannen Street Connector to Brannen Street because it is a logical extension of the exiting Brannen Street at that point.

Mr. Wood said once the private developer completes the project between Veterans Memorial Parkway and Cawana Road, that portion would also be named Brannen Street. A part of Brannen Street from the connector to Northside Drive would be renamed Lovett Road. All property owners along this street agreed to this. A recommendation was made to rename the road Lovett Road because Dr. Katherine Lovett was very helpful with aggregating this property.

Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to rename a portion of Brannen Street, and name the section of the new street between Brannen Street and Veterans Memorial Parkway. Councilmen Blich, Britt, Brannen, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

MOTION TO AWARD A BID TO THE LOWEST BIDDER FOR THE LINEAR PARK IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPING PROJECT

City Engineer Maz Elhaj reported four bids were received for the Linear Park Irrigation and Landscaping Project, and Wiggins Landscaping submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$68,978.92. He said Tree Board member Henry Clay spoke very highly of the company. Mr. Wiggins is bonded and has an excellent rating. The referenced work requires a maintenance warranty for one year on all irrigation and landscaping work. Being a local company, Wiggins Landscaping can provide more frequent visits to the site.

The City Engineering Department recommended Wiggins Landscaping and the bid was within the estimated amount to complete the referenced work. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to accept the lowest bid in the amount of \$68,978.92 from Wiggins Landscaping. Councilman Brannen inquired about the time frame on this project? The City Engineer said approximately two months. Parks Superintendent Bill Mincey asked how are you planning to connect electricity to the automatic controllers if the Linear Park lighting project comes at a later date. Mr. Wood said the bids for the lighting and landscaping are two weeks apart. Mayor Hatcher said he assumes the infrastructure for lighting would be in place so plants would not be disturbed. City Engineer Elhaj said yes. Councilmen Britt, Lewis, Brannen, and Blich voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

MOTION TO AWARD A BID TO THE LOWEST BIDDER FOR A 2005 BACKHOE/LOADER AND BROOM ATTACHMENT

Mr. Wood reported the low bidder, Low Country Machinery, did not meet specifications for the required unit. The second lowest bidder, Industrial Tractor Company, was recommended for the purchase of a John Deer 310 SG in the amount of \$70,500.00.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to award the bid in the amount of \$70,500.00 to Industrial Tractor Company, the second lowest bidder meeting the specifications, for a 2005 Backhoe/Loader and broom attachment for the Water and Wastewater Department. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Blich, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER –BUDGET; TREE BOARD VACANCY; MEETING UPDATES

Mr. Wood reported the City budget will be submitted to the printers tomorrow. He also reminded Council of the Tree Board vacancy. Mr. Wood, Mayor Hatcher and Steve Hotchkiss Director of Natural Gas will be attending the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia meeting tomorrow through Friday. He reminded the Council of the Georgia Municipal Association District meetings in Kingsland and Richmond Hill.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – BUDGET

Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle reported at the next Council meeting a date for the budget public hearing needs to be set before it is adopted in June.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting.