

**COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2005-6:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held November 15, 2005 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 THE NOVEMBER 1, 2005, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Minor corrections were made to the November 1, 2005 Council meeting minutes on Pg. 5 and Pg. 7 as requested by Councilman Brannen. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the minutes of November 1, 2005 as corrected. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Morris, Blich and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

**NOEL BURNSD – DOWNTOWN PARKING**

Mr. Noel Burnsed thanked the Mayor and Council for considering the request he presented at the previous meeting regarding angle parking downtown. Mr. Wood informed him that he hopes to have a response at the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #2005-33 RENAMING WILLIAMS STREET TO DONNIE SIMMONS WAY**

Mr. Wood presented a petition from residents along Williams Street. He reported it is official according to the 75% rule, and the petition is in order for the street renaming which he recommended approval. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to approve resolution #2005-33 renaming Williams Street to Donnie Simmons Way. Councilman Brannen said he appreciates what Mr. Simmons has done for this community for many years. This is very deserving to him. Councilmen Lewis and Blich also rendered positive remarks of Mr. Simmons. Councilmen Britt, Lewis, Blich, Brannen, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote. Mayor Hatcher extended remarks saluting Mr. Simmons for being a long time public servant, and wished him the very best.

**REJECTION OF ALL BIDS FOR A WEIGHING SCALE AT THE LAKEVIEW TRANSFER STATION & REBID**

Mr. Wood reported Public Works Director Bobby Colson submitted a memo in the Council packets recommending the rejection of all bids for a weighing scale at the Lakeview Transfer Station and considering rebidding using a heavier gauge material for longer useful life. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen to approve Mr. Colson's recommendation. Councilmen Blich, Brannen, Britt, Morris and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AWARD A SOLE SOURCE BID TO KUSTOM SIGNALS FOR 4 EYEWITNESS DIGITAL CAMERAS FOR PATROL VEHICLES**

Mr. Wood reported these cameras match what the Police Department already has, and recommended approval. Statesboro Police Chief Stan York reported this replaces VHS and allows us to go digital for space requirements. He said this particular unit has more features, captures details, and the technology is better. Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to award a sole source bid to Kustom Signals in the amount of \$15,580 for 4 Eyewitness Digital Video Cameras for the patrol vehicles, the same model as currently used in other units, and based on the reasons stated by Chief York. Councilman Britt asked how many digital units the Police Department currently has. Chief York said these would be the four new digital ones, and the others are VHS. He also asked how many units currently have cameras. Chief York replied 26 or 28. Councilmen Blich, Morris, Brannen, Lewis, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AWARD A BID TO ROZIER FORD, INC. FOR 7 FORD CROWN VICTORIA PATROL VEHICLES**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Rozier Ford, Inc. for 7 Ford Crown Victoria patrol vehicles for \$143,087. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Britt, Blich, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AWARD A BID TO ROZIER FORD, INC. FOR 1 F-250 TRUCK FOR THE HUMANE OFFICER**

Councilman Blich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to award a bid to Rozier Ford, Inc. for 1 F-250 Truck for the Humane Officer, being the bid is only \$98.80 higher than the lowest bid, which will be saved from warranty work and cost of delivery. Councilmen Blich, Morris, Britt, Lewis, and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO SET DATE FOR THE APPEAL HEARINGS OF ALCOHOL LICENSE REVOCATIONS OF THE WOODIN NICKEL AND LEGENDS, INC.**

Mr. Wood reported City Solicitor Keith Barber requested setting the date of the appeal hearings for Tuesday, November 22, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to set the date of the appeal hearings of Alcohol License Revocations of the Woodin Nickel and Legends, Inc. for November 22, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Blich, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Britt abstained. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote with one abstention.

**PRESENTATION BY NATURAL GAS DIRECTOR STEVE HOTCHKISS ON NATURAL GAS PRICES FOR THE WINTER**

Natural Gas Director Steve Hotchkiss presented an overhead presentation of the Low Load Factor of residential and commercial rates projected from September 2003 through February 2006. He encouraged everyone to conserve this winter to keep costs to a minimum.

He reported the City's gas rates are not on a percentage basis, but a unit cost basis. No matter what the City pays for gas, no additional money is made.

### **AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY MANAGER TO DRAFT LETTERS TO THE FEDERAL DELEGATION**

Mr. Wood reported on the federal deficit and its impact. He said the liabilities are greater than assets and as debt is being accumulated the government has to pay an interest on it which seems to be getting worse. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht to authorize the City Manager to draft letters to the federal delegation regarding the growing federal budget deficits and accumulated federal debt. Councilmen Brannen, Blicht, Britt, Morris, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

### **CITY MANAGER – EPD PUBLIC HEARING; FIRST READING TO ADOPT TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ALCOHOL ORDINANCE**

#### **EPD PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Wood reported an Environmental Protection Division Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall to discuss the total maximum daily loads, waste load allocations, load allocations, and the methodology used to determine them for the Ogeechee River and the Savannah River Basins.

### **ADOPTION ON FIRST READING OF THE ALCOHOL ORDINANCE APPROVING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Wood asked the Mayor to include the first reading of the Alcohol Ordinance to approve technical amendments to the agenda. The proposed amendments were presented to the Alcohol Control Board, which they recommended for approval. He explained the technical amendments that were recommended in the following sections of the ordinance: **Section 6-166 Section 1.** subsections b)3) and b)8) were deleted as written and new language was substituted, new language was added to subsections b)15) and b)16); **Section 6-157 Section 2.** subsection (8) new language was added; **Section 3.** subsection 6-3 (b) (5) was deleted and new language was inserted; **Section 4.** a sentence was added to subsection 6-35; **Section 5.** subsection 6-35 (c) was deleted and new language was inserted; **Section 6.** subsection 6-36 (6) was amended by changing the word “and” on line one to the word “or”. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht to adopt the first reading of the Alcohol Ordinance approving technical amendments. Councilmen Brannen, Blicht, Morris and Lewis voted in favor. Councilman Britt abstained. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote with one abstention.

## **PLANNING DIRECTOR-PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Planning Director Jim Shaw reported the following public hearings are scheduled for the December 6, 2005 Council meeting:

**Case No. RZ 05-10-02:** This request was tabled at the request of the applicant at the November 1, 2005 Council meeting. Mr. Harold A. Bowman for Mrs. Ethel McCorkle is requesting a zoning change from R-15 (Single-family Residential) to CR (Commercial Retail) for property located at 9 North Gordon Street.

**Case No. RZ 05-11-01:** Mr. Sam DiPolito, on behalf of Charles Tsang, is requesting a zoning change from R-4 (High Density Residential) to CR (Commercial Retail) for a 6.046 acre tract located at 109 Harvey Street.

**Case No. RZ 05-11-02:** Mr. Charles J. Maxwell, on behalf of Pineridge Apartments, LLC, is requesting a zoning change from R-4 (High Density Residential) to PUD (Planned Unit Development) with an R-4 overlay for property located at 410 South College Street.

**Case No. V 05-11-03:** Mr. Daniel Craig Rigdon is requesting a variance of the 20 foot side yard setback to allow a building 9 feet from the south property line for property located at 808 South Main Street.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION- PERSONNEL MATTERS & LITIGATION**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to enter into an executive session for the purpose of discussing two personnel issues and a litigation issue. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Blich, Britt, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive session of the City of Statesboro was held on November 15, 2005 for the purpose of discussing two personnel issues and a litigation issue. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members John Morris, Gary Lewis, Joe Brannen, Tommy Blich and Will Britt. Also present was City Manager George Wood, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Director of Finance & Administration Judy McCorkle, and City Engineer Maz Elhaj. No action was taken and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **MOTION TO REJECT ALL ELECTRONIC BIDS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND TO START THE PROSPECTS OVER**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich to reject all electronic bids on the construction of the new Police Department Building and to start the process over. Councilmen Brannen, Blich, Morris, Britt, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

### **MOTION TO INCREASE THE CITY MANAGER'S ANNUAL SALARY TO \$115,000 RETROACTIVE TO OCTOBER 1, 2005 AND TO INCREASE HIS CAR ALLOWANCE FROM \$600 TO \$700 PER MONTH**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich to increase the City Manager's annual salary to \$115,000 retroactive to October 1, 2005 and to increase his car allowance from \$600 to \$700 per month. Councilmen Brannen, Blich, Morris, Lewis, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

### **MOTION TO UTILIZE A POSITION FOR AN ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to utilize a position we currently have for an employee in the Engineering Department for an Engineering Technician. Councilmen Britt, Morris, Brannen, Lewis, and Blich voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting.