

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2005 – 6:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held February 15, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members Tommy Blitch, Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, John Morris, and Will Britt. Also present were City Manager George Wood, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, City Planner Hawa Samatar, and City Engineer Maz Elhaj.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2005

Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the minutes of February 3, 2005 as presented. Councilmen Morris, Lewis, Blitch, Brannen and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

RECOGNITIONS:

GSU CLASS DIRECTIVE STUDY FOR CREATIVE & INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Mayor Hatcher welcomed Dr. Christine Feldman's GSU Class of Directive Study for Creative & Investigative Journalism.

FIRST READING AMENDING THE STATESBORO MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SECTION 82-227 REGARDING LOCATOR WIRE ON WATER/SEWER SERVICE LINES

Mr. Wood reported this would be for all new facilities connecting to the City water and sewer systems and any facility replacing their existing water and/or sewer service lines. The plumber would be required to extend a 12-gauge line of wiring. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to adopt an ordinance on first reading amending the Statesboro Municipal Code by adding Section 82-227 regarding locator wire on water/sewer service lines. Councilman Britt asked is there anything for the City to do when adding or extending the lines? Mr. Wood said no, but in a new subdivision where the service lines are stubbed-out a locator wire would be required on that portion. When connected to the house a locator wire would be required from that point forward. Mayor Hatcher inquired about the cost? Mr. Wood said the cost would be very nominal. Councilmen Brannen, Britt, Blitch, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #38 TO THE ARTS CENTER PROJECT

Mr. Wood reported the front doors on the bank building vibrate when closed and a strip of wood is missing from one. This change order would protect the doors from shaking and glass from breaking. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to approve Change Order #38 for \$234.29 to install an astragal and dead bolt lock on the front door. Councilmen Britt, Morris, Brannen, Blitch, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

STATESBORO ARTS COUNCIL REQUEST TO UTILIZE UP TO \$8,078.00 FROM THE CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY LINE ITEM FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ARTS CENTER

Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the request of the Statesboro Arts Council to utilize up to \$8,078.00 from the Construction Contingency line item for capital improvements to the Arts Center as outlined in the memorandum from the City Manager. Councilmen Blicht, Lewis, Britt, Brannen, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

APPOINTMENT TO THE BULLOCH COUNTY ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNCIL

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to appoint Mrs. Diane Hardee, Social Service Supervisor at the Bulloch County Department of Family and Children's Services to the Bulloch County Alcohol and Drug Council, Inc. as requested by the Council. Councilmen Brannen, Morris, Britt, Lewis, and Blicht voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE SPENDING \$8,700.00 AS THE CITY'S PORTION OF THE COST TO LOWER THE WATER LINES TO CONNECT THE LOWE'S REAR ENTRANCE TO THE BRANNEN ST. CONNECTOR EXTENSION

Mr. Wood reported EMC Engineers did the site design for the road besides Lowe's. He spoke with the Department of Transportation extensively on this and they would only approve a right-turn in/right-turn out. The sole purpose is to connect the Lowe's access road to Brannen Street extension, and in order to do this the existing water mains have to be lowered. EMC Engineers did not recognize this needed lowering due to required grade changes for connecting the Lowe's access road to the Brannen Street extension.

Mr. Wood made a recommendation that the City pay for lowering the existing water main in order to facilitate the construction of the Lowe's access road to the Brannen Street Extension. Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to approve spending \$8,700.00 as the City's portion of the cost to lower the water lines to connect the Lowe's rear entrance to the Brannen St. Connector Extension. Councilmen Morris, Britt, Blicht, Lewis, and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER – COMMUNITY RETREAT

Mr. Wood reported the information for the Community Retreat would be distributed Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.

CITY PLANNER - PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Planner Hawa Samatar reported the following public hearings were brought before the Mayor and Council on February 3, 2005, but are scheduled for the March 1, 2005 Council meeting:

- 1) Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Blount are requesting the rezoning of their property, Lot #5 and #6 located at Woodrow Circle from R-15 Single Family Residential to CR-Commercial Retail.

- 2) EMC Engineering Services, Inc. Agent for Gary Cooler, owner of Sears Retail Center, is requesting a variance on parking space widths in accordance with Section 1600 of the Zoning Ordinance, and a reduction in the required number of parking spaces from 55 to 52 spaces at land located in Buckhead Plaza.
- 3) Danny Hagan is requesting a variance to the sign provision of the Zoning Ordinance to allow 104 square feet and 15 feet in height ground sign (this exceeds the maximum allowable area of 60 square feet and maximum allowable height of 8 feet); and to install a wall sign of 80 square feet (only 50 square feet allowed) per elevation, at 31 North Zetterower Avenue.
- 4) Liberty-Statesboro LLC for Walgreens Development is requesting a variance to the sign Provisions of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a 310 square feet sign (only 250 square feet allowed); and to install an electronic readerboard sign (such signs are prohibited) at 516 Northside Drive.

OTHER BUSINESS – LEASH LAW

Councilman Morris brought before the Mayor and Council neighborhood concerns regarding the leash law. Mr. Wood asked Lt. Frank Roach of the Statesboro Police Department to meet with him and Councilman Morris after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further discussion, Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting.