

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2005 – 9:00 A.M.**

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2005

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the minutes of January 19, 2005 as presented. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Blitch, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

RECOGNITIONS:

MS. VICKI DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Ms. Vicki Davis, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Bulloch County, emphasized the importance of affordable housing in the City of Statesboro, and Habitat's contributions to the community. Ms. Davis thanked the City for their support.

PRESENTATION TO THE CITY OF THE DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD FROM THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA OF THE CITY'S FY 2005 BUDGET

Ms. Linda Cramer, Finance Director of Chatham County, presented before the Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle and the Finance Department, the first ever Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the City's FY 2005 Budget. This award reflects the budget process, and a good communication device. The City of Statesboro is the 14th city in the state of Georgia to receive this award. Mayor Hatcher reported the City is grateful for this award and thanked all for a tremendous job. He also recognized the Department Heads for their team effort in receiving this award.

6TH GRADE CLASS OF BULLOCH ACADEMY & TRINITY CHRISTIAN

Mayor Hatcher recognized the sixth grade class from Bulloch Academy and Trinity Christian and welcomed them to the City of Statesboro City Council meeting.

GMA ESSAY CONTEST

Mayor Hatcher announced that each year the Georgia Municipal Association sponsors an Essay Contest and he hopes all the students would participate in this statewide competition. The winner will be awarded a \$250 Savings Bond and will attend state competition in Atlanta. The deadline is March 4, 2005.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

JOSEPH STUBBS-VARIANCE REQUESTS/111 NORTHSIDE DRIVE

Mayor Hatcher reported Mr. Joseph Stubbs is requesting a variance of 5 feet from the required 15 feet side yard setback to construct an addition at 111 Northside Drive East. City Planner Hawa Samatar reported the Statesboro Planning Commission recommended approval of the request, and the request was properly advertised.

Mr. Jody Stubbs representative for Stubbs Oil spoke in favor of the request. Mr. Stubbs reported they would like to add an addition 18 ft. X 40 ft. to the building at this location. The building was formerly Woody's Transmission. No one spoke in opposition to the request. Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the request. Councilmen Blicht, Lewis, Morris, and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

JOHN DOTSON, ON BEHALF OF JESCO DEVELOPMENT LLC-REZONING/SOUTH COLLEGE STREET

Mayor Hatcher reported Mr. John Dotson, on behalf of JESCO Development, is requesting the rezoning of 0.758 acres on South College Street from R-20 to CR-Commercial Retail to include this lot with the rest of the JESCO Development site. City Planner Hawa Samatar reported the Statesboro Planning Commission recommended approval of the request, and the request was properly advertised.

Mr. Wood reported the map notes Parcel C which is all part of the project on South Main that is called Midtown Center. He said obviously they had no objections and recommended approval of the rezoning. This would become one part of the development center. Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to approve the rezoning request. Councilmen Lewis, Morris, Brannen, and Blicht voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

SECOND READING AMENDING THE STATESBORO MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (PROHIBITING BROWN-BAGGING)

Mr. Wood reported this ordinance was tabled at the last meeting and no changes were made. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht to adopt an ordinance on second reading amending the Statesboro Municipal Code regarding Alcoholic Beverages (prohibiting brown-bagging). Councilmen Brannen, Blicht, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS TO THE ARTS CENTER PROJECT

Mr. Wood reported five change orders were recommended for the Arts Center Project and two were not. The two that were not recommended were Change Order #34 Paint Stage Lines on Multipurpose Floor, and Change Order #35 Metal Studs at Dressing Toilets. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to approve the following Change Orders to the Arts Center Project:

- 1) C.O. # 14 for \$57,749.27 to restore and install the marquee sign and the underneath ceiling.
- 2) C.O. # 32 for \$422.48 to change the sink color from basic white.
- 3) C.O. #39 for \$366.58 to add a curtain at vestibule in the theatre.
- 4) C.O. # 40 for \$1,849.00 for fire sprinkle head changes (additions).
- 5) C.O. #42 for \$2,110.23 to provide track lighting at stage galleries.

Councilmen Brannen, Morris, Blicht, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF THE HIGHEST BID FOR THE SALE OF A SURPLUS VOLVO GARBAGE TRUCK FROM CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL

Mr. Wood reported two bids were received for the sale of a surplus Volvo garbage truck in the amounts of \$30,000.00 and \$63,666.00. He recommended accepting the highest bid. Councilman Blitch made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen to approve the highest bid for the sale of a surplus Volvo garbage truck of \$63,666.00 from Carolina Environmental of Kernersville, NC. Councilman Brannen asked what is the replacement cost of the new garbage truck. Mr. Colson said \$140,000.00. Mr. Wood explained after five years the maintenance cost on these type vehicles increases, which is the reason for doing this. Councilmen Blitch, Brannen, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIRST BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2005 BUDGET

Councilman Blitch made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to adopt a resolution approving the First Budget Amendment for the FY 2005 budget. Councilmen Blitch, Lewis, Morris, and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER – MONTH OF DECEMBER FINANCE REPORTS

Mr. Wood reported the Finance Reports for the month of December have been issued to the Mayor and Council.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – 2004 PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS

Mrs. McCorkle reported 94% of the 2004 city property taxes have been collected. Phase one letters to add a \$50 fee for uncollected property taxes will go out in a couple of weeks. There still remains about \$170,000.00 of uncollected property taxes.

CITY PLANNER - PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Planner Hawa Samatar reported the following public hearings are scheduled for the February 15, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Morris, and Blich voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

Mayor Hatcher answered questions from students. Some of the questions were: How did you feel about your first day? What does your job duties include? How often are Council meetings held? How long is the Mayor's term? What is your favorite part of being Mayor?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Statesboro was held February 3, 2005 to discuss a personnel matter. Present were Mayor Hatcher, Councilmen Morris, Lewis, Brannen, and Blich. Councilman Britt was absent. Also present were City Manager George Wood, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle and Personnel Director Woody Chapman.

REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Hatcher reported the personnel matter discussed in the executive session requires no action.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further discussion, Mayor Hatcher adjourned the meeting.