

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2005 – 9:00 A.M.**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held January 04, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. Present were Mayor William S. Hatcher, Council members Will Britt, Tommy Blicht, Joe Brannen, Gary Lewis, and John Morris. 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 – DECEMBER 21, 2004

Councilman Blicht made recommendation to change the second caption on Pg. 4 from a Level Billing Plan to a Rolling Average Billing Plan for Utilities. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the minutes of December 21, 2004 correcting the second caption on Pg. 4 to read “MOTION TO APPROVE A ROLLING AVERAGE BILLING PLAN FOR UTILITIES”. Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Britt, Blicht, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

FIRST READING AMENDING THE STATESBORO ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING LOT AREA IN THE R-10 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

Mr. Wood reported this amendment is due to a clerical error and changes the square footage from “8,000” in line one and in line five to “10,000”. Mayor Hatcher opened a public hearing allowing anyone wishing to speak in favor or opposition to the amendment to be heard. There was no reply. Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to adopt an ordinance on first reading to amend the Statesboro Zoning Ordinance regarding lot area in the R-10 Residential District. Councilmen Morris, Lewis, Brannen, Blicht, and Britt voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

FIRST READING AMENDING THE STATESBORO MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (DEFINING “CHURCH” IN THE CBD)

Mr. Wood reported this amendment was recommended by the Alcohol Control Board and City Staff. One of the issues discussed was if a church moved into an old storefront that it could adversely affect a lot of surrounding areas and buildings within the Central Business Districts. Typically, the churches do not remain in the area very long. This amendment would keep the same protection that we have for the typical church, but in the CBD zoning district a church building is defined as a free standing structure built for and used as a church, and does not apply to commercial or retail space that has been converted to occupancy as a church. If a church has been built for that purpose all these requirements would comply.

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to adopt an ordinance on first reading amending the Statesboro Municipal Code regarding alcoholic beverages (defining “church” in the CBD). Councilman Britt asked how many places this currently affects. Mr. Wood said he is only aware of one, but it could be anywhere in the downtown area. He also reported there are no setback requirements in CBD and a lot of storefronts could be affected. Councilmen Brannen, Morris, Britt, Lewis, and Blicht voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

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

Mr. Wood reported the Bulloch County Commissioners adopted a brown-bag ordinance at their last meeting which only affects areas outside the City limits. The City has mirrored their language so they would be identical. This basically prohibits an establishment from allowing customers to bring in their own alcoholic beverages. Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to adopt an ordinance on first reading amending the Statesboro Municipal Code regarding alcoholic beverages prohibiting brown-bagging. Councilman Britt said if we enact this, it says it should be unlawful for any licensee or any commercial establishment to allow customers to bring in with them any of their own alcoholic beverages BYOB. This should make Christmas parties at Sea Island Bank illegal, business after hour events that currently have alcohol, retirement parties, etc. Mrs. McCorkle said the SIB Christmas party is private and the City does not regulate private parties because they are not in the business to sell alcohol. Councilman Britt said he does not see a problem with someone bringing in champagne, wine, or scotch into his establishment because he is already set up to regulate it. According to the Georgia Department of Revenue as long as I am not selling it, someone could bring it in. The way it is written any commercial establishment could allow customers to bring it in.

Councilman Lewis said brown-bagging does not permit the sale of alcohol, but if bars are closed and brown-bagging is allowed, this could be a problem. Mr. Wood explained that you can not allow customers to bring alcoholic beverages with them; and it does not say you can not serve it at a private party. City Attorney Brannen said brown-bagging can not be allowed in an establishment. Mayor Hatcher said the key difference is the entities that have the party provides the beverages and brings them in, and with brown-bagging each individual person brings it in. Councilman Britt asked is there a penalty or a violation if committed? Mr. Wood said there would be a standard penalty if someone is in violation. Councilmen Morris, Lewis, Blitch and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Britt opposed. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE PAY OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO OFFSET THE INFLATION SINCE THE LAST INCREASE

Mr. Wood reported this has been duly advertised as required by state law. The reason for this resolution is to offset the cost of inflation over four years and would become effective at the first meeting in January 2006. This has to take place after the next municipal election which would be November 2005. The salaries that are in effect now are four years old. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to adopt a resolution to increase the pay of the Mayor and City Council to offset inflation since the last increase. Mayor Hatcher stated for the record that they are not voting themselves in an increase and this would become effective January 2006.

Mayor Hatcher opened a public hearing allowing anyone speaking in favor or opposition to the resolution to be heard. Councilman Morris spoke in favor of the resolution stating the increase would be in line with other cities. Mrs. McCorkle said this is an incentive for people to run for office. Councilman Brannen said the increase is justified. No one spoke in opposition to the resolution. Councilmen Britt, Lewis, Morris, Blitch, and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE JOB POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN (AMENDMENT #9)

Mr. Wood reported this amendment is regarding Fleet Management Personnel Positions. Department of Community Affairs salaries were looked at and other cities comparable to Statesboro were surveyed. He made a recommendation to increase six Fleet Management Personnel Positions by 10%. Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morris to adopt a resolution amending the Job Position Classification and Compensation Plan for the following positions as listed:

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Old Grade</u>	<u>New Grade</u>
Shop Superintendent	18	20
Shop Supervisor	15	17
Mechanic III	14	16
Mechanic II	12	14
Mechanic I	10	12
Tire Repairman	9	11

Councilman Brannen asked Mr. Wood about increased cost. Mr. Wood said increased cost would be about \$20,000.00 per year. Councilmen Blicht, Morris, Brannen, Britt, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

BID FROM ROZIER FORD FOR A 1-TON PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT (HOMELAND SECURITY)

Mr. Wood reported funds for the purchase of this vehicle would come from the Homeland Security Grant. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to accept the bid of \$27,702.70 from Rozier Ford for a 1-ton pickup truck for the Fire Department (Homeland Security Grant). Councilmen Brannen, Lewis, Blicht, Britt, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

CONTRACT WITH HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG, INC. FOR THE DESIGN OF WATER AND SEWER LINES TO SERVE RAMBLE ROAD

Mr. Wood reported there are a few areas in the City that do not have either water or sewer, and one is the Ramble Road area. Oakcrest has water but does not have sewerage. We are trying to get the Ramble Road area designed, which would eliminate several sewerage pump stations. We have a contract for up to 7% of the anticipated design cost, but it is a not-to-exceed figure. Mr. Wood made a recommendation to approve the contract with a not-to-exceed cost of \$25,200.00. This does not include the permitting and construction phase. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt to approve the contract with Hussey, Gay, Bell, & DeYoung for the design of the water and sewer lines to serve Ramble Road at a bid price not-to-exceed \$25,200.00. Councilmen Brannen, Britt, Blicht, Lewis, and Morris voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT CITY MANAGER GEORGE WOOD TO THE LANDBANK AUTHORITY TO REPLACE JOSEPH MOSLEY

Mr. Wood reported this would be an interim appointment until a Planning Director is hired. Councilman Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to appoint City Manager George to the Landbank Authority until the Planning Director is hired. Councilmen Morris, Lewis, Britt, Blich and Brannen voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

CITY MANAGER – LANDBANK AUTHORITY TRANSFER OF PROPERTY; BUDGET RETREAT; COMMUNITY RETREAT; CAFR

LANDBANK AUTHORITY TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

Mr. Wood reported this week the City is scheduled to transfer Lot #14 of Statesboro Pointe Subdivision to the Statesboro-Bulloch County Landbank Authority for Habitat for Humanity.

BUDGET RETREAT

The Mayor and Council were asked to check their calendars for the April 16, 2005 weekend in order to schedule the City's Budget Retreat. This would be scheduled at the next Council meeting.

COMMUNITY RETREAT

Mr. Wood encouraged the Mayor and Council to attend the Community Retreat on February 25 & 26, 2005.

CAFR (COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT)

Mr. Wood reported the City has received the numbers from the auditor for CAFR. This would be available at the next meeting.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – MEETING UPDATES; PROPERTY TAXES

MEETING UPDATES

Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle updated the Mayor and Council of the following dates: The next scheduled Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 19, 2005 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. GMA Mayor's Day is scheduled for January 21 – January 25, 2005.

PROPERTY TAXES; OTHER MEETING DATES

Mrs. McCorkle reported 88% of the City's Property Taxes have been collected for this year. The Wild Game Supper is scheduled for February 1, 2005. The first Council meeting in February will be held on Thursday, February 3 due to Mayor and Council attending an event out of town.

CITY PLANNER – PUBLIC HEARINGS:

City Planner Hawa Samatar reported the following public hearing is scheduled for the January 19, 2005 Council meeting: Liberty-Statesboro LLC for Walgreens Development is requesting a variance to the sign provision of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a 310 square foot sign (only 250 square feet allowed); and to install an electronic reader board sign (such signs are prohibited) at 516 Northside Drive.

ADJOURNMENT

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