



March 04, 2025 9:00 am

1. Call to Order by Mayor Jonathan McCollar
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Paulette Chavers
3. Public Comments (Agenda Item):
4. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda
 - A) Approval of Minutes
 - a) 02-18-2025 Work Session Minutes
 - b) 02-18-2025 Council Minutes
 - c) 02-18-2025 Executive Session Minutes
5. Consideration of a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with St. Joseph's Candler (SJC) to provide oncology services to disadvantaged individuals in the Statesboro area.
6. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of contract in the amount of \$246,306.00 to Tim Lanier Construction LLC for Anderson Street Roadway Improvements. The project will be paid from 2023 TSPLOST funds.
7. Other Business from City Council
8. City Managers Comments
9. Public Comments (General)
10. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss "Personnel Matters" "Real Estate" and/or "Potential Litigation" in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b)
11. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn



CITY OF STATESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Mayor & Council Work Session

50 East Main Street

4:00 PM

A Work Session of the Statesboro City Council was held on February 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 50 East Main Street. Present were Mayor Jonathan McCollar, and Council Members: Tangie Johnson, Paulette Chavers, John Riggs, and Shari Barr. Also present were City Clerk Leah Harden, City Attorney Cain Smith, City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, and Public Affairs Manager Layne Phillips. Absent was Councilmember Ginny Hendley.

1. Robotics Center Update – Ogeechee Technical College

Ogeechee Technical College's President Lori Durden spoke to Mayor and Council about the college and the work that they do in the community and also give an update on the Robotics center. Ogeechee Tech is part of the Technical College System of Georgia, our service delivery area is Bulloch, Evans and Screven County, but have students from all over the State of Georgia. Technical Education hit a record high enrollment for AY24, since 2008. Last year we served a little over 3,000 students, that's the highest student count since 2011. Our highest enrollment is Industrial Technologies at 1511, which include welding, electrical, HVAC, construction, of those 1500 students is about 700 students are enrolled in our program for an Associates of General Education, after students finish their associates degree they transfer over to Georgia Southern University. This is designed so students do not have to repeat courses and automatically accepted by any college or university. Last year we had 774 graduates and a little over 1300 awards. There are more awards than graduates is because sometimes students leave with a TTC and an associate's degree. We have a 99% placement rate, and a 97% job placement rate in field. We track the students as they leave to go out into the work field to make sure the skills we give them are useful. The majority of our students are female, we have students from 110 counties in Georgia, and a lot of students come from the Atlanta area or even outside of Georgia to enroll in our funeral service program. We have the only public funeral service/ funeral director program in the state of Georgia. The average students' age is 25, back before dual enrollment it was higher. Last year there was a little over 600 dual enrollment students. Ogeechee Tech remains at the top of the chart for Service Area Market Engagement since 2020 census. We have a robust economic development program, this is going to be your noncredit training, adult education which is our GED program, continuing education, and contract training. Last year we awarded over 2000 SACA credentials. SACA issues nationally recognized credentials. In areas like electrical, motor control, and welding. If a student walks away with a SACA credential that is recognized across the US.

The Georgia Industrial Systems & Robotics Training Center is going to be built on 301 South. After a lot of deductive cleaning, deductive alternates to get us in budget. We hope to start moving dirt no later than late March early April. This will triple our training space for our industrial systems program. This is about robots that are used in a manufacturing setting, anything that takes the place of a dirty or dangerous job and makes manufacturing more efficient are the type of robotics we are talking about. Lori Durden showed pictures of the outside as well as the floorplan of the building. If construction starts as planned we hope to take possession and start offering training in this building by the fall of 2026. Georgia Southern did an economic impact of this facility in its first year and we should have about a 14 million dollar impact once this facility is

up and running. March is our IGOT it's our give to Ogeechee Tech fundraising event and invite Mayor and Council to come and join us down at the Market on April 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30. It's about celebrating the partnership we have between us and the Statesboro community.

2. BEACON Presentation

Georgia Southern University's President Dr. Kyle Marrero introduced Sean Fox, with Pioneer has been helping to establish a website we are going to launch and show you today. Candice Bodkin is here from the Institute for Vibrant Communities, her and Jayce Sudweeks have been instrumental in developing the dashboard we will also introduce to you today and Annalee Ashley who is the VP for External Affairs Communications.

We began in fall of 2022 we had a 2 day workshop there was 18 members of our community gathered to address the fundamental questions how to do aid in our communities growth, ensuring that it will benefit everyone. This lead to the creation of BEACON designed as a trusted source of community information. Four task force were developed, workforce and education, community vibrancy, and communications. In the fall we had three different listening sessions in Portal, Brooklet, and Statesboro, getting community feedback about what was important. The seven entities that come together every month and give each other updates include City of Statesboro, Bulloch County Schools, Ogeechee Technical College, Bulloch County Government, Development Authority of Bulloch County, Georgia Southern University and Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce. For us our purpose was to be a community information hub to be able to come together solve problems with verified data, clear information, and community empowerment. Our priority areas are Education & Literacy, Economic Opportunity, Health & Well-Being, Public Safety, Community Vibrancy, and Civic Health Index. Dr. Marrero showed Mayor and Council a mockup of the dashboard on the website. The power of information is going to be accessible for every citizen, the platform is designed to be user friendly, and we want to hear back from you as we launch this in the next month. Allowing anyone to easily find information concerning community initiatives, services and progress. As we grow we can know what to focus on and our goal is you as representatives of the city and our county representatives who have SPLOST funds and can say our dollars go to this, measure and show progress to grow a community that we desire.

3. Development Authority of Bulloch County

Benjy Thompson the executive director of the Development Authority of Bulloch County spoke to Mayor and Council on the strategic planning that the Development Authority has done. Our job is to provide economic opportunity for the citizens of this community. Traditionally we have done that through large business recruitment and manufacturing warehouses. We are starting to pivot a little bit since we have been pretty successful in the last 2-4 years with large business recruitment. The Hyundai Metaplant is a 3,000 acre site in the middle of 4 counties. We kicked off the site in 2014 and landed Hyundai in May 2022. The commitment from Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America (HMGMA) to Georgia and that site are to create 8,500 jobs and to invest at least \$7.59 billion dollars. Both of those are the largest economic development projects in the history of the State of Georgia, this was done in partnership with Bryan, Effingham and Chatham County. They started making cars in October. HMGMA and Suppliers that came along with Hyyndai have committed to create over 15,000 jobs and invest over \$10 billion in capital investment. Benjie showed Mayor and Council photos of the different supplier sites. Aspen Aerogels made the decision last week that they are not going to continue with their construction project in Bulloch County. The 250 jobs - \$325 million investment is probably not going to happen in Bulloch County. As an economic entity we protect the value that our community has given, we will get that investment back and the incentives that went into the project. We will have a great site at the interstate that we will market to somebody else. Over the course of the last 2 ½ - 3 years we have announced over 1,300 jobs and over \$770 million in investments. I wanted to mention to mayor and council are the water withdrawals to support the Hyundai Metaplant. Since the start of the year there was an appeal to the groundwater permits that Bulloch and Bryan Counties were going to use to provide water to the Hyundai

Metaplant. It was filled by the Ogeechee Riverkeeper, they asked Georgia EPD to look again at those permit applications. That appeal was settled in early January, there was a modification made in the permit application to require treated surface water be provided to the Hyundai Metaplant no more than 15 years after the start of that permit, also requiring fluoride testing annually. The Ogeechee Riverkeeper dropped their appeal after those changes were made. The permits are in place and the groundwater withdrawals can move forward.

The other development that has happened this year along with the requirement that surface water be made available to the metaplant, submitted in the amended state budget for FY 2025 a \$502 million project from the governor's budget to create a surface water solution that would primarily benefit the Hyundai Metaplant and also growth around the Metaplant. There will be a withdrawal from the Savannah River in Effingham County, that river water will be treated, there is a surface water treatment plant to be built in Effingham County, and the water will be moved from the treatment plant to the Hyundai Metaplant. The hope is that the amended budget will be passed by the legislator this week. This will take care of all the concerns that citizens have about the use of groundwater, the proposed timeline for that is by 2030.

The development authority, asked for some help from a consultant to develop a five year plan beyond what we have done over the last 3 years. We need to evolve in our mission we have been recruiting large business manufacturing and we will continue to do so. Our community and development authority now needs to turn focus towards things that benefit quality of life, and increase other parts of our economy that would like support. Things like professional services, retail and other amenities and want to target things that we want to come here. We will spend a lot of time on entrepreneurship, I would really like to see Statesboro and Bulloch County become even more of a college town, the development authority of Bulloch County focuses on things like entrepreneurship and some professional things. The ability to keep those graduates here as much as we can. The development authority is going to pivot more towards that over the next five years.

4. Public Safety Reports

Police: Police Chief Mike Broadhead shared with Mayor and Council an updated safety report starting off with the 2024 statistics for violent crimes. Homicides, Rape, Robbery and AG assault/battery, in 2022 we had an abnormal deep, and the last two years have returned to a more traditional number. Statistics allow you to take the emotion out of crime, in the rise of social media there are a lot commentary and emotion involved in crimes that we may have never had before. Property crime, thefts is on a 10 year decline and burglaries continues to decline as well.

The state requirement for training for sworn officers are 20 hours, our average officer as 173.4 hours. Our average for our nonsworn person is 24.4 hours annually.

Roadway Assist is a program that started about 18 months ago, this has been staffed 100% with college interns, and they carry gas to those that have ran out, they change tires, we also use them to respond to all of our private property crashes, because that is a civil problem, but they go out to make sure everyone is being peaceful. There are times when we send an officer out for a hit & run or dui. Most of the private property, fender bender accidents, we're handling with college interns, that's freeing officers up. They took a total of 2,206 calls, 536 private property crashes, 1,381 public property crashes and 289 motorist assists.

There was a total of 1,684 arrest made in 2024, less than 1% arrests involved use of force. There were 14 use of force incidents in 2024, 10,713 total arrests since 2018 and 120 (less than 1%) used force.

Patrol statistics include 45,508 individual calls for service, 4,328 citations given, 1,441 arrests made and 1,553 accident CRN's. The top five citations of 2024 are speeding, following too closely, failure to yield, obedience to traffic control devices and starting parked vehicle.

In 2024 there were 1,428 total crashes, top crash locations; Veterans Memorial Parkway at Fair Road, Veterans Memorial Parkway at Lanier Dr., Veterans Memorial Parkway at Northside Dr East, Veterans Memorial Parkway at South Main Street and Veterans Memorial Parkway at Brannen Street. Precision policing there are 71 Fusus sites, 54 flock tag readers, 100 flock gunshot detection sensors. Of the felony cases that we tracked 47 felony arrest were made due to the use of the flock technology. Records report there were 4.329 total records

sent out including, state videos, outgoing reports, superior videos, and state files. Last year we took on dispatching for the fire service we had 46,995 dispatched calls that includes 45,508 for police and 1,487 for fire.

Fire: Chief Tim Grams presented to Mayor and Council the 2024 annual report for the Statesboro Fire Department. Accomplishments include the completion of station 2 renovations, beginning the process to construct additional training facilities, we have acquired property for a third station, purchased two new aerial apparatus, introduced a peer counseling program to the department's health and wellness program, and received a total of \$3,271,152.30 in grant funding for 2024. Total calls for service are 1545 with 1091 being in the city, 398 being in the fire district and 56 being calls of service outside of primary response area. Average response time (dispatch to arrival) is 6 minutes & 8 seconds, average time on scene is 20 minutes & 11 seconds. Calls for service is about 45% false alarm calls, and I don't anticipate this number going down with the increasing number of housing. Chief Grams showed Mayor and Council a heat map for the calls of service area as well as a breakdown for calls for service by district, with the largest being district 2 with 28%. Statesboro fire related property loss (based on pre-incident assessed value) is 4.3% which is excellent. Mayor and Council were shown a graph with pre vs post incident values for 2024.

Training within the department, we had nearly 20,000 training hours in 2024. A chart showing the training hour breakdown also what was required by the ISO and what was completed by the firefighters was shown. The prevention division in 2024 over 1100 annual inspections were completed. We have had direct interactions with 3,913 groups, installed 56 smoke alarms in both the city and 5 mile district, over 1300 school visits, 2400 community events and conducted 63 station tours in 2024.

With community outreach we participated in numerous community events, continued partnership with the Therapy Spot assembling AMBUCS Mobility Bikes for special needs children, and worked with GSU on "Up In Flames" event on campus educating students the importance of fire safety.

Moving forward we hope to get the new aerial apparatus mid to late March, hoping to get a timeline for construction of station 3, working with consultants to study the feasibility of implementing a fire service fee, and continue to evaluate departmental services, processes, procedures and programs to ensure excellent service delivery is maintained.

5. Quarterly Financial Report

Director of Finance Cindy West presented the second quarter financial report of Fiscal Year 2025, reviewing revenues and expenditures in the General Fund, Fire Service Fund, Water/Sewer Fund, Stormwater Fund, Natural Gas Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund and the Solid Waste Disposal Fund Revenues in the General fund is showing an increase over the prior year. Our expenditures are up due to the implantation of the pay plan. The fire service fund is up \$700,000 more this year compared to last year. Water and Sewer fund are up slightly from last year. Natural gas fund is up and solid waste collection fund is relatively flat. Ms. West also reviewed the SPLOST and TSPLOST collections stating both of these funds up from where we were this time last year. The Hotel/Motel tax revenue is trending higher than in FY 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember Tangie Johnson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Tangie Johnson	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
Ginny Hendley	Councilmember	Absent	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present	
Shari Barr	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Public Affairs Manager Layne Phillips, City Attorney Cain Smith and City Clerk Leah Harden

Mayor Jonathan McCollar announced a presentation of an award by United Way to the city of Statesboro. Carey Cassidy, Executive Director of the United Way of Southeast Georgia recognized the City of Statesboro as the largest employee campaign in the entire community, 184 employees raised \$50,756.00. She presented an award to Co-Charis of the United Way Campaign Fire Chief Tim Grams and Police Chief Mike Broadhead.

3. Public Comments (Agenda Item):

Cole Davis signed up to speak on agenda item #8 regarding SUB 25-01-02 stating his family lives off Teresa Drive in Bel Air Estates and that his concern is not the development itself but with stormwater runoff and the possible flooding of the surrounding properties.

Helen Rosko signed up to speak on agenda item #8 regarding application SUB 25-01-02 Boro Land Consultants & Burbank Point to develop the 43 acre lot with 53 planned houses off Beasley road. She stated she echoes similar sentiments and concerns of her husband Cole as well as concerns with the enforcement of development regulations.

4. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 02-04-2025 Council Minutes

b) 02-04-2025 Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

5. Consideration of a motion to revoke, suspend, or maintain the massage parlor license for Lisa’s Therapeutic Massage in accordance with City Ordinances 18-141 and 18-143 due to allegations of illegal acts being performed there.

Michael Classens representing the licensee spoke against the suspension of the massage parlor license.

A motion was made to suspend the license for an additional two weeks until the first meeting in March.

RESULT:	Failed: 2-3 (Mayor Jonathan McCollar broke the tie)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Shari Barr
AYES:	Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
NAYS:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson Paulette Chavers & Mayor Jonathan McCollar

A motion was made to suspend the license until the disposition of the underlying criminal matter is completed.

RESULT:	Approved: 3-2 (Mayor Jonathan McCollar broke the tie)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Mayor McCollar
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley
NAYS:	Councilmember John Riggs & Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr

6. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION V 25-01-01: Richard Williams requests a variance from Section 2.2.9 of the Unified Development Code in order to continue operating a vehicle repair shop in the MX (Mixed Use) district at 1321 Northside Drive East (Tax Parcel# S39 000097 000).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Director of Planning and Development Kathy Field stated that staff recommends approval of this application with the condition that all construction must be reviewed and approved by the city. At a regularly scheduled meeting of the planning commission on February 4, 2025, the commission recommended approval of this request with staff conditions.

No one spoke for or against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions APPLICATION V 25-01-01: Richard Williams requests a variance from Section 2.2.9 of the Unified Development Code in order to continue operating a vehicle repair shop in the MX (Mixed Use) district at 1321 Northside Drive East (Tax Parcel# S39 000097 000).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

7. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION V 25-01-03: Whitfield Signs requests a variance from Table 2.5.3-C of the Unified Development Code in order to place a 520.5 square foot sign on a building located at 152 Northside Drive East (Tax Parcel # MS84 000003A001).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Director of Planning and Development stated staff recommends denial of this application, due to the excessive square footage of signage proposed. At the regular scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission on February 4, 2025 the commission recommended denial of the request.

Katie Brown with Whitfield signs spoke in favor of the request. She stated that on December 30, 2024 they submitted updated drawings to go along with the variance application that was slightly smaller than the original request. The modified square footage is approximately 25 percent larger than the aggregate square footage allowed under the UDC. Ms. Brown asking to have a larger sign because of where it is located.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

A motion was made to defer this application for a month and have it go back before the planning commission.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

8. Consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION SUB 25-01-02: Boro Land Consultants & Burbank Point requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT for an R-15 (Single-Family Residential) subdivision on approximately 43.31 acres of property on Beasley Road (Tax Parcel # MS91 000010 002).

A motion was made to approve APPLICATION SUB 25-01-02: Boro Land Consultants & Burbank Point requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT for an R-15 (Single-Family Residential) subdivision on approximately 43.31 acres of property on Beasley Road (Tax Parcel # MS91 000010 002).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

9. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05: A Resolution to adopt the second amendment to the fiscal year 2025 budget for each fund of the City of Statesboro, Georgia, appropriating the amounts shown in each budget as expenditures/expenses, adopting the several items of revenue anticipations, and prohibiting expenditures or expenses form exceeding the actual funding appropriated.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2025-05: A Resolution to adopt the second amendment to the fiscal year 2025 budget for each fund of the City of Statesboro, Georgia, appropriating the amounts shown in each budget as expenditures/expenses, adopting the several items of revenue anticipations, and prohibiting expenditures or expenses form exceeding the actual funding appropriated.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

10. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of contract to Gilbert & Associates to provide grant writing and administration services for the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant.

A motion was made to approve an award of contract to Gilbert & Associates to provide grant writing and administration services for the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

11. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of \$47,136.00 to the Coastal Regional Commission for rural transit grant matching funds toward the purchase of four (4) additional transit buses. This purchase is paid from TSPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve an award of \$47,136.00 to the Coastal Regional Commission for rural transit grant matching funds toward the purchase of four (4) additional transit buses. This purchase is paid from TSPLOST funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

12. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of contract in the amount of \$48,390.00 to Hero Hauler LLC for solid waste collection management software. This project will be paid for by Solid Waste Collection operating revenue.

A motion was made to approve an award of contract in the amount of \$48,390.00 to Hero Hauler LLC for solid waste collection management software. This project will be paid for by Solid Waste Collection operating revenue.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

13. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated in response to the allegation of an ethics violation the mayor appointed three members of council to an investigative committee. The committee met in small groups of two with the City Attorney. The members of the investigative committee were Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr, Councilmember John Riggs, and Councilmember Tangie Johnson. The findings of the committee are as follows:

Findings of Fact:

1. Paulette Chavers improperly voted on an item involving Agape Worship Center on January 28, 2025 in violation of Section 2-125 as her brother Donald receives over \$5,000 annually from Agape.
2. City Attorney Cain Smith advised Councilwoman Chavers in error that she could vote on the item. The City Attorney has since better familiarized himself with the ethics section.
3. Councilwoman Chavers withdrew her vote on the item via email on January 29, 2025.
4. The item still carried on a 3-0 affirmative vote with Chavers' vote withdrawn.
5. The vote was unintentional and inconsequential.

Recommendations:

1. That the complaint against Chavers be dismissed as moot as the offending vote was properly and timely withdrawn.
2. That the ethics section and recusal process be reviewed at the City Council retreat.
3. That the City Attorney review every agenda moving forward for possible conflict of interest issues and continue to advise Mayor and Council on conflicts.
4. Council members should continue to consult with City Attorney regarding potential conflicts in advance and during the course of the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated that the committee had a second voting issue they looked into regarding Councilmember Ginny Hendley. The findings of the committee are as follows:

Findings of Fact:

6. It was discovered that Councilwoman Hendley failed to properly recuse herself from vote on issuance of alcohol licenses on January 28, 2025.
7. Hendley holds an alcohol license and had agreed not to vote on alcohol items when issued. Hendley did not actually vote, but her lack of recusal resulted in an affirmative vote.
8. The matter passed 4-0 with Hendley counted as a yes vote.
9. That the vote was unintentional and inconsequential.

Recommendations:

5. That the ethics section and recusal process be reviewed at the City Council retreat.
6. That the City Attorney review every agenda moving forward for possible conflict of interest issues and continue to advise Mayor and Council on conflicts.
7. Council members should continue to consult with City Attorney regarding potential conflicts in advance and during the course of the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the findings of the investigative committee.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr announced that the City of Statesboro and the Tree Board invites everyone to come out and celebrate Arbor Day over at the Food Bank on Miller Street this Friday at 4:00 pm.

Mayor McCollar announced that next Tuesday February 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm he will be delivering the State of The City Address at the Averitt Center and invites everyone to come attend.

14. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny reviewed with the Mayor and Council items in their FYI packet, the DRI on the Old Register TAD, the Chamber of Commerce has taken to public support for the SPLOST referendum that is on the ballot March 18th. Mr. Penny stated those funds are important to the work we do each and every day. It helps us purchase capital and equipment. Another item in the FYI packet is a memo on the spring concert series which begins on April 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm with The Tams, April 17th is The Breakfast Club, May 22nd is The Royals, May 29th is Liquid Pleasure, June 12th is We Got the Beat, and June 26th is Kids Superfly Tribute Band.

Mr. Penny also shared that Director of Public Utilities Steve Hotchkiss announced his retirement from the City of Statesboro effective in June of this year. Steve has worked for the City for 35 years and one of the things he identified is what y'all did for the retirement if the changes had not been made he would have had to work one more year before he could retire.

City Manager Charles Penny read a memo he wrote to the Mayor and Council in reference to his recommendation on the Fire District as follows:

“Mayor McCollar and Council, the Chairman of the Bulloch County Commissioners would like a decision in reference to their proposal to serve the Fire District submitted to the City on January 30, 2025 by February 17, 2025 by the close of business. The Bulloch County Commissioners voted to cancel the Fire District Agreement effective July 1, 2025 at their December 3, 2024 Board meeting, and I was informed by the Interim County Manager on December 4, 2024. I acknowledged receipt of the letter on December 4 and advised her I would be recommending the City Council accept the decision of the Commissioners and they would be responsible for fire services in the district effective July 1, 2025. On December 5, 2024, I received a second email which the Interim Manager stated “I do not believe the intent of their vote was not to take responsibility of the fire service in the Fire District as of July 1, 2025, but to negotiate another agreement.” At the Fire District Committee Meeting on January 30, 2025, the Commissioners through the Bulloch County Fire Chief laid out the terms to split the Fire District without any discussion with the Statesboro Fire Chief. My recommendation is not to accept the plan presented by the Bulloch County Fire Chief.

The City recognizes the Fire District is the responsibility of Bulloch County and we consider it an honor and a privilege to have been able to serve the citizens and businesses of the Fire District for more than 47 years as noted in the 2022-2023 Bulloch County Budget. The additional millage rate of 2.70 is to pay for the increased fire service from the City. Citizens and businesses are paying for the availability of fire service from a Class 2 fire department and not on a per call basis. It is better to have it (the service) and not need it, than to need it and not have it. As of this year, the funding from the additional millage rate is \$2.3 million. In addition to the primary response in the 5 mile Fire District, the City also responds to all fire calls in Bulloch County outside of the Fire District as a part of the automatic aid agreement. Funding from the county equals 30 percent of the total Statesboro Fire Department budget. The Fire District is 96 square miles and the City of Statesboro is 16.1 square miles of the District. The Fire District is 83 percent of the area served by Statesboro Fire Department. Bulloch County is 689 square miles.

We are supportive of Bulloch County having an excellent Fire Department and wish them nothing but the best as they continue to grow and develop.

As we have grown and served the Fire District, we have not taken any action without consultation with Bulloch County. When the 5 year agreement was reached, it was through meetings and discussions. As we have received increased funding and added employees, Bulloch County has been informed. There is no question the City built our budget based upon receiving funding from Bulloch County for serving the 5 mile district. Statesboro has commitments to our personnel which we must and will fulfill. If we had been offered the opportunity to discuss our concerns with the Interim County Manager and the Bulloch County Fire Chief, we would have shared those details with them.

The Chairman of the Bulloch County Commission has now asked for a counter offer. I do not recommend acceptance of the proposal to split the fire district. The City is willing to serve the district for one final year under the current terms of the agreement, and since the County will be assuming responsibility of the Fire District going forward, I would recommend allowing the County to build stations within the 5 mile district. If the County accepts this offer, I would recommend the City consider automatic aid for at least one year to assist with the transition. If the County would like to continue with automatic aid beyond July 1, 2027 terms would need to be negotiated with the City.

I advised the Interim County Manager on Friday, January 31, 2025 the City Council would discuss this matter at our City Council retreat on March 14-15, 2025. If the County cannot wait until we have had sufficient time to evaluate the full impact of these actions, then I recommend you accept the decision of Bulloch County at the December 3, 2024 meeting to terminate Fire District Agreement effective July 1, 2025, at which time the Statesboro Fire Department will be responsible for fire protection in the City limits only, and Bulloch County will have the responsibility for the remainder of the county. The City would respond in the Fire District on a mutual aid basis only upon the termination of the Fire District Agreement.”

A motion was made directing City Manager Charles Penny to make a counter offer to the County that the City will serve the Fire District under the current contractual conditions for one additional year.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

15. Public Comments (General):

Ainsle Smith along with fellow cadets in the Eagle Battalion, Georgia Southern University’s Army ROTC program shared with Mayor and Council about the 2025 Freedom Runs fundraisers they will be hosting on April 19, 2025. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to fund the MSG Christopher Decker Memorial ROTC Scholarship. Marcus Toole with Habitat for Humanity shared information he learned from his recent trip to Habitat on the Hill in Washington D.C.

16. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss “Personnel Matters” in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).

At 7:22 pm a motion was made to enter into executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

At 7:33 pm a motion was made to exit executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

17. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk

CITY OF STATESBORO

COUNCIL

Tangie Johnson
Paulette Chavers
Ginny Hendley
John C. Riggs
Shari Barr



Jonathan M McCollar, Mayor
Charles Penny, City Manager
Leah Harden, City Clerk
Cain Smith, City Attorney

50 EAST MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 348
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459-0348

To: Charles Penny, City Manager and Leah Harden, City Clerk

From: Cain Smith, City Attorney

Date: March 3, 2025

RE: March 4, 2025 City Council Agenda Items

Policy Issue: Consideration of MOU with St Joseph's/ Candler (SJC) to provide oncology services to disadvantaged individuals in the Statesboro area

Recommendation: Approval

Background: Three years ago, SJC opened an oncology unit at East Georgia RMC. They now wish to make a formal commitment to provide oncology services to disadvantaged patients through the unit. This MOU has SJC committing to providing these services and the City accepting these representations and acknowledging that said services are in the public interest and being billed at no or considerably less than full reimbursement.

Budget Impact: None

Council Person and District: N/A

Attachments: Proposed MOU and request letter from SJC



February 25, 2025

Charles W. Penny, City Manager
City of Statesboro, Georgia
50 East Main St.
Statesboro, GA. 30458

Dear Mr. Penny,

Three years ago, the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's/Candler (SJ/C) expanded access to medical oncology services in Statesboro by opening a full-time medical oncology practice and infusion center on the campus of East Georgia Regional Medical Center (EGRMC). Through this center, SJ/C has been able to help local oncology patients receive vital services, such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and IV hydration in Statesboro thus reducing the travel burdens out of town care at a time when all of their focus and attention should be placed on treatment and recovery. Further, through the collaborative efforts of SJ/C, EGRMC, and the medical oncologists that staff the center, we have been able to add inpatient oncology consults at EGRMC to assist the hospital with access to specialty that otherwise would not be available.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your guidance and assistance. SJ/C is interested in making a formal commitment to the City to operate a chemotherapy clinic in Statesboro that further expands and assures access to care for low-income individuals who are not entitled to benefits under Medicare (or medical assistance under Medicaid). By executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SJ/C and the City that outlines SJ/C's commitment to operate in Statesboro, SJ/C is afforded the opportunity to meet the requirements for participation in the Federal 340B drug discount program and thus better serve the indigent population in Statesboro and surrounding areas.

Enclosed with this letter is a Memorandum of Understanding for your consideration. At your earliest convenience, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in Statesboro to discuss this project in more detail and answer any questions that you may have. Should the City agree to move forward, SJ/C's goal would be to have a fully executed agreement in place on or before May 1, 2025.

St. Joseph's Hospital
11705 Mercy Boulevard
Savannah, Georgia 31419
(912) 819-4100

Candler Hospital
5353 Reynolds Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405
(912) 819-6000



Thank you in advance for your time, consideration, and most importantly your service to the citizens of Statesboro.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul P. Hinchey".

Paul P. Hinchey, President and CEO
St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, Inc.

Enclosure

St. Joseph's Hospital
11705 Mercy Boulevard
Savannah, Georgia 31419
(912) 819-4100

Candler Hospital
5353 Reynolds Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405
(912) 819-6000

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter referred to as “MOU”), is made and effective as of [insert date], 2025 (the “Effective Date”), by and between the undersigned representatives of the CITY OF STATESBORO, GA., (“Governmental Unit”) and CANDLER HOSPITAL, INC. (“Hospital”), a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia. (Governmental Unit and Hospital are sometimes referred to herein individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”).

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, Hospital is a private non-profit hospital that provides a disproportionate share of health care services to the Medicare and Medicaid populations in addition to supporting many programs that benefit the indigent, uninsured or underinsured population in Bulloch County, Georgia (the “Service Area”) and the State of Georgia;

WHEREAS, the drug discount program established under Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (the “340B Program”) sets forth requirements for participation at 42 C.F.R. § 413.65(e)(3)(ii);

WHEREAS, in order to participate in the 340B Program, Hospital must enter into an agreement with a unit of the state or local government pursuant to which Hospital commits to the operation of a clinic located off the main campus of Hospital to assure access in a well-defined service area to health care services for low-income individuals who are not entitled to benefits under Medicare (or medical assistance under a Medicaid State plan) at no reimbursement or considerably less than full reimbursement from these patients consistent with Hospital’s charity care policies;

WHEREAS, Hospital provides services to individuals across the State of Georgia, including those located in the Service Area, and is dedicated to assuring access to health care services for low-income individuals who are not entitled to benefits under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act or eligible for assistance under the State plan of Title XIX of the Social Security Act in the Service Area and throughout the State of Georgia;

WHEREAS, Hospital desires to make a formal commitment to Governmental Unit as a condition of compliance with the 340B Program requirements; and

WHEREAS, Governmental Unit agrees to accept such commitment on behalf of the citizens of the Service Area and enter into this MOU to create enforceable expectations for Hospital for the provision of health care services, including the provision of direct medical care.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements and covenants contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which hereby are acknowledged, it is mutually agreed and covenanted, by and between the Parties, as follows:

1. Commitment and Representation of Hospital to Provide Charity Care.

During the term of this MOU, Hospital commits to continue to provide health care services to low income individuals who are not entitled to benefits under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act or eligible for assistance under the State plan of Title XIX of the Social Security Act at no reimbursement or considerably less than full reimbursement from these patients consistent with its

charity care policies by operating a clinic located off the main campus of Hospital to assure access in the Service Area to health care services for such low-income individuals (the "Clinic"). Hospital further acknowledges that this MOU in no way obligates Governmental Unit to reimburse Hospital for health care services rendered to any indigent, uninsured and underinsured residents.

2. Acceptance and Acknowledgements of Governmental Unit.

Governmental Unit accepts the commitments and representations of Hospital as set forth above. Governmental Unit acknowledges that the health care services provided by Hospital hereunder are in the public interest and that this MOU requires Hospital to provide health care services to indigent, uninsured and underinsured residents in the Service Area consistent with its charity care policies. Governmental Unit further acknowledges that Hospital is providing these services at no reimbursement or considerably less than full reimbursement from the patients.

3. Term and Termination.

The term of this MOU shall commence as of the Effective Date and shall continue until terminated by either Party providing not less than one hundred eighty (180) days' prior written notice to the other Party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either Party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice of such termination to the other Party if Hospital closes the operations of the Clinic, such termination to be effective as of the effective date of such closure.

4. Notice.

All notices required or permitted to be given under this MOU shall be deemed given when delivered by hand or sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, at the addresses set forth on the signature blocks below.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Hospital and Governmental Unit have executed this MOU as of the day and year first written above by their duly authorized representatives.

CITY OF STATESBORO, GA.

CANDLER HOSPITAL, INC.

Address:
50 East Main St.
Statesboro, Ga. 30458

Address:
5353 Reynolds St.
Savannah, Ga. 31405

By: _____

By: Paul P. Hinchey

Name: _____

Name: PAUL P. HINCHEY

Title: _____

Title: CEO 2/26/25

CITY OF STATESBORO



COUNCIL

Tangie Johnson, District 1
Paulette Chavers, District 2
Ginny Hendley, District 3
John Riggs, District 4
Shari Barr, District 5

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor
Charles Penny, City Manager
Leah Harden, City Clerk
I. Cain Smith, City Attorney

50 EAST MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 348
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459-0348

To: Charles Penny, City Manager

From: David Moyer, Assistant Engineer – Public works and Engineering

Date: March 4, 2025

RE: Recommendation of Award for Construction Services "ENG-129: Anderson Street Roadway Improvements from East Main to Hill Street"

Policy Issue: Purchasing

Recommendation:

The Low bidder, Tim Lanier Construction LLC, meets the requirements of the bid package and submitted an acceptable bid bond. Staff recommends awarding this contract to Tim Lanier Construction LLC in the amount of \$246,306.00. The next lowest bidder, Tri Scapes, LLC came in with a bid of \$379,401.27.

Background:

This project will consist of roadway improvements along Anderson Street from E. Main Street to Hill Street. This work will improve the road to a 20 feet width. The roads drainage will be improved by the installation of a new storm pipe network. The WORK will include but is not limited to the following: clearing, excavating, setting grade, installing subgrade materials, paving, concrete forming & pouring, concrete pipe installation, grading and dressing of job site.

Budget Impact:

The bid submitted by Tim Lanier Construction LLC is below the budgeted amount set for construction at \$282,634.50. This project will be funded from the 2023 TSPLOST and any unused funds left over from the design phase of this project.

Council Person and District: Tangie Johnson, District 1

Attachments: Bid Tabulation from bid opening

CC: Darren Prather, Director of Central Services