



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 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 Ginny Hendley 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	Present	
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

3. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

4. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 03-04-2025 Council Minutes

b) 03-04-2025 Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

RESULT:

Approved (Unanimous)

MOVER:

Councilmember Tangie Johnson

SECONDER:

Councilmember Paulette Chavers

AYES:

Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr

ABSENT:

5. 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:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	

Planning and Housing Administrator Justin Williams explained Council deferred this request at the February 18, 2025 meeting with the caveat it go back before the Planning Commission with the proposed revision. The applicants' original request for a 520 square foot sign last month was amended to an approximately 316 square foot sign. The amended application went back before the Planning Commission on March 4, 2025 and was approved with staff conditions by a 4-0 vote. Staff also recommends approval of the request.

No one spoke for or against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions 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).

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

6. Public Hearing & Consideration of a Motion to approve application for an alcohol license in accordance with The City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13 (a):

**Sports Bar Grill & Lounge
2390 Northside Dr. West
Owner: Cynthia R. Wilson
License Type: Restaurant**

Councilmember Ginny Hendley announced she is recusing herself from this item.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

No one spoke for or against the application.

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:	

A motion was made to approve the application for an alcohol license in accordance with the City of Statesboro alcohol ordinance Sec. 6-13 (a) issued to Sports Bar Grill & Lounge located at 2390 Northside Dr. West, Owner: Cynthia R. Wilson for license type: Restaurant.

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

7. Consideration of a motion to approve an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Brooklet to allow for an increase in sewer treatment services.

A motion was made to approve an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Brooklet to allow for an increase in sewer treatment services.

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

8. Consideration of a motion to approve a Water-Sewer Agreement with Burkhalter-GSL, LLC to allow extension of water and sewer utilities to serve the Adelaide subdivision on Burkhalter Road (Tax Parcel 122 000013 000).

A motion was made to approve a Water-Sewer Agreement with Burkhalter-GSL, LLC to allow extension of water and sewer utilities to serve the Adelaide subdivision on Burkhalter Road (Tax Parcel 122 000013 000).

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

9. Consideration of a motion to approve Amendment #1 to Task Order 7 with Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood LLC (GMC) increasing the contract from \$131,250.00 to \$158,750.00 for the Little Lotts Creek tributary stream restoration project. This project will be paid by Section 319(h) grant funds and Stormwater Utility operating revenue funds.

A motion was made to approve Amendment #1 to Task Order 7 with Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood LLC (GMC) increasing the contract from \$131,250.00 to \$158,750.00 for the Little Lotts Creek tributary stream restoration project. This project will be paid by Section 319(h) grant funds and Stormwater Utility operating revenue funds.

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

10. Consideration of a motion to approve Change Order #3, in the amount of \$174,338.00, to Southern Civil for the Blower and Pump Upgrades Project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The project, WTP-24, is paid from Operating and ATC fee funds.

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

11. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr encouraged everyone to get out and vote today before 7 pm if you haven't done so yet.

12. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny announced that the City of Statesboro is taking in applications for its Youth Connect Program. The last day to apply is March 24, 2025.

Mayor McCollar explained that Youth Connect is a program where we take approximately 30 students in the community for a five week period over the summer to work with the City and other partners across the community. It gives the students an opportunity to get on the job training and experience. If you know of any young people, who may be interested the application can be found on the City of Statesboro website.

Mr. Penny shared there will be a meeting with the Quail Run subdivision on March 25, 2025 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers regarding the City's sewer extension project.

Mr. Penny stated at the last Council meeting he asked for authorization to be able to refund some money to an elderly woman who was charged an extremely large amount money for her utility bill over a six-month period due to a running toilet. The city received an email from her daughter expressing her appreciation and thanks for the action that you took to allow us to refund her mother those funds.

Mr. Penny also announced that Brad Deal has been appointed as the Director of Public Works and Engineering and will begin sometime the latter part of April.

The last item Mr. Penny addressed was the Automatic Aid Agreement. Since we have been having discussions with Bulloch County the item of automatic aid has been an item we have discussed quite a bit. On December 3rd the Bulloch County Commissioners voted to cancel the Fire District Agreement effective July 1, 2025. The Automatic Aid agreement is a separate agreement that was approved by the City and County in April of 2020. A 90 day notice is required in order to terminate the agreement. We did discuss at the Council Retreat my recommendation that we give notice of our plan to terminate Automatic Aid. If we do not give notice and we don't hit that 90 day window come July 1, 2025 the City will no longer protect the fire district. However, we would then be responsible for responding in the fire district or throughout the county as a part of Automatic Aid. Mr. Penny asked Mayor and Council to consider approving that the City give notice to Bulloch County of the intention to terminate the Automatic Aid Agreement effective July 1, 2025. Taking this action in no way prevents the City of Statesboro from working with Bulloch County if they would like to work with us.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr explained that she echoes what Mr. Penny stated that the City is still open to trying to work something out. At this point the County has said they are taking it over and we're out and that's how it is but I certainly hope we can still work something out. I know it's not fair for the City of Statesboro taxpayers to subsidize fire service out in the county so I understand the need legally for us to take this next step, but I want to be clear I regret it and still hope we can work something out.

A motion was made to approve giving notice to Bulloch County to cancel the Automatic Aid Agreement.

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

13. Public Comments (General):

Thomas Redfearn addressed his concerns about the City’s Massage Parlor Ordinance stating it is demeaning to his profession, is severely outdated and inconsistent with state law. Mr. Redfearn urged council to look into what he is saying and update the regulations.

Mayor McCollar acknowledged that many city ordinances are outdated and we are working through them. For that particular thing, we’ve typically deferred to the state law. We have not gotten to the point of massage parlors but at some point the whole thing will be updated it’s just going to take a little time.

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr shared that this weekend will be the first ever Fine Arts Festival in Statesboro. There are approximately 40 artist from around the region who will be competing and the Mayor will be awarding the winner on Saturday. The event will take place at the Visitors Center Farmers Market. Two weeks after that event on Friday April 4th the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority will host a tasting tour downtown and the next day April 5th the Farmers Market will reopen.

Mr. Penny stated that the meeting for the Quail Run subdivision will take place over at Georgia Sothern’s BIG campus at 64 East Main Street not in the Council Chambers.

14. 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).

No executive session was held.

15. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk