



**CITY OF STATESBORO
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 27, 2021**

A work session of the Statesboro City Council was held on April 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor Jonathan McCollar, Council Members: Phil Boyum, Paulette Chavers, John Riggs, and Shari Barr. Also present was City Clerk Leah Harden, City Attorney Cain Smith, City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Finance Director Cindy West and Public Information Officer Layne Phillips. Councilmember Venus Mack was absent.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order.

Review of the Proposed City of Statesboro Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget.

City Manager Charles Penny presented the proposed FY 2022 annual operating budget. He reviewed budget objectives, which includes tax base growth, emphasis on redevelopment and clean up, and retaining and recruiting talented employees. The challenges and unknowns include the American Rescue Pan and that 4% of the property in the City limits is non-taxable, which makes up 23% of the assessed value for real and personal property. The Fiscal Year 2022 proposed budget highlights include a 1.05% increase from FY 2021 amended budget and a 3.49% increase in the General Fund. Another highlight is no proposed rate increases, and no proposed property tax increases.

Mr. Penny continued with the compensation and benefits review, which includes a 3% pay plan adjustment, pay for performance, and a proposal of no increase in employee premiums. Items not funded for FY 2022 are eight new police officers and equipment. We would have to increase millage rate to fund these new positions and right now, it is hard to find eligible employees to be police officers. However, Chief Broadhead has authorization to hire three more officers if all vacant positions are filled and he has a full staff of the approved 77.

Mr. Penny reviewed the proposed appropriation levels on operating funds that shows a 2.6% increase. A review FY 2022 proposed property tax rates between the Board of Education, Bulloch County and the City of Statesboro and of the three, the City has the lowest rate.

Mr. Penny reviewed revenue trends and current and future challenges such as promoting regional identity, keeping the pay plan up to date, advancing a creative, inclusive, professional culture and growing our Central City. Mr. Penny stated to balance our budget for this fiscal year we will continue the conditional hiring freeze for non-public safety positions, “hold line” on operating cost and keeping capital outlay/CIP within planned limits.

The General fund highlights review includes neighborhood revitalization, Public Safety, Statesboro Fire Service fund, General Capital Fund, Water & Sewer Fund, Storm Water Fund, Natural Gas Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund, Solid Waste Disposal Fund, and Fleet Maintenance Fund.

There was a ten-minute recess at 3:39 pm.

The work session reconvened at 3:49 pm.

Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles reviewed with Mayor and City Council the proposed FY 2022 revenues and expenditures of the General Fund. He also went over the FY 2022 budget assumptions.

No action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk