



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2024

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 Paulette Chavers 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	Absent	
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):

Sam Jones signed up to speak regarding agenda item #11 and #14. He stated for agenda item #11 that he has concerns about Lavender and Associates conducting the design build for the Whitesville Park.

Mr. Jones asked regarding agenda item #14 if Bulloch County would also be giving money to the Food Bank for the completion of the building.

City Manager Charles Penny stated that this morning the County Commissioners approved \$250,000 for the Food Bank.

4. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 12-03-2024 Council Minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda.

RESULT:

Approved (Unanimous)

MOVER:

Councilmember Tangie Johnson

SECONDER:

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr

AYES:

Johnson, Chavers, Hendley, Barr

ABSENT:

Councilmember John Riggs

5. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION RZ 24-11-01: Luis Gonzalez requests a Zoning Map Amendment from the R-15 (Single-Family Residential) zoning district to the R-3 (Medium Density Residential) zoning district in order to develop additional units on a 0.87-acre property located at 509 East Main Street (Tax Parcel# MS57000008 000).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

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

Director of Planning and Development Kathy Field stated that staff recommends denial of this application due to the lack of compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood. In addition on December 3, 2024, the Planning Commission recommend denial of the request with a 6-0 vote.

Jacob Crowley a resident on Ramble Road spoke against the request.
No one spoke for 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, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember John Riggs

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr stated this is an oversized lot and does not have a problem with adding something in there. However, maybe what the applicant is requesting is too much to add and would be open if they wanted to put up a duplex or something.

Councilmember Paulette Chavers asked for clarification that staff denied it based upon aesthetics.

Mrs. Field stated staff felt this is in an established residential neighborhood with 15,000 square foot lots. The development pattern in that whole neighborhood is a single family home on a lot. This parcel is .87 of an acre so it's a little larger than 15,000 square feet. The development pattern with the parking lot in the middle and five units is too much on that site.

A motion was made to defer this item until the second meeting in January 2025.

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

6. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION V 24-11-02: Cody Rogers requests a Variance from Table 2.2.9-B of the Unified Development Code in order to increase the setback allowance for a commercial development on approximately 0.5 acres located on Highway 67 & Independence Way (Tax Parcel MS88000026 004).

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, Hendley, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember John Riggs

Keith Stevens with EMC Engineering spoke in favor of the request.
No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

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

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions: **APPLICATION V 24-11-02**: Cody Rogers requests a Variance from Table 2.2.9-B of the Unified Development Code in order to increase the setback allowance for a commercial development on approximately 0.5 acres located on Highway 67 & Independence Way (Tax Parcel MS88000026 004).

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

7. Consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION SUB 24-11-03: Burbank Point LLC requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT on approximately 0.95 acres of property located at 227 & 231 East Main Street (Tax Parcels # S39 000054 000).

A motion was made to approve: **APPLICATION SUB 24-11-03**: Burbank Point LLC requests a Preliminary Subdivision PLAT on approximately 0.95 acres of property located at 227 & 231 East Main Street (Tax Parcels # S39 000054 000).

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

8. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2024-39: A Resolution amending the affordable housing Resolution to Habitat for Humanity.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2024-39**: A Resolution amending the affordable housing Resolution to Habitat for Humanity.

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

9. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2024-40: A Resolution approving pre-application for the 2024-25 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) offered through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). Grant match will be paid from Stormwater Fund operating revenues.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2024-40: A Resolution approving pre-application for the 2024-25 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) offered through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). Grant match will be paid from Stormwater Fund operating revenues.

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

10. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2024-41: A Resolution approving the submission of an application for the T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2024-41: A Resolution approving the submission of an application for the T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program.

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

11. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2024-42: A Resolution to reject the previously awarded contract to Great Southern Recreation due to the absence of a bid bond as required under O.C.G.A. 13-10-20 and to allow staff to negotiate a contract with Lavender & Associates for the design build for Whitesville Park in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2024-42: A Resolution to reject the previously awarded contract to Great Southern Recreation due to the absence of a bid bond as required under O.C.G.A. 13-10-20 and to allow staff to negotiate a contract with Lavender & Associates for the design build for Whitesville Park in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.

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

12. Consideration of a Motion to terminate the contract with Freese & Nichols, Inc. for design and permitting services for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.

A motion was made to terminate the contract with Freese & Nichols, Inc. for design and permitting services for the Creek on the Blue Mile project.

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

13. Consideration of a motion for the approval of \$700,000 in housing rehab and \$250,000 for the Statesboro Foodbank, total of \$950,000, to be paid out of ARPA Funds instead of the interest earned on the ARPA funds as initially proposed.

A motion was made to approve \$700,000 in housing rehab and \$250,000 for the Statesboro Foodbank, total of \$950,000, to be paid out of ARPA Funds instead of the interest earned on the ARPA funds as initially proposed.

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

14. Consideration of a motion for the approval of \$180,000 in ARPA Funds to the Statesboro Foodbank for the completion of the building.

A motion was made to approve \$180,000 in ARPA Funds to the Statesboro Foodbank for the completion of the building.

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

15. Consideration of a motion to approve an award of contract to extend the City’s cyber insurance contract to BCS Insurance for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$40,509.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

A motion was made to approve an award of contract to extend the City’s cyber insurance contract to BCS Insurance for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$40,509.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

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

16. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to extend the City’s Drone Insurance contract to Global Insurance for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$5,235.00. This contract will terminate on June, 30, 2026.

A motion was made to award a contract to extend the City’s Drone Insurance contract to Global Insurance for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$5,235.00. This contract will terminate on June, 30, 2026.

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

17. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to extend the City’s Health Insurance contract to Anthem Insurance for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$9,600,186.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

A motion was made to award a contract to extend the City’s Health Insurance contract to Anthem Insurance for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$9,600,186.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

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

18. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to extend the City’s Fire Department Property Insurance to VFIS for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$137,698.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

A motion was made to award a contract to extend the City’s Fire Department Property Insurance to VFIS for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$137,698.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

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

19. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to extend the City’s General Liability P&C Insurance to Travelers for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$1,920,000.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

A motion was made to award a contract to extend the City’s General Liability P&C Insurance to Travelers for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$1,920,000.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

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

20. Consideration of a motion to award a contract to extend the City’s Workers Compensation Insurance to Bitco for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$742,000.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

A motion was made to award a contract to extend the City’s Workers Compensation Insurance to Bitco for a period of eighteen (18) months in the amount of \$742,000.00. This contract will terminate on June 30, 2026.

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

21. Consideration of a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Statesboro and Pineland Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) for transit vouchers.

A motion was made to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Statesboro and Pineland Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) for transit vouchers.

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

22. Consideration of a motion to approve a Purchase Sale Agreement with Robbie Franklin Real Estate LLC in the amount of \$588,000.00 for the purchase of 1.301 acres of land for the development of a new fire station. The project will be paid from 2019 SPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve a Purchase Sale Agreement with Robbie Franklin Real Estate LLC in the amount of \$588,000.00 for the purchase of 1.301 acres of land for the development of a new fire station. The project will be paid from 2019 SPLOST funds.

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

23. Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of a 2024 Caterpillar 926m Wheel Loader using a Sourcewell CAT Contract #011723 price with operating Solid Waste Disposal operating funds for the 2025 CIP in the amount of \$221,770.00.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a 2024 Caterpillar 926m Wheel Loader using a Sourcewell CAT Contract #011723 price with operating Solid Waste Disposal operating funds for the 2025 CIP in the amount of \$221,770.00.

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

24. Consideration of a motion to authorize payment to Y-Delta Inc. in the amount of \$87,279.47 for repairs to collapsed sewer mains on Lanier Drive and Tillman Rd. To be paid for with funds from system revenues.

A motion was made to authorize payment to Y-Delta Inc. in the amount of \$87,279.47 for repairs to collapsed sewer mains on Lanier Drive and Tillman Rd. To be paid for with funds from system revenues.

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

25. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr thanked the outgoing County Chairman Roy Thompson and outgoing County Commissioners Curt Deal and Jappy Stringer for their service to our community.

Mayor Jonathan McCollar stated it has been an absolute honor and a privilege to work with Commissioners Curt Deal and Jappy Stringer and Chairman Roy Thompson. They loved this community and they represented that with their efforts and dedication.

Mayor McCollar stated that the Youth Department for the past three years have used about 60% of their budget each year and this year there are some remaining funds in that account. We would like to utilize those funds to take about 30 young people on a trip to Washington D.C. to see the White House and Congress. We would like to allocate \$42,000 for that trip and we need Council approval for that.

A motion was made to approve the use of \$42,000 in order to send about 30 youth in the community on a field trip to Washington D. C.

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

26. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny reviewed a few items in the FYI packet. First, the ARPA funds memo contains a breakdown of the use of those funds. It is not our plan to send anything back to DC as we plan to spend every penny. The second item is regarding the Peace Officers Annuity Benefit (POAB) that was brought before Mayor and Council by Geoff Del Forn back in May of this year. Mr. Penny stated he had a meeting with Mr. Del Forn and explained to him all the benefits the City provides and that he could not recommend we add this as a benefit at this time. About one third of our officers participate in the POAB but Mr. Del Forn was requesting the City to pay for it as an additional benefit. Staff did some research and a majority of the cities we researched does not pay for this benefit. We will be glad to look at it over the course of the budget.

Mr. Penny thanked the Finance departments and Public Works department for their efforts decorating City Hall for the holidays. This Sunday the toy give away will take place at the Boys and Girls club. We are helping about 25 families with toys and meals. We appreciate the businesses that have donated as well as the sororities, fraternities, and other groups that are a part of this effort. The giveaway will be open to the public at 1:00 pm on a first come first serve basis.

27. Public Comments (General): None

28. 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 6:32 pm a motion was made to enter into executive session.

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

At 6:38 pm a motion was made to exit executive session.

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

A motion was made to appoint Len Fatica and Jim Thibodeau to the Planning Commission.

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

A motion was made to appoint Maria Proctor, Eisha Oglesby, Maurice Hill, Nikira Boggs, and Mark Steven Carpenter, Sr. to the Business Commission.

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

29. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk