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**WORK SESSION**

**September 9, 2021**

**6:30 P.M.**

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Mayor Piper and Councilmembers Lyle, Venable, McCormic, Crawley and Thrasher

Also Present: Sandra Bennett, City Clerk and Jody Campbell, City Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Piper. Mayor Piper thanked all veterans and their families for their service.

## **REPORTS - provided to Mayor and City Council**

### **1. Finance Department**

City Accountant, April Plank Stephens submitted a report on the recommended 2021 millage rate of 4.345 that is needed for the City's budget to remain in balance. This rate will be a 16.64% increase to the suggested rollback rate of 3.725.

### **2. Police Department**

Chief Underwood provided an overview of the August patrol report and updated Mayor and Council the City has 24-hour coverage Monday through Friday, and the Barrow County Sheriff's Office would cover the weekends. The City does have a part-time officer who will be utilized on weekends as well.

### **3. Public Works Department**

Jordan McDaniel provided a Public Works Report that included project updates, and services the department had taken care of for the month of August 2021.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 1. SPLOST 2023 Agreement Amendment:** To authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the SPLOST 2023 agreement that was revised by the County and approved by the City Attorney. City Attorney, Jody Campbell, to explain the details of revision.

Jody Campbell explained the revisions to the agreement which included changing the figures from \$1,000,000 to \$100,000 in the surplus, if any, of the 2023 SPLOST Agreement.

- 2. Laurene Hall Estate Variances:** To approve the variances to the Laurene Hall Estate.

Attorney Campbell made the recommendation to utilizing the same conditions of flood provisions to the variances that the City conditioned to Ellington Estate.

3. **Courtware Solutions Software Agreement:** To authorize the Mayor to sign an updated agreement with Courtware. Courtware is the software program that Municipal Court utilizes to process fines and other areas of court. Courtware will be upgrading their software in the calendar year 2022, and all users will be required to conform to the conversion. There will be a price increase from \$950 per month to \$1,700 per month beginning June 2022, excluding user conversion fees. Courtware has asked the City of Statham to be part of an early conversion process and will waive the conversion fees, and provide the City a discounted monthly rate of \$1,200 per month beginning January 2022 (six months earlier than mandatory conversion). The City's early participation will provide \$6,000 in annual savings, however, a budget increase of \$1,500 will be required to be part of this early conversion before it becomes a mandatory upgrade to users in June 2022.

Julie Shuman presented the advantages of entering into this agreement with Countware Solutions, and explained the details of having a software that goes from ticket to court easily.

**CITIZEN INPUT - None**

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

1. August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes  
Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes by adding that it was Councilmember Venable who made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the 2023 SPOLST Agreement. Councilmember McCormic seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. September 3, 2021 Special Called Meeting Minutes  
Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2021 Special Called Meeting. Councilmember McCormic seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

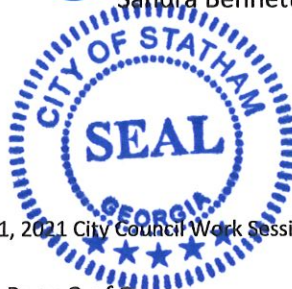
At 7:35 p.m., Councilmember Venable made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

  
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Mayor Joe Piper

  
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Sandra Bennett, City Clerk

9/21/21  
Date

(seal)



These minutes will be approved at the September 21, 2021 City Council Work Session.