

# CITY OF STATHAM

## MINUTES

Statham City Hall

327 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666



REGULAR MEETING – January 18, 2022

7:00 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Mayor Joe Piper and Councilmembers Venable, Thrasher, Patterson, Penn and Krause

Also present: City Clerk, Sandra Bennett, City Attorney Jody Campbell and Public Works Director Jordan McDaniel.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

### VOTING ITEMS

1. **Vice-Mayor Election:** Per Statham City Charter, Section 2.09, The council at the first regular meeting, after the newly elected councilmen have taken office following each election, shall elect from its membership a vice-mayor for a term of two years. In the event that no decision is reached at such first regular meeting, the council shall, within five ballots to be taken within ten days following such meeting, elect the vice-mayor, otherwise the councilman who received the highest number of votes when he was last elected shall become vice-mayor. The vice-mayor shall perform the duties of the mayor during his absence or inability to act and shall fill out any unexpired term in the office of mayor, in which case a new vice-mayor shall be elected by majority vote of the council.

By paper ballots confirmed Councilmember Gary Venable was elected Vice-Mayor unanimously.

2. **Well Development Project Change Orders/Proposals for Ground-Water Services, Inc.:** To approve additional proposals from Ground-Water Services, Inc. for the well development project. Council approved a FY22 budget of \$425,000 for the well development project; Contractor Ground-Water Services has been overseeing this project as previously approved by City Council. While the project moves forward and additional proposals are presented, City staff is requesting approval of \$50,000 to Ground-Water Services, Inc. to complete the project plus contingency for a total of \$70,000 for unexpected project costs.

Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve \$50,000 to Ground-Water Services Inc. to complete the project plus contingency for a total of \$70,000 for unexpected project costs. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion. Councilmember Venable created a slide/video presentation and explained how we got to where we are in the project and how he would like to

see us go forward. There was discussion by the council, with Councilmember Krause suggested to look at other sites and not move forward with this location. Mayor Piper added that the additional \$14,000 would give us a more precise answer on if this site is a viable location.

The motion passed 3 to 2 with Councilmembers Venable, Penn and Patterson voting yes, and Councilmembers Thrasher and Krause voting no.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1), a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved and the matter discussed was **pending or potential litigation**.

At 7:39 p.m., Councilmember Thrasher made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:11 p.m., Councilmember Venable made a motion to exit Executive Session. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

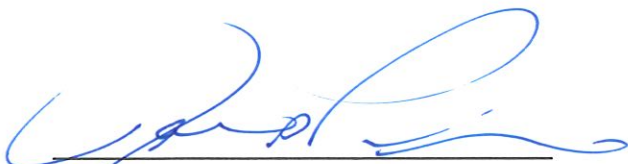
## MINUTE APPROVAL

1. January 6, 2022 Work Session Minutes
2. January 6, 2022 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2022 Work Session and January 6, 2022 Special Called Meeting. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## ADJOURN

At 8:12 p.m., Councilmember Venable made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.



Mayor



Date



Acting City Clerk



## EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared Joe Piper, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

(1) I am competent to make this Affidavit and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

(2) Pursuant to my duties as Mayor, I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Statham City Council held on the 18 day of January, 2022. A portion of said meeting was closed to the public.

(3) It is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting or, if the agency's policy so provides, each member of the governing body of the agency attending such meeting, shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

(4) The subject matter of said meeting, or the closed portion thereof, was devoted to matters within exceptions to public disclosure provided by law. Those specific relevant exceptions are identified as follows: (Using the list below as a guide list in the affidavit only the exceptions actually applicable to the specific closed meeting.)

         A. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the settlement of a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1) and 50-14-3(b)(1)(A). The subject discussed was [identify the case or claim discussed but not the substance of the attorney-client discussion].

         B. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(B).

         C. Meeting to discuss or vote to authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(C).

         D. Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(D).

         E. Meeting to discuss or vote to enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in a subsequent public vote as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(1)(E).

         F. Meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).

         G. Meeting to interview one or more applicants for the position of the executive head of an agency as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).

X          H. Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1), a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency

## EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

or any officer or employee may be directly involved and the matter discussed was **pending or potential litigation**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I. Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-3(a)(1).

\_\_\_\_\_ J. Meeting to consider records or portions of records exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Georgia Code because there are no reasonable means to consider the record without disclosing the exempt portions.

This Affidavit is executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) and is to be filed with the official minutes for the aforementioned meeting.

This 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.



  
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Mayor

  
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Council Member

  
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Council Member

  
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Council Member

  
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Council Member

  
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Council Member

  
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City Attorney

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 18 day of January, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

