

CITY OF STATHAM

Minutes:

Statham Community Center

336 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666



PUBLIC HEARING & WORK SESSION – February 6, 2024

6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE- Mayor Krause led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Krause called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Krause and Councilmembers Bogenrieder, Burnette, Patterson, Penn, and Terilli.

Also Present: City Attorney Jody Campbell, City Administrator Cheryl Venable, Asst. City Accountant Karine Brooms, City Clerk Ashya Fambrough, and PD Personnel.

Mayor Krause noted that the agenda needed to be amended to add Charlotte’s Place Final Plat. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to amend the agenda to add Charlotte’s Place Final Plat. Councilmember Bogenrieder seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At 6:32 p.m., Councilmember Penn made a motion to enter into the public hearing. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STATHAM REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LEGISLATION AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STATHAM, GEORGIA

City Attorney Campbell reviewed that the city’s current charter was written in the 1900s and the last codification was in the 1960s. There have been Home Rule updates but overall it is like a patchwork quilt. He also noted 2 typos in Section 3.02 (c) where the 2 words with the strike through needs to be deleted. The public hearing is not necessary, but the Council wanted to address any concerns about the charter. This is a non-binding resolution and if approved will be a request presented to the General Assembly for legislation. Mayor Krause opened the floor for citizen input.

- Joe Piper: Sections of the charter could be updated. He swore to uphold the charter as it stood during his term. He feels the charter is being rewritten to fit the agenda of the current Council. He doesn’t feel 2 weeks is enough time to make this decision.
- Betty Kinney: She does not feel citizens have enough time to read, review, and comment on the changes.
- Cathy Bennett: She feels there needs to be more time to make a decision.
- Gary Venable: He noted that the charter addresses changes that the previous Council was working towards like term limits and section 2.04 (b) that outlines the removal of officers.

City Attorney Campbell noted that the timeline is short because it has to pass one house of the General Assembly before crossover day and if that date is missed it will not be able to be considered until 2025. Mayor Krause asked if there were any more comments and there were none.

At 6:48 p.m., Councilmember Terilli made a motion to exit the public hearing. Councilmember Bogenrieder seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION:

MINUTE APPROVAL

1. January 30, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve the January 30, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Bogenrieder seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with Councilmember Terilli abstaining due to being absent from the meeting.

REPORTS

1. Finance Department- Karine Brooms reviewed the report.
2. Police Department- Chief Underwood reviewed the report. Councilmember Bogenrieder requested that speed signs be posted at the areas where speeding is the biggest issue.
3. Public Works Department- Mayor Krause reviewed the projects that the Public Works/ Street Department are currently working on. A pipe had to be replaced on Sunset Dr. Cheryl noted that that the rains showed trouble issues that will need cleaning and then prevention in the future. Eighth St. experienced flooding due to an undersized pipe. Bids are going out for Hammond Rd and Dooley Town Rd. may need to be pushed back due to construction that will begin in the area. There are improvements being done to the community centers.
4. Mayoral Report: Mayor Krause reviewed the meetings, training, and committees she attended in her role as mayor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **ARPA FUNDS** (*Tabled from January 30, 2024 Regular Meeting*): to discuss the project list for ARPA funds.

Councilmember Patterson recommended Sunset Dr. for consideration and noted that Jordan was working on quotes. Cheryl noted that more issues are being discovered as they work and that she is working towards emergency LMIG funds to assist with the project.

Councilmember Penn recommended the area behind the old sewer plant as a starting point. Councilmember Patterson added that that area would be hard to reach is there were emergency repairs needed.

2. **Charlotte's Place Final Plat:**

City Attorney Campbell noted that the easements that needed adjustment are in process, and they have presented the city with 2 irrevocable bonds. They are on track to be ready for vote at the Regular Meeting. Bret Thurmond was present on behalf of RAC Properties.

CITIZEN INPUT

- Robin Martinelli shared information on Keep Barrow Beautiful.
- Gary Venable requested streetlights be added especially in the areas where there are walkers and that some street signs be reviewed for removal.
- Joe Piper spoke on the sidewalk ordinance, moving the meeting makes it difficult for the hard of hearing, cooperation of the Council, and he requested to be reimbursed for funds used to defend himself in his role as mayor.
- Cathy Bennett spoke about her ride along experience and recommended others do one as well.
- Mary Lay requested reflective yellow lines on Hammond Rd.

ADJOURN

At 7:27 p.m. Mayor Kruse asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Penn made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Terilli seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.