

**CITY OF STATHAM**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Statham Community Center**  
**336 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666**



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**PUBLIC HEARING & WORK SESSION**

**January 6, 2026**

**6:30 P.M.**

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**I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilmember Burnette gave the invocation.  
Mayor Krause led the Pledge of Allegiance

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Krause called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm  
Present: Mayor Krause and Councilmembers Terilli, Burnette, Patterson, Penn, and Barton.  
Also Present: City Attorney Jody Campbell, City Clerk Nicole Sapp,  
City Administrator Cheryl Venable, Public Works Director Brett Day,  
Asst. City Accountant Karine Brooms, and P.D. Personnel.

**AMEND AGENDA** - Councilmember Patterson made a motion to amend the agenda to add executive session item IX.1 Real Estate.

Councilmember Terilli seconded the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson- Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

**III. OATH OF OFFICE**

III.1 Councilmember- Joshua Barton, four-year term, expires December 31, 2029.  
Jody Campbell administered the Oath of Office for Councilmember Barton.

**IV. VOTE FOR VICE MAYOR**

IV.1 Councilmember Penn made a motion to hold the election for Vice Mayor.  
Councilmember Burnette seconded the motion.  
Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson- Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes  
Motion passed 5-0.

The votes for Vice Mayor:

Terilli -Terilli, Burnette-Terilli, Patterson-Terilli, Penn-Terilli, Barton- Patterson

The Vice Mayor vote was conducted by ballot. Four (4) votes were in favor of Councilmember Terilli, and one (1) vote was in favor of Councilmember Patterson. Councilmember Terilli was elected as Vice Mayor for a two-year term, ending December 31, 2027.

**V. MINUTE APPROVAL**

V.1 December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting

Councilmember Burnette made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes.  
Councilmember Patterson second the motion.  
Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes  
Motion passed 5-0.

**VI. REPORTS**

VI.1 Finance Department Report- Karine Brooms gave the finance department report.  
VI.2 Police Department Report- Cpl. Knight gave the police department report.  
VI.3 Public Works Department Report- Brett Day gave the public works report.  
VI.4 Mayor Report- Mayor Krause spoke about the upcoming year and spoke about the personnel policy vote held on December 16, 2025.  
VI.5 Committee Reports- none were given.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

VII.1 Painting Bids- Hillman-Rainwater Building- Brett Day spoke about the Painting Bids- Hillman-Rainwater Building.

VII.2 Painting Bids- Robert Bridges Building- Brett Day spoke about the Painting Bids- Robert Bridges Building.

VII.3 Flooring Bids- Robert Bridges Building- Brett Day spoke about the Flooring Bids- Robert Bridges Building.

VII.4 Tree Removal List- Brett Day spoke about the Tree Removal List.

VII.5 Resolution Amending Employee Handbook- PTO Accrual for Dept. Heads- Jody Campbell spoke about the Resolution Amending Employee Handbook- PTO Accrual for Dept. Heads.

VII.6 Arbor Day 2026 Proclamation- Mayor Krause read the Arbor Day 2026 Proclamation.

VII.7 City of Statham Mass Notification System- Cheryl Venable spoke about the City of Statham Mass Notification System bids.

**VIII. CITIZEN INPUT**

Joe Piper- spoke about taxes, spending, and the personnel policy vote.

Denny Adams- spoke about the city newsletter, water bill issue, and police department business.

Rudy Krause- spoke about the personnel policy vote.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

IX.1 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).

Councilmember Penn made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:24 pm.

Councilmember Burnette second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember Penn made a motion to exit out of executive session at 7:32 pm.

Councilmember Patterson second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

Jody Campbell stated that all discussions held during the Executive Session are protected as Attorney/Client Privilege and no votes were conducted during or after the session.

**X. ADJOURN**

Councilmember Penn made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and work session meeting.

Councilmember Patterson second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn- Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm

## EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

Before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths appeared Debi Krause, 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 6 day of January, 2026. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

      X 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).

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

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 6 day of January, 2026.

Niki Krause

Mayor

Frank Becht

Council Member

Frank Becht

Council Member

Joshua Bell

Council Member

Trish Hilt

Council Member

Lee Parks

Council Member

John M. Parks

City Attorney

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this 16 day of January, 2026.

Nicole E. Sapp  
Notary Public



## RESOLUTION OF THE STATHAM CITY COUNCIL

BE IT RESOLVED by the Statham City Council as follows: At the meeting held on the 6 day of January, 2026, the Council entered into closed session for the purpose of discussing real estate. At the close of the discussions, the Council did vote to re-enter into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

(1) The actions of the council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for closed session purposes are hereby ratified.

(2) Each member of this body does hereby confirm that to the best of his or her knowledge, based upon the advice of the City Attorney, the said subject matter of the meeting and of the closed session portion was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above.

(3) The Mayor, or the presiding officer, is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of this Council, in order to comply with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b).

(4) The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute.

Approved this 6 day of January, 2026.

Attest: Julie E. Sapp  
City Clerk

Mark Krause  
Mayor



(SEAL)

