



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Piper and Councilmembers Lyle, Thrasher, McCormic and Crawley absent from the meeting was Councilmember Venable.

Also present: Sandra Bennett, City Clerk; Jerry Weitz, City Planner and present thru Zoom, Jody Campbell, City Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked everyone who has or does serve in the armed forces.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Piper opened the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Mr. Weitz presented the staff report and explained the request and his recommendation to approve R-21-02 and V-21-04. Mrs. Carolyn Wall explained the family history of this parcel, and the living estate that had been in effect until the applicant's mother passed away. Applicants are requesting the property now be divided to show that the two homes belong to the two remaining survivors as separate tax parcels. Each home currently has separate utilities and utility billing statements.

R-21-02 Rezone: Dwight and Carolyn Wall, applicants, Dwight Wall and Lisa Owen, property owners, seek to rezone 0.548 acre fronting 264.07 feet on the northwest side of Price Street 351 feet southwest of Atlanta Highway (Map/Parcel ST02/066) (361 and 365 Price Street) from SR-1 (Suburban Residential-1) to SR-2 (Suburban Residential-2). Proposed Use: Division of property into two residential lots.

V-21-04 Variance: Dwight and Carolyn Wall, applicants, Dwight Wall and Lisa Owen, property owners, seek a variance to the Statham Unified Development Code, Section 2-205, "SR-2, Suburban Residential 2 District" to reduce the minimum lot width from 80 feet to 58.86 feet and to reduce the minimum heated floor area per dwelling unit from 1400 square feet to the size of the two existing structures on the lot (approximately 900 square feet) for 0.548 acre fronting 264.07 feet on the northwest side of Price Street 351 feet southwest of Atlanta Highway (Map/Parcel ST02/066) (361 and 365 Price Street). Proposed zoning: SR-2 (Suburban Residential-2). Proposed Use: Division of property into two residential lots.

At 6:44 p.m., the Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Piper opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Weitz explained that this amendment would give some power back to the Council in the review and approval of final plats.

O-21-04 UDC Text Amendment: First reading. An Ordinance Amending the Unified Development Code of the City of Statham, Georgia, adopted June 30, 2020, to amend Article 15, "Subdivision of Land," Section 15-103, "Definitions," to amend the definitions of "major subdivision" and "minor subdivision;" to amend Section 15-301, "Preliminary Plat – When Required," to require that any major subdivision (i.e., more than five lots) require a preliminary plat; and to amend Section 15-602, "Process for review and approval of a final plat," to require City Council review and approval of a final plat for any major subdivision, and for other purposes.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:47 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **FY18 Final Financial Statement: Sponsored by Mayor Piper and City Accountant.** To approve the final FY18 Audit. (Not included in agenda packet) Copies of the FY18 Financial Statements were provided to Mayor and all council members March 31, 2021. The FY18 Financial Statements are available for public download on the City's website.

Mayor Piper updated Council on the completion of the FY18 Audit, and stated FY19 has an estimated completion date at the end of June 2021. Mayor Piper added that following audits should be completed in a shorter time going forward.

2. **Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA): Sponsored by Accountant.** To approve the Mayor to sign an agreement with GIRMA for the new year's coverage of general liability, cyber, property, automobile and officials E&O with a \$25,000 deductible per occurrence. The policy begins May 1, 2021 through May 1, 2022. The cost is \$75,402, an increase of 6% from last year. After speaking with two additional insurance providers for cost estimates, the City Accountant recommends continuing coverage with GIRMA at this time.

Mayor Piper presented the cost for GIRMA insurance for 2021-2022 coverage.

3. **Livestock in Residential Areas: Sponsored by Councilmember Crawley.** To discuss an ordinance amendment to permit certain livestock in residential zoning districts SR-1, SR-2 and UR to be raised on the property, and allow the sale of livestock, and livestock products. Livestock is defined in the City of Statham Unified Development Code Article II, Division III "Use Definitions" as cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, llamas, emus, ostriches, donkeys and mules, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, geese and other fowl, rabbits, minks, foxes and other fur or hide-bearing animals customarily bred or raised in captivity, whether owned or kept for pleasure, utility or sale.

Councilmember Crawley spoke that the current ordinance restricts raising chickens and bunnies in backyards, and needs to be changed.

4. **Blue Line Solutions Speed Detection Devices: Sponsored by Mayor Piper.** To discuss adding LIDAR speed detection devices in school zones to calculate speed. They are 100% accurate

determining exactly which vehicle it is capturing, and in stationary cameras, a LIDAR (laser) beam is aimed into a single lane and vehicles drive through it, and captures several hundred data points determining the speed as the vehicle travels through the beam. Speed studies have been conducted and determined a speeding problem in Statham's school zone does exist. A 30-day warning period will be given to the public upon implementation, and after the period ends, citations may be issued automatically after the driver has been given multiple sign warnings. In most all cases, a reduction in speed in school zones decreases during the 30-day warning period. There will be no cost to the City to add these devices.

Mayor Piper reintroduced Cam Reed with Blue Line Solution on the LIDAR speed detection in school zones. The revenue split is 65/35 with no cost to the city.

- 5. O-21-05, An Ordinance Reducing the Speed on Broad Street: Sponsored by Councilmember Crawley.** First reading. An Ordinance to amend the City of Statham List of Roads to reduce the speed limit on Broad Street from the intersection of Dooley Town Road to Eighth Street to 25 miles per hour.

Councilmember Crawley stated the speed should be reduced from 35 to 25 mph.

- 6. Statham Spring Clean-Up: Sponsored by Councilmember McCormic.** To discuss having a clean-up day scheduled in Statham. The Barrow County Great American Clean Up is scheduled for May 22, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at 82 Maynard Street in Winder, and is available for all Barrow County residents.

Councilmember McCormic requested a summer clean-up be added to the FY22 budget, and have a second date scheduled for spring of next year. He would also like to see this be added annually.

- 7. Alleys: Sponsored by Councilmember McCormic.** To discuss cleaning up alleyways in the City, and to discuss deeding certain alleys to property owners whose properties border certain alleys.

Councilmember McCormic would like the alleys divided and split between residents on each side. Attorney Campbell explained that it was already being done on a case-by-case basis, and that seems to be best as some residents are not interested in gaining property.

- 8. Public Works Building: Sponsored by Councilmember McCormic.** To discuss the future of the public works building located at 330 Jefferson Street.

Councilmember McCormic wanted to be updated on any progress to the building at 330 Jefferson St. Currently, there are no funds in the budget to go forward.

- 9. Welcome Packets to New Residents: Sponsored by Councilmember McCormic.**

Councilmember McCormic asked that we work on welcome packets for new residents, Mayor Piper stated that staff has already been working on this.

- 10. Four Wheelers on Public Streets: Sponsored by Councilmember Crawley.**

Councilmember Crawley would like to make sure that four wheelers are not being allowed on public roads.

CITIZEN INPUT

Mandy Farmer would like the council to change the Ordinance to allow bunnies to be allowed in her backyard. She explained that these are emotional support animals that she breeds and raises to sell and shares at schools, nursing homes and other venues.

Lori Olivent would like the ordinance changed also. She does not think there are enough reasons to not allow for bunnies and chickens in backyards.

John Wilson explained that he has chickens and had roosters in his back yard. He has removed the roosters, but would like to keep his chickens. He has a large garden and prefers to eat from what he produces, including eggs from his chickens.

Kurt Bogenhneider does not oppose raising backyard chickens.

Shani Joseph spoke about his alcohol license.

Mary Williams wanted everyone to know that Mayor Piper is an animal lover and has pets of his own.

Lance Leff spoke that his neighbors have a few chickens and there has not been any issues with them.

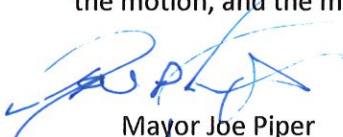
MINUTE APPROVAL

1. March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember McCormic made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Lyle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 8:08 p.m., Councilmember Crawley made the motion to adjourn. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.


Mayor Joe Piper
4/20/2021
Date




Sandra Bennett, City Clerk

These minutes approved at the April 20, 2021 council meeting.