

CITY OF STATHAM

MINUTES

Statham City Hall

327 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666



SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – JANUARY 26, 2023

5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Piper and Councilmembers Krause, Patterson, Thrasher and Venable.

Also Present: City Clerk Ashya Fambrough and PD Personnel

Phone in: Councilmember Penn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Mayor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked the Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

VOTING ITEMS

- 1. Statham's St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Parade to be held on March 18, 2023 beginning at 10 AM. The parade route begins at the intersection of 2nd Street and Railroad St, and proceeds down Railroad St turning left onto 8th Street, proceeding down Broad St to 1st Street and ending at the parking lot behind Casto's Trading.

Mayor Piper stated that GDOT approved parade route option 2. Councilmember Krause requested the objective for the parade, clarification on why not wait, and would like to know where funding will come from. She noted that there is not an events coordinator on staff and that city staff is not paid to plan events and there are no volunteers for the parade. She also noted that it was included in the newsletter that went out with the water bills. Councilmembers Krause and Thrasher feel that the entire Council was not consulted and that their views didn't matter. Mayor Piper stated that City Accountant April Stephens planned events during her tenure at the City of Winder and there are funds in the events committee budget to cover the parade. Councilmember Patterson stated that he reached out to all Councilmembers prior to giving approval to advertise the parade in the newsletter. Councilmember Venable does feel that the time frame is short and that the major concerns have been addressed. He feels that there is a communication issue and that all information should be provided to all council members in a timely matter such as the parade update.

Citizen Input was allowed by Mayor Piper although it was a voting session. Dwight McCormic spoke on timeline of other projects and transparency. Claire Maki spoke on concerns with city staff organizing an event during the workday. Janel Piper suggested clarification be given on who called the special meeting.

Mayor Piper and Councilmember Patterson stated that the Special Meeting was called by Councilmembers Patterson and Penn. Councilmember Patterson added that there seems to be

different issues being discussed and that overall the parade itself isn't the issue. He noted that the first Peachtree Road Race had 10 runners.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve parade option 2. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-1 with Councilmember Thrasher voting no and Councilmember Krause abstaining.

ADJOURN

At 5:55 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Venable made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.