

**MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 21, 2017  
7:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:02pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Gayle Steed, Perry Barton, David Huth and Hattie Thrasher. Betty Lyle was absent. Also in attendance was City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry, City Clerk, Mai Chang, City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building Department Clerk, Carole Amos. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

**2. STATHAM LIBRARY:**

Suzy Dukes from the Statham Library introduced herself and thanked everybody for the support of the Library, its program, the services and the use of the Community Center for events. She invited everyone to visit the Library. She stated she is proud of the mural outside of the Library and are now processing passport.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. Council Meeting, October 17, 2017**

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017 Council meeting as written. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

**B. Special Called Council Meeting, November 9, 2017**

Perry Barton made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2017 Council meeting as written. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

**4. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. Re-zone Property on Map Parcel ST03-006, NW Quadrant of SR 316 & 211 from R1 to C-H**

Mayor Bridges asked City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell to explain the situation. Thomas Mitchell stated that City ordinance does required in the application that a survey be done and that's not what he has seen in the application submitted. Rezoning in the past have required a new survey if they want to rezone. He stated that Mayor and Council can waive the requirement of a new survey for the rezoning but he made recommendation that Mayor and Council table this item.

Public hearing was opened at 7:12pm and closed at 7:16pm.

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Re-zone Property on Map Parcel ST03-006, NW Quadrant of SR 316 & 211 from R1 to C-H**

David Huth made motion to table this item. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. 4/0

**B. Health Insurance GMEBS 4 Tier Rates**

City Clerk, Mai Chang, stated that the City has received a new quote from GMEBS with a 4 tier rate. Some of the employees have requested to get employee and spouse and employee and child coverages. The family premium will be slightly higher but it will be lower for the employee, employee/spouse and employee/child premiums. There are two employees with family coverage, three wants the employee/spouse or employee/child and the majority are just the employee

themselves. Mai stated that it will be good that the City offers the 4 tier plan. It will benefit all the employees and the City.

Gayle Steed stated that in the 4 tier plan, it is very beneficial to the employees that has one other person. She expressed that she does not want the employees to pay more that has the family coverage.

Gayle Steed made recommendation to go with the 4 tier plan and the City absorb the difference of premium between 2 tier plan versus the 4 tier plan on the family coverage. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

## **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading- Budget Amendment FY18**

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry stated as proposed during last month's meeting is to present a balance budget for the General and Utility Fund recognizing cost savings.

Gayle Steed made motion to adopt the Budget Amendment FY18 voting yes. David seconded the motion voting yes and Perry Barton voting yes. Hattie Thrasher voted no. 3/1

### **B. Tree Limbs- Turing Over to Waste Pro as Needed Basis**

Mayor Bridges stated that he would like to leave it as is with the City picking up the tree limbs and when there is a bigger load, there will be a charge.

Perry Barton made motion to leave it as is. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. 4/0

### **C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading –Codification of Chapter 58- Solid Waste**

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry stated this update to Chapter 58 reflects that outside contractor will be selected by Mayor and Council for waste collection services. The tree limbs would be kept as is as defined in this chapter.

Gayle Steed made motion to adopt Chapter 58. Perry Barton seconded the motion. 4/0

### **D. Subeh Business LLC (Old Piggy Wiggly) Beer & Wine Package Sales License**

City Clerk, Mai Chang explained that this is a new business coming into the old Piggy Wiggly store and they are applying for the beer and wine license. The background came back clean. They are also interested in selling bottled liquor and that she has explained to them the process of how and what is needed to be done.

Joyce Jacks from the audience stated that this is the same business that sits across from the Quality Foods store in Winder. They have problems on selling to minors, gambling machines and they have been shut down several times for those reasons.

Mayor Bridges stated that since this information came in, he recommended to table this item.

David Huth made motion to table it and discuss in the next month's meeting again. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. 4/0

**E. Honorary as Officer Appointment- Brianna Williams**

Chief Allan Johnston presented a new employee at the Police department as an honorary member. Ms. Brianna Williams, a 6 year old with a lot of courage that faces battles day in and day out. She does that by taking in the bad and the good and always have a happy smile on her face. Brianna is an inspiration to the Chief and the Officers. She comes to visit very often and tonight he would like to recognize her as a Police Officer with the City of Statham.

Chief Johnston stated that Brianna is battling brain tumor, she has taken chemo, she is a tough cookie and he is thankful to have her in his life. Her hugs are warm from the inside out and she always wants a hug.

David Huth made motion to accept Brianna as an honorary Police Officer with the City of Statham. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. 4/0

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry presented Brianna with a gift certificate from the American Dream Farm in their absence.

**F. Police Dept. Vacation Time**

Chief Johnston stated that the Police department is in the same situation as last year with four people. Some vacation times has been taken but the rest can't be taken. Chief would like to see if it would will be rolled over into the New Year or paid out. He will accept either one.

Perry Barton made motion that the Officers be paid for the leave time not taken. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. 4/0

**G. Employees' Christmas Gift Cards**

David Huth made motion to give employees \$35 gift cards. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. 4/0

**H. GDOT TE Project- De-obligation Request**

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry stated that this is the request that was discussed in Work Session and due to the regulations and requirements, the project has just become so expensive and encumbering of the funds.

**I. Remove Randy Gordon off Festival Bank Acct/Add Carole Amos and Michelle Irizarry to all Bank Accts**

David Huth made motion to remove Randy Gordon off the Festival bank account and add Carole to the Festival account and Michelle to all the bank accounts. Gayle Steed seconded the motion.

**J. Temporary Electric Pole Permit & Inspection Fees**

Carole Amos stated that her thoughts was to fix the temporary power (T-Pole) permit fee and also to compare the permit rates with other municipality in the surrounding areas with Barrow, Auburn and Winder. In looking at everything and with the recommendation from Philip Gruber to not do the T-Pole and just the permanent pole at the rough-in stage so that will take care of the issue. Statham seems to be in line with what Barrow's rates are. Barrow County charges by square foot fees and charges \$726.70 for a home averaged 2236 feet which is about average of what Statham does. Statham's current permit fee for a single family including a C/O runs at \$433.60 versus their \$726.70 rate.

Perry Barton asked to have this set aside and let them look at it over.

Perry Barton made motion to take table this item until next month. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

**K. Old PD Building Rental Fee**

Mayor Bridges made recommendation to raise the rent to \$500 a month.

David Huth made motion to increase rent to \$500 and re-visit in a year. Perry Barton seconded the motion. 4/0

**L. Adult Literacy Barrow**

Gayle Steed made motion to add the Adult Literacy Barrow sponsorship to the agenda. Perry Barton seconded the motion.

Gayle Steed made motion to sponsor this year for \$500.00. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

**7. CITIZENS CONCERN:**

**A. Statham Business Association (Casto) : Railroad Street Parking**

Mr. Casto stated because of the increased traffic and more businesses coming into the downtown area in Statham, paving more parking spaces on Railroad Street will definitely be an improvement to the downtown area. They have received several quotes and will provide to City. He don't know what the next step is as far as what needs to be done to move forward but Casto Trading Co. and Garmon Survey will do what they can to help out.

David Huth made motion to move forward with this project. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. 4/0

**B. Cheryl Aaron: Police Dept. (Absent)**

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No executive session

**9. ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Council, David Huth made a motion to adjourn. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. 4/0

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.