

# CITY OF STATHAM

## MINUTES

Statham City Hall

327 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666



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REGULAR MEETING – January 17, 2023

7:00 P.M.

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**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 and City Attorney Jody Campbell

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**- Mayor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### VOTING ITEMS

- 1. Qualifying Fees for 2023 Election:** Qualifying fees are 3% of the salary of the position that is being qualified for. The fee for Mayor it is \$360 and for council the fee is \$180.

City Clerk Ashya Fambrough discussed that the qualifying fees require a vote, but the qualifying period do not. The qualifying period will begin August 21, 2023 at 9 AM and end August 25, 2023, at 12 PM. City Attorney confirmed that the qualifying period is outlined by state code. Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the 2023 Qualifying Fees. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Resolution- R-22-04** (*Tabled from December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting*): Resolution of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Statham requesting the introduction of local legislation amending the Charter of the City of Statham, Georgia to provide for term limits in the Office of Mayor and City Council.

Councilmember Venable made a motion to table this item to the February 9, 2023 Work Session. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Building Permit Fee Schedule:** (*Tabled from November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting*) To adopt an updated building permit fee schedule.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve the building permit fee schedule with the exclusion of the pool and fence fees. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Venable voting no.

4. **Update Facility Rental Rates:** *(Tabled from November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting)* To approve a new rate schedule for rentals of City facilities, and tier rates based on location of residency. The updated rate schedule includes a 50% off discount for nonprofit, government, or veteran organizations. Based on research of rental applications, 86.11% of all facility rental agreements live outside of the city limits of Statham. For comparison purposes, between the years 2011-2013, the rental fee for 8 hours, all facilities, (Community Center, Hillman-Rainwater, Robert Bridges Park) was \$200.00 for inside city residents and \$425.00 for outside city residents. Between the years 2014-2016, the rental fee for 8 hours, all facilities, was \$200.00. Between 2017-2022, the rental fee for 8 hours was \$200.00 for the Community Center, and \$100.00 for Hillman-Rainwater and Robert Bridges Park. The proposed rates are as follows: \$250.00 for inside city residents for the Community Center, and \$400.00 for outside city residents; for Hillman-Rainwater and Robert Bridges Park, the fee for inside city residents is \$150.00, and \$250.00 for outside city residents.

Councilmember Thrasher wanted clarification on fees and hours for nonprofits. Mayor Piper stated that he plans to continue with the current arrangements with nonprofits being allowed to use the building free of charge. Councilmembers Venable and Krause do not feel that this is the time to increase fees as 2 of the 3 building need improvements. Councilmember Venable made a motion to deny the update to rental fees. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **General Construction to City Hall** *(Tabled from November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting):* To approve Sunrise Roofing, LLC for the construction and renovation to the front of City Hall office space as approved by City Council in the FY23 Budget. The allotted budget approved was \$46,000. This capital improvement was advertised per the City's Financial Policy in the legal organ for four (4) consecutive weeks (policy specifies to advertise for 2 weeks) and advertised on the City's website with no formal bids received. Due to no formal bids received, City staff solicited proposals receiving one (1) proposal in the amount of \$45,097.18

Councilmember Thrasher feels that the renovation is unnecessary, and the funds need to be reallocated. Councilmember Patterson would like to see the funds reallocated to parks and community centers. Councilmember Penn feels this item can be considered in the 2024 budget. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to deny the renovation. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. **Winder Lions Club Baseball Lease Agreement**

Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the signing of the lease agreement. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **City Committees:** Per City of Statham Code of Ordinances Section 2-52, the Mayor shall appoint the standing committees. Each term of office is for one (1) year beginning January 1, 2023 and will expire December 31, 2023.

Mayor Piper will continue to work on committees and has not had anyone reach out to volunteer.

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

Councilmember Venable likes the idea of bringing parades back to Statham but is concerned there is not enough time and is concerned with security. Councilmember Krause feels there is no way it can be done in the time frame based on her previous experience. City Clerk Ashya Fambrough added that staff felt that no other city's have a St. Patrick's Day event in this area and we would like it to be small and community oriented. Police Chief Underwood feels that a later date may be best. Also, 211 cannot but completely shut down. Councilmember Patterson would like the name changed to "St. Patrick's." Councilmember Venable made a motion to table this item to allow Council and city staff time to meet to find an event format that can work for this year and add a parade to it next year. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1. January 5, 2023 Work Session Minutes (Emailed to Council on January 10, 2023).

Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the January 5, 2023 Work Session Minutes. Councilmember Venable seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **ADJOURN**

At 7:32 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.