



CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 6: 30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: City Attorney Jody Campbell, City Clerk Ashya Fambrough and PD Personnel.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

1. Councilmember Venable made a motion to amend the agenda to include Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate after Citizen Input. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Mayor Piper requested a motion to add Hillman Baseball Field Rental Agreement as item number 4 under New Business. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to add Hillman Baseball Field Rental Agreement as item number 4 under New Business. Councilmember Venable seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTE APPROVAL

1. January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. January 26, 2023 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 26, 2023 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Finance Department
2. Police Department
3. Public Works Department

Mayor Piper gave a brief overview of the Finance and Public Works Report. Councilmember Krause requested the cause of the sewer backup on Atlanta Hwy and Sunset Dr. and Mayor Piper stated grease as the cause. Councilmember Venable reported potholes on 8th St, Atlanta Hwy., Broad St, Dooley Town Rd, and Hayes Lake Rd. There are missing signs at Hayes Lake and 8th St where the intersections with Atlanta Hwy. Mayor Piper requested that citizens call in missing signs, pot holes, etc. to City Hall and 3 consecutive days of dry weather are the minimum needed to do the hot patch on the roads.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Resolution- R-22-04** (*Tabled from January 17, 2023 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 doesn't agree with the loophole and feels there needs to be an overall maximum. Councilmember Patterson feels as it stands it gives the citizens an opportunity to decide as well. City Attorney Jody Campbell will create a final draft which mandates 4 years off after serving 16 years and email to Council. Councilmember Venable feels that defeats the purpose of term limits.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Design Build Memorandum of Understanding:** To approve the signing of a MOU between Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the City of Statham to provide interchanges at SR 8/ SR 316 @ CR 329 (Barber Creek Road) and SR 8/ SR 316/ US 29 @ SR 211 (Bethlehem Road) in Barrow County, Georgia by contract as authorized by O.C.G.A. 32-2-81.

City Attorney Jody Campbell reviewed the memorandum pointing out that Council is not approving the project rather entering into a contract selecting 3B Option 2 of the memorandum.

2. **Statham Library 2023 Easter Egg Hunt:** The Statham Public Library is hosting an Easter egg hunt in partnership with the Baptist Church on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. The hunt will be on the grounds of the Baptist Church and an estimated 100 children will be in attendance. The Library has provided a certificate of liability insurance coverage. There are no street closures involved, and no public safety personnel is requested.

No representative was present.

3. **2023 Statham Spring Fest:** The Statham Lions Club is hosting the 2023 Statham Spring Fest on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Downtown Statham. This

event is co-sponsored by the City of Statham and an estimated 200-400 patrons will be in attendance. Road closures include the following for the duration of the event from setup to closing time: 2nd Street between Broad Street and Railroad Street, and Railroad Street between 2nd Street and Jefferson Street. Statham Police Department has been notified and will provide uniformed officers for pedestrian traffic control. The City of Statham and the Statham Lions Club have provided certificates of liability insurance.

Fern and Vance Oakes were present. Councilmember Patterson requested the number of vendors sign up and expected. There are 15 registered vendors and expect to do at least 70 as they did last year. Councilmember Krause wanted to know if the city is providing police and porta potties. Mayor Piper confirmed that the city would provide both as this event is partnering with the City.

4. Hillman Baseball Field Rental Agreement

City Attorney Jody Campbell reviewed that the contract is the same as the agreement that was entered into with the Winder Lions and Morgan Klein will be the new contact person. Mr. Klein stated he has 3 travel teams use the field.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Councilmember Krause
 - a. Alleyways

Councilmember Krause would like to see the leftover grant funds be used towards improving alleyways. Council discussed flooding from 6th St. to 8th St. and the need to replace pipes and culverts.

- b. Source Water Quality Evaluation report from Engineering Management, Inc. provided to Mayor and Council July 27, 2022

Councilmember Krause has spoken to Jerry Hood with EMI and he is willing to present the finding of the study to Council at no charge. She suggested another firm provide a study also. Mayor Piper added that this is the second study and the first was conducted by Groundwater Services. Councilmember Penn suggested holding a Town Hall for the presentation.

CITIZEN INPUT

1. Cheryl Venable spoke on the agenda allowing for more citizen input and allowing councilmembers to add agenda items. She is in support of term limits at all levels of government.

2. Dwight McCormic spoke on the format of the agenda selling the Public Works building, Business License fee, budget amendments, and the need for administrative action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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).
2. 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).

At 7:45 p.m. Councilmember Venable made a motion to enter Executive Session. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 8:08 p.m. with Councilmember Krause making the motion to exit. Councilmember Venable seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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

ADJOURN

At 8:09 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Krause made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Patterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.