



REGULAR MEETING – August 15, 2023

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Piper Called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: City Attorney Jody Campbell, City Clerk Ashya Fambrough, Rachel Bembry (JAT Consulting), 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.

MINUTE APPROVAL

1. August 3, 2023 Special Called Meeting Administrative Appeal Minutes
2. August 3, 2023 Millage Rate and TSPLOST Public Hearing Minutes
3. August 3, 2023 Work Session Minutes

Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the August 3, 2023 Special Called Meeting Administrative Appeal Minutes, Millage Rate and TSPLOST Public Hearing Minutes, and Work Session Minutes. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VOTING ITEMS

1. **EnviroSpark** (*Tabled from July 18, 2023 Regular Meeting*): to accept the proposal from EnviroSpark for auto charging Stations.

Councilmember Venable made a motion to deny. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion to deny passed unanimously.

2. **Audit Engagement Letter:** To approve an engagement letter for auditing services with Bates Carter for the FY 23 financial audit. The cost of the audit will not exceed \$23, 500.00.

Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the signing of the audit engagement letter. Councilmember Venable seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **2012 Series Bond:** to approve the redemption of bonds. JAT is recommending the City take the option to redeem its Series 2012 5% Term Bonds due June 1, 2033 in the amount of \$1,115,000. With accrued interest the total redemption payment will be approximately \$1,133,583. JAT recommends a September 30, 2023 redemption date to allow for proper notice as set forth in the Bond Resolution.

Councilmember Patterson requested a review of the redemption process. Rachel Bembry explained that only certain dates can be redeemed. It is basically a buy back and interest will

have to be paid. If approved, she will notify the registrar of the city's intent to buy back, and the registrar will notify the holders of the bonds. Then with the September 30th payment the bonds will be bought back and eliminate those future payments. The final payment will be made in 2026, if the early redemption is approved. Councilmember Venable noted that this is an item that was on his to do list since being elected. Councilmembers Patterson and Krause thanked Rachel for spearheading this. Mayor Piper asked if the bonds could have been redeemed earlier. Rachel noted that is the first time that redemption is available and that you can only redeem once. Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the bond redemption. Councilmember Venable seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. ARPA: to approve the project list for ARPA funds.

Mayor Piper noted that the city has until 2024 to make a decision on projects and there were new releases last Thursday that will need to be considered in the decision. Councilmember Venable made a motion to table this item to the September 7, 2023 Work Session. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. TSPLOST (Transportation Special Purpose Local Sales Option): To approve the project list for the City of Statham to be placed on the TSPLOST Referendum.

Mayor Piper noted that he met with Jordan McDaniel on smaller projects that could be done. City Attorney Jody Campbell noted that the version that is being considered is the version from Winder that outlines a specific payout timeline. Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the highway projects list for the City of Statham to be placed on the TSPLOST referendum and to approve the agreement with the amendments by Winder to include the repair, resurfacing, and restriping of Mulberry St. from Atlanta Hwy. to Broad St., 8th St. from Atlanta Hwy. to Broad St., Railroad St. from 2nd St. around to 1st St., 2nd St. from Broad St. to Railroad St., and other road resurfacing, restriping, and repair projects. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Tax Year 2023 Millage Rate: The City of Statham has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes for the 2023 tax year. The City of Statham anticipates the property tax levies will be set at 4.06 mills, an increase of 0.057 over the 2022 millage rate and an increase of 0.795 over the rollback rate. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate would be no more than 3.265 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$225,000 is approximately \$5.13 and the approximate tax increase for a non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$300,000 is \$6.84.

Councilmember Venable made a to approve the millage rate of 4.06 mills for the 2023 tax year. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 7:16 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.