

CITY OF STATHAM

MINUTES

Statham City Hall

327 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666



PUBLIC HEARING & WORK SESSION – December 7, 2023

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

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

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

Absent: Councilmember Bogenrieder.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Mayor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with a moment of silence.

At 6:32 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to enter into Public Hearing. Councilmember Venable made a motion to enter into Public Hearing. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. Alcohol License Distance Waiver Permit Renewal:** Fajita Mex Grill, applicant, has applied for a City of Statham alcoholic beverage license distance waiver permit for beer, wine and distilled spirits located at 1916 Railroad Street, Statham, GA 30666. This location has a current business license and alcoholic beverage license for beer, wine and distilled spirits by the drink.

Mayor Piper noted that Fajita Mex has to apply for a distance waiver annually because they are next door to a place of worship. Councilmember Patterson asked if the place of worship is still ok with Fajita Mex serving alcohol to which Mayor Piper stated they are. Mayor Piper opened the floor for citizen input on the distance waiver and there were no comments. . At 6:34 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to exit the Public Hearing. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to exit the Public Hearing. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

MINUTE APPROVAL

1. November 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes (Provided to Council November 27, 2023)

Councilmember Venable made a motion to accept the November 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

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

Mayor Piper reviewed all department reports. Captain Nichols added that Shop with a Hero is Saturday, December 9, 2023. She thanked Mayor Piper for his service as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **ARPA** (*Tabled from September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting*): to approve the project list for ARPA funds.

No comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **O-23-06: Ordinance to Amend the Charter- Sidewalks: (Third Reading)**. An ordinance to amend section 1.04 of the City of Statham charter to remove from the corporate powers the authority to require property owners to maintain sidewalks.

No comments.

CITIZEN INPUT

No comments.

Councilmember Venable noted that this is his last meeting as a councilmember. He thanked the citizens for electing him and allowing him to serve along with the employees and contractors. His advice to the next Council is to take risks, don't be stagnant, work together, communicate, and keep the city moving forward. Lastly, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Councilmember Patterson thanked him for his service.

City Attorney Campbell stated that there needs to be an Executive Session to discuss possible litigation and real estate.

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) and Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1), a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement,**

claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved and the matter discussed was pending or potential litigation.

At 6:46 p.m. Councilmember Venable made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation and real estate. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 7:20 p.m. with Councilmember Thrasher 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 7:02 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Venable made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Thrasher seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.