

CITY OF STATHAM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Statham Community Center
336 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666



PUBLIC HEARING & WORK SESSION

September 01, 2026

6:30 P.M.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Penn gave the Invocation.
Mayor Krause led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krause called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
Present: Mayor Krause and Councilmembers Terilli, Patterson, Penn, Burnette and Barton.
Also Present: City Administrator Cheryl Venable, City Attorney Jody Campbell, Deputy City Clerk Joe Davis, Public Works Director Brett Day, Statham Police Lt. Michael Hood, and City Accountant Karine Brooms, JAT Consulting.

III. MINUTE APPROVAL

III.1 August 18, 2026, Regular Meeting

Mayor Krause asked for a motion to approve the minutes.
Councilmember Terilli made a motion to approve August 18, 2026, meeting minutes. Councilmember Burnette seconded the motion.
Terilli – Yes, Patterson – Yes, Penn – Yes, Burnette – Yes and Barton – Yes
Motion passed 5-0.

IV. REPORTS

IV.1 Finance Department Report – Karine Brooms presented the Financial Report.
IV.2 Police Department Report – Lt. Hood presented the Police Report.
IV.3 Public Works Department Report – Brett Day presented the Public Works Report.
IV.4 Mayor Report – Mayor Krause presented the Mayor's Report.
IV.5 Committee Reports – Councilmember Terilli presented the Tree Committee Report.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

VI. Mayor Krause asked for a motion to enter the Public Hearing. Councilmember Patterson made the motion.
Councilmember Penn gave the second. Terilli – Yes, Patterson – Yes, Penn – Yes, Burnette – Yes and Barton – Yes
Motion passed 5-0.

V.1 R-26-04 Rezoning: Sabina Choudhury, by Sullins Engineering, applicant, Catherine Rainey Carroll, property owner, seeks to rezone from SR-1 (Suburban Residential District) to HB (Highway Business District) 1.2 acre fronting on the south side of Atlanta Highway SE and the east side of Sunset Drive (Map/Parcel ST01 023) (1809 Atlanta Highway SE). Proposed uses: convenience store with gas pumps and drive-through restaurant.

Attorney Jody Campbell said that the Public Hearing for R-26-04 would be conducted using rules from the Zoning Procedure Act. Jody presented the Consulting Planners Report as Mr. Jerry Weist was not present. Those speaking in favor of the rezone and those opposed would each have 10 minutes total.

Speaking in favor of the rezone was Sabina Choudhury, applicant and John Cooper, brother of the property owner. Speaking in opposition was citizen Ron Myer, citizen Kathy Bennett, citizen Allison Strickland, citizen Artie Ridgeway, citizen Kim Hutchins and citizen Crista Berry. Applicant, Sabina Choudhury, spoke in rebuttal.

Mayor Krause asked for a motion to come out of Public Hearing. Councilmember Penn made the motion. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion. Terilli – Yes, Patterson – Yes, Penn – Yes, Burnette- Yes and Barton – Yes. Motion passed 5-0.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI.1 Water and Sewer Rates – Brett Day brought it to the Council’s attention that Barrow County plans to increase water and sewer rates for next year’s budget cycle and asked that they be thinking about that.

VI.2 Amend Personnel Policy Handbook, Section 5.1 “Holidays, Leave, and Benefits”. Mayor Krause stated that she felt the extra holiday pay for exempt employees should be eliminated. All employees would still receive their regular holiday pay. Councilmember Terilli asked if the line item on the budget could be set at \$0.00 and money allocated if the Chief or Brett had to work on a holiday. Jody explained that regular staff came out of the same allocation and government budgets need set amounts budgeted. Jody shared that what might be helpful is to have the accountants separate hourly and exempt budgeted holiday pay. Mayor Krause replied that she would ask for that information and get it out to the council.

VI.3 Bates, Carter & Co., LLP Audit – Councilmember Patterson relayed that this is something that was talked about back in March 2026. They received a letter stating the audit was not in compliance. Council was told they would receive a letter from Bates & Carter. Received an email from Rachel Bembry, accountant, that the audit had been filed and accepted by the State. Cheryl explained that Bates & Carter had employee issues, but the audit was filed with the State and was in compliance. The Audit is available on the State’s website.

VIII. CITIZEN INPUT

Each speaker shall speak clearly and shall provide their name and address prior to addressing Council. Citizen comments should be limited to a maximum of five minutes per person, and no speaker may speak more than once. Speakers shall address the City Council as a body rather than to any particular member and shall refrain from personal attacks against any other person. The presiding official may limit or refuse a speaker the right to continue if the speaker continues to violate these rules of decorum.

VII.1 Dennis Adams spoke about transparency and not having a newsletter in the water bills.

VII.2 Joe Piper spoke about the acoustics in the community center for people that are hard of hearing and various other grievances. Water rates, trees removed, City Clerk.

VII.3 Kathy Bennett spoke about being in opposition to the other rezoning applications being considered and about the Finance Committee.

VII.4 Christine Bogenrieder spoke about last year’s Sunflower Festival and the revenue generated.

VII.5 Eddie Jackson spoke about needing volunteers for the food drives that happen every second Wednesday sponsored by the Sunflower Festival.

IX. ADJOURN

Mayor Krause asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Terilli made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion. Terilli – Yes, Patterson – Yes, Penn – Yes, Burnette – Yes and Barton – Yes. Motion passes 5-0.

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