



**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 6:39 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 all the Veterans and their families for their service.

## **REPORTS**

1. Finance Department – Mayor Piper gave a brief overview and referred any questions to City Accountant April Plank. Councilmember Krause requested an update on the online payment portal. Mayor Piper stated that Harris has not provided a solution and you can pay utility bills in office using all credit or debit cards also.
2. Police Department- Mayor Piper provided a brief overview. Councilmember Venable requested an update on if the flashing lights/ cameras had been corrected. Mayor Piper and Captain Nichols both confirmed that the Blue Line camera/ radar had been recalibrated and is now functioning properly.
3. Public Works Department- Mayor Piper provided a brief overview and discussed the upcoming repairs of potholes on Broad St and Dooley Town Rd once the ground dries.

## **DISCUSSION 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 is \$360 and for council the fee is \$180.

Council feels the fee should remain the same. Mayor Piper will provide dates and the election date at the next meeting.

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.

Council discussed a break every 2 terms in office to allow new voices and ideas to be heard. Councilmember Penn will follow up with the City's state representatives. City Attorney Campbell pointed out that if it does not make this session on the state level it cannot go into effect until 2026.

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

Councilmember Patterson is comfortable with the changes since LOST passed. Councilmember Krause would like to see the percentage change per permit. Mayor Piper will email out the current rates to council.

- 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 Venable would not like to see an increase in any fees. Councilmember Penn suggested adding a place to initial each page. Council discussed the additional cost go into a separate account to only be used for repairs and improvements on the community centers.

- 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

Councilmembers Penn has contractors that will give quotes for City Hall and the Hillman roof and Councilmember Krause will contact her roofer to provide an estimate also. Mayor Piper stated that it will be a metal roof because of the slope and tree cover.

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

City Attorney Jody Campbell provided an overview of the contract. They have near exclusive rights to the fields during certain time periods, they provide landscaping and maintenance, and not allowed to sublease. Councilmember Krause would like to see reports of what services they perform in the park to qualify for a \$1.00 fee. Councilmember Patterson added that the travel team is under the Lions Club as well.

- 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 stated that he is still planning committees but is open to suggestions and volunteers.

## **CITIZEN INPUT**

Cheryl Venable spoke on the flooding in her backyard and alleyways on Broad St, Second St, and Eighth St. She spoke on transparency with RFPs and contracting.

Bill Ritter, House District 119 Candidate, formerly introduced himself to Council and citizens.

## **MINUTE APPROVAL**

1. December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes (submitted to Council on December 22, 2022).

Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the December 20, 2022 minutes.

Councilmember Krause seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURN**

At 7:38 p.m., Councilmember Venable made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Patterson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.