

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:01pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Perry Barton, Gayle Steed, Betty Lyle, Hattie Thrasher and David Huth. Also in attendance was City Clerk, Mai Chang, City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building & Code Enforcement Officer Randy Gordon. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

Mayor Bridges read his statement out. He stated that he gets little pay and is more of a volunteer Mayor. He is willing to meet with anyone who wants to come and also gave out his phone number. He gave an example of a water customer that was behind and had help from the American Legion through the City. The Mayor is here to help people out NOT hurt people.

2. Mayor Bridges asked City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell to read out loud “Robert’s Rule of Order”, the City’s Ordinances and also the one established by the Mayor. See Attached.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COUNCIL MEETING, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Betty Lyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016 council meeting as written. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. No Old Business

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. MODIFICATION OF PROMISSORY NOTE AND LOAN AGREEMENT (Jerry Hood-EMI)

-Water Treatment

Jerry Hood explained that Modification of the Promissory Note and Loan Agreement. He stated that GEFA has been asked to extend the loan to May 1, 2017. One of the biggest issues is ordering equipment but it is coming along well. This does not change the interest rate or the payment terms, it just extends basically the time we have to spend the money and close out the loan.

Perry Barton made motion to approve the Modification of Promissory Note and Loan Agreement. Davit Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

B. GMEBS 2017 HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

City Clerk, Mai Chang explained the 2017 premium increase rates on the three tiers. Tier 1- 750 deductible with an increased total of \$181.00, Tier 2- 1000 deductible with an increased total of \$158.00 and Tier 3- 1500 deductible with an increased total of \$137.00 and whether the City will continued to pay the full premium for the employee’s portion.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve to continue paying the full premium for the employees. Betty Lyle seconded the motion, unanimous.

6. HISTORY OF STATHAM VIDEO

The 8 minutes video of “The History of Statham” was played in front of everyone to watch.

7. CHIEF ALLAN JOHNSTON

A. Policing for Profit: increased revenue from “Tag Readers”

Chief Johnston played the video called “Operation Ground Zero” of drug busts and the drug monies recovered on the screen while he explained the increased revenue that came from the “Tag Readers or LPR”. No names of the subjects were mention or shown in the video. See attached, the report that Chief Johnston explained and pulled from the LPRs.

Ms. Pickens in the audience was suddenly giggling at the video and was asked by Mayor Bridges to settle down or she will have to leave.

8. CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. STATHAM DRIVE INDUSTRIAL PARK – Robert Wall

Robert Wall of Cable East stated that he would like to be brief. He pointed out the issues with the Solid Waste Transfer Station and supports the City. Their legal view is that the zoning does not support the Waste Station and that it will need a conditional use. The May of 2015 vote was not an appropriate vote for a conditional use permit. There is one more point of order is the protected covenants in the development does allow for such development also. They want everybody to know that they are there to support the City on this matter and is open to provide whatever assistance they can.

B. AMERICAN LEGION

- Robert Wilson (1872 Parker Dr., Statham)
- Ricky Baugh (Absent)

Robert Wilson thanked the Statham City Council for bringing the Vietnam Veteran to their attention. He stated that the Veteran is legally blind and his wife has cancer and also having issues with the VA. They took some chicken stew to him, made monetary donation and also provided transportation to him in order to get to the VA’s office to take care and straighten out his stuffs.

Robert is the senior vice commander and they are the only post in Barrow County at this time. The last 3 years, they’ve turned around and has been involved with baseball, supported the Sunflower Festival and so forth. He can just go on and on. They are there for the community and just not for the Veterans so feel free to come and talk to them. If they can’t help, they can find the help needed elsewhere for them.

He stated that he knows the Statham Police has backed them up even though they are in the County. Law enforcements work their butts off on a 10-12 hours a day. People don’t understand half of the things they have to do, half of the things they know and why it needs to be done.

Police Officers are also a person, whose job is to enforce the law passed down by the government as in any job, there are good and bad times. They're often sworn at for a speeding ticket without realizing that most people died in an automobile accident each year more than weapons and violence using a speed as a weapon until they need the Police then their attitude often changes.

Katie Corkren interrupted and said "at the point of Roberts Rule of Order, she wants to point out that her response was in direct response to the Chief's comment. So Mr. Mitchell should know that as the point of order and he's a threat but will let him continue."

C. CHRISTMAS IN STATHAM COMMITTEE

- Randy Gordon

Randy stated that Christmas in Statham was a success this year. There were 48 vendors charged \$25 each but required 7 cans of food from each one. The parade did the same thing and there were over 80 which ended up collecting 756 cans of food to help families and 108 toys. What they do with the funds is turned it around and help the ball fields, the dug outs and also purchased a golf cart with the festival money last year. Next Springfest will be May 6, 2017.

D. SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL GIFTS FOR KIDS

- Betty Lyle

Betty stated that she's been with the Sunflower Festival for 17 years and has worked all year round each year. Committee has dwindled down to 4 people. She does not see anybody showing up but still carry on. This time, there was around 170 vendors and ended up after expense and everything else around \$500-\$600. This is taken along with donations and put back into the community. Last Christmas, toys was purchased for 93 children and got them some nice toys. This year, there were 70 kids and did the same thing. Applications are taken and toys are then bagged up for pickup.

As far as "we don't do anything", she explained she uses her own vehicle and gas. Couple of years back, food boxes were done, turkeys were purchased and thousands of dollars of canned goods. The next year we purchased 200 boxes of food, the following year 200 boxes and then we switched over to the toys. This time, thanks to some of the businesses that donated, we had money left over after we did the toys.

She stated we're not sitting down here doing nothing and we're not draining the City either as we are being accused of. A lot of you has put the word out that you're going to have us step down and take over and have our seats. You all are in luck, next year is election year. My seat is up, Gayle's and David's is up. If you think you can fill our seats, you might want to start now cause it is a big job. You won't learn how to do it overnight either or on Facebook. The golf cart that she has, she learned how to work for. She did not live off by the government and she paid for it out of her own pocket.

A resident spoke up and said she feeds the hungry and bought toys out of her own pocket, can she call somebody in Statham to help.

E. CHRISTMAS CLOTHES GIVEAWAYS

- Hattie Thrasher

Mayor Bridges thanked Hattie Thrasher for the Clothes Giveaways. Hattie explained that they've been doing this twice a year but now will be doing this once a year now. It's a volunteer thing. If anybody wants to give away anything, to call her, it could be for children or adults any sizes. It is given away the 3rd Saturday in November of each year. The City has been nice enough to let them use the Hillman building for the event. What is left is given to the Goodwill in Winder.

There is also a church that does the same thing in Monroe. They give away on the day before Thanksgiving. They also feed and cook ham. Hattie's group have a big heart and gives some to the Kidney Foundation. They help any way they can.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. NAME S SUBMITTED TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Mary Williams
- Sherry Heard
- Adam Carpenter
- Kelly Pickens
- Michael Gentry (Statham)
- Tessa Moore (Statham)
- Wayne Hardigree (Statham)
- Jessica Evans
- Sondra Moore
- Michael Moore
- Jesse Ferguson (Statham)
- Erin Mathews
- Vanessa Fox
- Carmen Jara (Statham)
- Jay Bloodworth
- Paula Crowder (Statham)
- Kendra Moore (Statham)

Mayor Bridges called out each names that had “Statham” besides them. All of them were absent. Kelly Pickens would answer each time the names were called with “**not here**”. Mayor Bridges asked if there was anybody in town that was with this group.

Katie Corkren spoke out loud and Mayor Bridges stated that she is not on the list. She stated “yes sir” but this is a public speaking and Robert’s Rule do required open discussion of a subject that was brought up your Police Chief.

City Attorney Thomas Mitchell explained how it is done in Statham is to let the Council and Mayor know and then he recognizes those that are on the list but if you’re not on the list, you’re not entitle to speak. Katie said that you are actually following “Robert’s Rule” but you’re choosing not to do that and following and if that’s what you like to say than state that on the records. Your City charter says you follow “Robert’s Rule” and that is a point of order.

Thomas Mitchell replies Robert’s Rule applies to the “body”, the “voting body” and you’re not a member of the voting body. You don’t have the right under Robert’s Rule of order.

Mayor Bridges states that is the way he understood it and that’s the way it will be done.

Katie Corkren spoke out loud that she is being put out but Chief Johnston feed you a lot of crab and continues to speak verbiage as she was being escorted toward the door. Kelly Pickens also was speaking out loud verbiage and laughing with Katie. They both were asked to be escorted out.

Mayor Bridges wants to thank the Statham Citizens for backing the City. We worked hard for the citizens, regardless of what they say, we are going to work on the drug problem. He like to thank everybody that has come up to him and said “Thank you for what you’re doing”.

Mary Williams spoke out loud that she lives in Statham. She gave her address and it was corrected that she does not live within the City limits and she acknowledged that she don’t live in the City limits.

Mayor Bridges stated she is not welcome to speak but she continues to speak and says “Chief Johnston, you told my mother that you could stop her and arrest her for DUI for taking blood pressure medication. You know as well as I do that this is not something that you arrest people for and you can keep trying to pull that but we are going to keep taking it”.

Chief Johnston escorted her out of the meeting which she still kept talking on the way.

Mayor Bridges asked if there was anything else on the agenda. He stated that who was allowed to speak was made known at the beginning of the meeting. We will have order from now on in this room.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive Session.

David Huth thanked everybody for coming.

Perry Barton made a statement that if anybody has any concerns, questions, or need assistance, they can come to the Mayor or City Council individually and they will help or attempt to help what they can. If somebody is saying something, please talk to the City rather than Facebook. You're doing yourself a dis-respect by listening to those people. Thank you very much!

11. ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Council, David Huth made a motion to adjourn. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.