

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 03, 2020**  
**6:30 PM.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Special Called Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Piper at 6:30 p.m..

Council members present were Council Members, Hattie Thrasher, Betty Lyle, Dwight McCormic and Tammy Crawley, Gary Venable. Also in attendance City Clerk Kay Fortney, City Attorney Office represented by Amy Cowan, and Public Works Director Sam Powell, Police Officers Johnnie Woods and Interim Police Chief John Davis. Media was represented Ron Bridgeman from Barrow County News Journal. City Administrator Mai Chang was absent, and City Attorney Thomas Mitchell was absent

Mayor Joe Piper began by repeating the Pledge of Allegiance, and he thanked all veterans And serviceman in the audience for serving our country.

Ms. Hattie Thrasher was sworn into office as a council member by Attorney Amy Cowan.

**2. PERSONNEL:**

Mayor announced he would go back to this topic later in meeting.

**3. APPOINT VICE MAYOR:**

Votes were cast by paper ballot for a new Vice Mayor who would hold the office for a 2 year period and would reside over meetings if the Mayor of the City could not attend a meeting. Attorney Amy Cowan tallied and disclosed results of the votes. Results were 3 votes for Dwight McCormic and 2 votes for Gary Venable. Dwight McCormic was voted Vice Mayor.

**4. COMMITTEES:**

In the coming weeks, Mayor Joe Piper will be working on the committees, the names of heads and Vice Chairman to lead the committees.

**5. MOVING OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Mayor Piper explained that we have options for the P.D. The most reasonable offer is for City Hall and the Police Department to cohabitant in City Hall building. We have a proposal of \$13,500. for construction on City Hall building and look at possibly remodel

of public works building across the street for Police Departments permanent home. Because we are running out of time due to the library remodel which includes taking over P.D., building, this is our best option for now.

Gary Venable made a motion to solicit bids to renovate city hall as a temporary home for Statham's Police Department. Tammy Crawley seconded. Motion passed 4/1. Hattie Thrasher abstained.

## **6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Tammy Crawley made a motion to go into executive session at 7:05 p.m.  
Gary Venable seconded. Motion passed. 5/5.

Dwight McCormic made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:25 p.m.  
Hattie Thrasher seconded. Motion passed. 5/5.

## **7. PERSONNEL:**

Mayor Piper mentioned that they needed to go into executive session. After coming out of executive session, Mayor Piper made a recommendation to hire Ira Underwood as Chief of Police. Betty Lyle made a motion to accept Mayor Piper's recommendation to hire Mr. Ira Underwood as Chief of Police for the City of Statham. Gary Venable seconded. Motion passed. 5/5.

Mayor Piper made another recommendation asking Council to eliminate the City Administrator's position.

Dwight McCormic made a motion to eliminate the City Administrator position.  
Gary Venable seconded. Motion passed. 5/5.

## **8. ADJOURN:**

Hattie Thrasher made a motion to adjourn. Gary Venable seconded. Motion passed. 5/5.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

