



REGULAR MEETING – August 16, 2022

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER -Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Also Present: City Accountant April Stephens, City Attorney Jody Campbell, Police Department Personnel, and City Clerk Ashya Fambrough

Call in: Councilmember Krause

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked all the veterans and their families for their service.

VOTING ITEMS

- 1. Alcohol License Application:** AmalJose Enterprises, LLC, owner and applicant, Amal Jose, has applied for a City of Statham alcoholic beverage license for beer and wine retail package located at 2059 Atlanta Highway SE, Statham, GA 30666, Map and Parcel Number ST06A 099, also known as Statham Food Mart. This location has a current business and alcoholic beverage license for beer and wine, however, a change of ownership has prompted a new alcoholic beverage license application per the City's Alcohol Ordinance.

Councilmember Venable made a motion to table this item until the September 8, 2022 Work Session. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Alcoholic Beverage License Distance Waiver Permit:** 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.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve the waiver permit. Councilmember Venable seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Thrasher voting no.

- 3. City of Statham Personnel Policy Change – Leave Type:** *Tabled from the July 19, 2022 Regular Meeting.* To approve a change to the City's Employee Benefits – Leave Type in the Personnel Policy Handbook and implement a new Paid Time Off (PTO) accrual system and cancel the current vacation time and sick time policy. This new policy will go into effect

January 1, 2023. To minimize any benefit conversion loss from the former vacation policy to this PTO policy, employees whose converted PTO balances are in excess of their new longevity cap on the effective date of this policy will be able to retain the excess amount and use down excess time through June 30, 2023. On July 1, 2023, any excess time will be paid to the employee. *To benefit those employees who did not abundantly use their accrued sick time:* Employees with accrued sick leave hours between a minimum 96 and maximum of 144 (96-144 hours) from the prior sick leave policy may convert those unused sick hours into PTO hours on the effective date of this policy. Employees will be able to retain the excess amount and use down this excess time through June 30, 2023. On July 1, 2023, all excess time will be paid directly to the employee. Should an employee terminate their employment for any reason prior to July 1, 2023, any converted excess sick time will be forfeited.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve the policy change. Councilmember Venable seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Thrasher voting no.

- 4. City of Statham Personnel Policy Change – Bereavement Leave:** *Tabled from the July 19, 2022 Regular Meeting.* To approve a change to the City’s Bereavement Leave policy in the Personnel Policy Handbook on page 78. The new policy states full-time employees shall be eligible for bereavement leave after ninety (90) days of employment. A total of ten (10) days of paid bereavement leave shall be granted per calendar year to an employee in the event of a death of an employee’s relative. This leave will be paid at the regular employee rate and will not count towards overtime and will not count towards deferred compensation. Relative is defined as Spouse, Parent or Stepparent, Child or Stepchild, Sibling (Brother, Sister, Stepbrother, Stepsister), Grandparent and Grandchildren. Bereavement hours that exceed ten (10) days are unpaid unless PTO is used by the employee. There is no accumulation of bereavement leave and no payment upon separation from City employment.

Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the policy change. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Thrasher voting no.

- 5. Barrow County Water Purchase Contract Proposal:** *Tabled from the July 19, 2022 Regular Meeting.* To approve a wholesale water purchase agreement with Barrow County.

Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the water agreement. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- 6. O-22-04 Wine Tasting Events Ordinance:** *Second reading.* To amend the Code of the City of Statham, Chapter 4, “Alcohol,” Article VI “Retail Package Sales,” to add Section 4-163.

Councilmember Venable made a motion to table the item until the September 8, 2022 Work Session. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion, and the motion to table passed unanimously.

- 7. Police Department Lease Agreement:** To approve a lease agreement with Casto Brothers, LLC for the lease of the Statham Police Department located at 1910-C Railroad Street, Statham. The new lease agreement shows an increase in lease amount from \$1,600 per month

to \$1,850 per month with an increase beginning October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This increase may require a budget amendment.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve the lease agreement. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Thrasher voting no.

MINUTE APPROVAL

1. August 4, 2022 Work Session Meeting (submitted to Council on August 9, 2022).

Councilmember Venable made a motion to approve the August 4, 2022 Work Session Minutes. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 7:18 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Krause seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.