

CITY OF STATHAM

MINUTES

Statham City Hall

327 Jefferson Street, Statham, GA 30666



REGULAR MEETING – December 19, 2023

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Piper and Councilmembers Bogenrieder, Patterson, Penn, and Thrasher.

Also Present: City Attorney Jody Campbell, City Clerk Ashya Fambrough, and PD Personnel.

Phone In: Councilmember Venable.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Mayor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked the Veterans and their families for their service.

MINUTE APPROVAL

1. December 7, 2023 Public Hearing and Work Session Minutes (Provided to Council December 12, 2023).

Councilmember Paterson made a motion to accept the December 7, 2023 Work Session Minutes. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with Councilmember Thrasher abstaining.

VOTING ITEMS

1. **Alcohol License Distance Waiver Permit Renewal:** 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 Penn made a motion to approve the Alcohol Distance Waiver Permit Renewal for Fajita Mex Grill. Councilmember Bogenrieder seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-1, with Councilmember Thrasher voting no.

2. **ARPA** (*Tabled from September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting*): to approve the project list for ARPA funds.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to table this item to the January 4, 2024 Work Session. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **O-23-06: Ordinance to Amend the Charter- Sidewalks:** (*Fourth Reading*). An ordinance to amend section 1.04 of the City of Statham charter to remove from the corporate powers the authority to require property owners to maintain sidewalks.

Councilmember Penn made a motion to approve Ordinance O-23-06. Councilmember Patterson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCILMEMBER THRASHER FOR 32 YEARS OF SERVICE

-Mayor Piper Recognized Councilmember Thrasher for her 32 years of service and presented her with a plaque as a token of the City's appreciation.

- Betty Lyle on behalf of the Sunflower Committee presented Councilmember Thrasher with a bench that will be placed in Lyle Park at City Hall. They have served the city together since the 80's.

Mayor Piper noted that this is his last official meeting as mayor. He moved to Statham in 2016 with his wife and accepted the challenge to help turn the city around. During his tenure the city has completed 7 audits and was awarded LMIG funds in 2022 and 2023. The FY23 audit is projected to be completed by the end of year bringing the completed audit total to 8. The city will receive LMIG funds in 2024 also. Mayor Piper stated that he is proud of what he was able to accomplish along with the staff. Lastly, he thanked the public for 4 years and wishes everyone well.

City Attorney Campbell stated that there needs to be an Executive Session to discuss pending or possible litigation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1), a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved and the matter discussed was pending or potential litigation.

At 7:12 p.m. Councilmember Thrasher made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation. Councilmember Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 7:20 p.m. with Councilmember Patterson making the motion to exit. Councilmember Thrasher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. City Attorney Campbell stated that all discussions held in Executive Session are protected as Attorney/Client Privilege and that no votes were conducted during the session.

ADJOURN

At 7:21 p.m., Mayor Piper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Patterson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bogenrieder seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.