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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**June 10, 2025**

**6:30 P.M.**

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**I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilmember Patterson gave the invocation.  
Mayor Krause led the Pledge of Allegiance

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Krause called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm  
Present: Mayor Krause and Councilmembers Bogenrieder, Patterson, and Penn.  
Also Present: City Clerk Nicole Sapp, City Administrator Cheryl Venable,  
City Accountant Rachel Bembry, Public Works Director Brett Day, and PD Personnel.  
Present by phone: Councilmember Terilli  
Absent: Councilmember Burnette, and City Attorney Jody Campbell.

**III. PUBLIC HEARING**

**III.1 FY2026 Budget**

Councilmember Penn made a motion to enter into the Public Hearing at 6:31 pm.  
Councilmember Bogenrieder second the motion.  
Terilli- Yes, Bogenrieder- Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn- Yes  
Motion passed 4-0.

Rachel Bembry gave a presentation explaining the components of the proposed FY2026 Budget for the City of Statham.

Councilmember Penn asked if the increase in the Workers' compensation and the property & liability insurance was due to inflation or use of the policy. Rachel stated that to her knowledge the increase was a normal insurance increase, she is not aware of any punitive increases in those two areas.

Councilmember Penn asked if the LMIG match could use some of the TSPLOST money. Cheryl Venable explained two DOT funds could not be combined together. She discussed grants that have been awarded to Statham and plans for the use of money on upcoming projects.

Councilmember Bogenrieder asked if the proposed HVAC replacement was for Public Works. Cheryl stated no, that the unit at City Hall is 22 years old and needs to be replaced.

Councilmember Bogenrieder asked if the Police Department overtime was an increased to \$71,000.00 or if that amount was additional to what that department currently has. Chief Ira Underwood stated that the increased need for overtime was due to the Police Department having a patrol officer vacancy and requiring the other officers to fill in as needed.

Councilmember Bogenrieder asked about the proposed budget for the Community Center renovation for storage and rental use, \$20,000.00 and tables for rental use, \$25,000.00. Cheryl stated the current Sunflower festival bathrooms will be remodeled to storage for the Community Center. She also stated that long narrow tables and more comfortable chairs will be purchased for business meeting rentals to be held at the Statham Community Center.

Councilmember Patterson asked if the Public Works department overtime is expected to go down. Cheryl stated yes, it is expected to reduce with the new hires expected to work one day on the weekend in place of a weekday when the city is having events. She also stated that they are in the process of hiring someone for the water department and cross-train across all of the Public Works departments.

Councilmember Bogenrieder asked if Public Works is still down a truck. Cheryl stated yes that the department has two vehicles that are expected to be replaced along with a newer bucket truck. She also stated that Public Works is selling items on Gov Deals to supplement the budget on purchase of items.

Councilmember Bogenrieder asked about the proposed \$72,000.00 budget line item for tree removal. Cheryl said that the City has had several trees that have recently been removed and that there are more expected to be taken down in the City due to age and condition of trees.

Councilmember Terilli asked why Public Works cleans the buildings after the rental use instead of hiring an outside company. Cheryl stated that individuals renting the buildings are expected to complete surface cleaning, but Public Works does the deep cleaning.

Councilmember Patterson asked what the average times each community building is rented. Cheryl stated that the rentals of buildings are sporadic at this time but we are in a busier season with graduations and weddings. She stated that the city wants to start advertising the buildings to make the community aware of the spaces available.

Councilmember Bogenrieder asked how the proposed Events budget was determined. Cheryl stated that the budget was based off this year's cost for events plus the addition of supporting the Sunflower festival.

Councilmember Terilli asked if the city would be looking for sponsors for the Star-Spangled Statham like last year. He also asked if booth rentals at the Sunflower festival cover the expense for the event instead of budgeting \$8,100.00. Cheryl explained money collected for these events is deposited back into the general fund since the city funds these events ahead of time. Terilli then asked if the money collected from the Sunflower festival would still go back into the community as he believed was discussed. Cheryl explained that the obligation from the city is to take the monies collected from the events and deposit it back into the general fund since public funds are used ahead of time. Mayor Krause reminded the council that we do have a community outreach budgeted line item that can be used for things such as school lunches or senior assistance. Rachel included that sponsorships that come in for events should be recorded as donations revenue in the general fund. Then those funds may be discussed on how to be used.

Mayor Krause asked if anyone had additional questions.

Chief Underwood asked if the Blueline Solutions funds could be added as a line item with the other budget items. Rachel explained that this line item is revenue and will not be included with the expenditure items.

Mayor Krause asked if the council was feeling good about this budget. She also asked council if there were any more questions. Cheryl said that if anyone has any additional questions, please let her or Rachel know, and they can get back to them with clarification.

Councilmember Patterson asked if the dog park fence would be a new chain-link fence around the area. Cheryl said that the plan is to repair the gate, repair the area where the tree came down, a new water line to water dogs and a concrete entrance area. She also stated that there are plans for new benches and leveling the area.

Mayor Krause also stated that Brett Day has ideas on what to do to finish the foot bridge renovation at Robert Bridges Park. Brett stated that the majority of the work done at the Public Works building is being completed in-house, such as the breakroom and the bathrooms.

Mayor Krause asked if there was anything additional to discuss.

There were no additional questions or discussions on the proposed FY2026 budget.

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to exit out of the Public Hearing at 7:23 pm.

Councilmember Penn second the motion.

Terilli- Yes, Bogenrieder- Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn- Yes

Motion passed 4-0.

#### **IV. ADJOURN**

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to adjourn the public hearing meeting.

Councilmember Penn second the motion.

Terilli- Yes, Bogenrieder- Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn- Yes

Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.