



Regular Meeting

July 21, 2026

6:30 P.M.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krause called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
Present: Mayor Krause and Councilmembers Terilli, Burnette, Patterson, Penn and Barton.
Also Present: City Attorney Jody Campbell, City Clerk Nicole Sapp, and
City Administrator Cheryl Venable.

III. MINUTE APPROVAL

III.1 July 7, 2026 Public Hearing and Work Session
Councilmember Burnette made a motion to approve the July 7, 2026 meeting minutes.
Councilmember Terilli second the motion.
Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes
Motion passed 5-0.

IV. VOTING ITEMS

IV.1 1862 Railroad Rezone
Councilmember Terilli made a motion to deny the 1862 Railroad Rezone.
Councilmember Barton second the motion.

During the discussion Councilmember Terilli read from the following statement “After carefully reviewing this application, listening to the presentations, and considering the comments from citizens, I cannot support this rezoning request. My decision is based on several factors. First, I have concerns about whether this rezoning is in the long-term best interests of the City of Statham and the surrounding area. Second, when the Council considers a rezoning request, we must have confidence not only in the proposed use of the property, but also in the credibility of the representations made during the zoning process. I have also been struck by the overwhelming feedback from our citizens. Many residents have taken the time to attend meetings, submit comments, and express their opposition to this request. While public opinion alone does not determine my vote, it is my responsibility to listen carefully to the people we represent and to weigh their concerns alongside the applicable planning and zoning considerations. After considering all of these factors, I am not persuaded that this rezoning serves the public interest or is consistent with the responsible growth and development of our community. For those reasons, I respectfully move that the rezoning request be denied.”

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes
Motion passed 5-0.

IV.2 303 3rd Street Rezone
Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve 303 3rd Street Rezone.
Councilmember Burnette second the motion.
Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes
Motion passed 5-0.

IV.3 Referendum for Senior Tax Exemption

Councilmember Penn made a motion to approve the Referendum for Senior Tax Exemption.

Councilmember Terilli second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

IV.4 Sale of Distilled Spirits

Councilmember Penn made a motion to approve the Referendum for the Sale of Distilled Spirits.

Councilmember Terilli second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

IV.5 Authorization to Publish Request for Proposals for Impact Fee Consulting Services

Councilmember Terilli made a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to draft and publish a Request for Proposals for professional services required to implement an Impact Fee Ordinance in the City of Statham. Including researching, drafting, and formulating a Capital Improvement Element for the City of Statham Comprehensive Plan and calculation of appropriate impact fees.

Councilmember Patterson second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

IV.6 Millage Rate Adoption

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve the Millage Rate Adoption of 6.262.

Councilmember Burnette second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

IV.7 Finance Committee Ordinance

Councilmember Penn made a motion to approve the Finance Committee Ordinance.

Councilmember Terilli second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

IV.8 FY2027 Budget Amendment

Councilmember Patterson made a motion to approve the FY2027 Budget Amendment.

Councilmember Penn second the motion.

Mayor Krause stated she wanted to go into discussion. She stated I'd like for the council to explain to the citizens and to the administration why a new department has been created, department 130 executive, that applies solely to the city administrator and includes a \$26,220.00 reduction in salary and related compensation.

Mayor Krause asked again Why?

Councilmember Patterson stated Well, in my last discussion that we had approved the city administrator position back in 2024 at a salary that was presented to us in good faith by the mayor. It was accepted by the city administrator. The council approved it. After that we were presented with a millage rate increase stating that we needed to raise our millage rate to help the city. Little did we know after we approved that millage rate increase that there was an increase in salary given to our administrator of \$10,000.00.

Second year we were also told we could not do a roll back on the taxes that the still needed to tighten it's belt. And right after that again a raise of \$12,000.00. Now, no other employee as far as I know received an increase higher than 3 or 4%. And if you do the calculation on the city administrator, it comes to about 30% increase in pay in less than a year on the job.

Mayor Krause stated, Ok. Well, on June 24th, 2026, during a special call meeting the council directed me to reduce the general administration department 150 budget by \$22,000.00 and I complied with the direction. However, tonight the council has presented a revised budget that creates an entirely new department for one employee, the city administrator, and reduces the position by \$26,220.00 which \$22,000.00 is salary. Again, I ask why, and I've been told why. Since taking office as mayor, I've approved more than 40 employees pay rate increases both hourly and salary with some exceeding \$8,000.00. Were each of those raises brought before the council? No. Yet, no other employee has been singled out for a salary reduction or had previously approved compensation taken away. Why is only one employee being treated differently? The newspaper has reported to the city administrator received raises, but what has not been explained is why those raises were given. And I believe the public deserves to hear that explanation. January 31st, 2024, \$8,000.00 this increase followed the council's vote, changing the position from the executive assistant to the city administrator, reflecting the greater responsibilities of the role. On May 30th, 2024, \$10,000.00 this increase was awarded after the city lost both the city clerk, the public works director, and the city administrator assumed many of those additional responsibilities, worked significantly more hours, and ensured the city's operations continued with interruption. She never requested additional compensation, nor did she complain about the increased workload. That decision was mine as mayor based on the responsibilities she assumed. July 1st, 2025, \$5,767.21 this increase recognized her continued performance and expanding responsibility. I understand that the council stated that the second raise of \$10,000.00 is what concerns them. If that is truly the issue, then the members simply do not support the actions being proposed tonight. The council is reducing the salary of this new position by \$22,000.00 consisting of a total of \$22,000.00 which exceeds the \$10,000.00 council says prompted this action. Here's the actual figures. Total raises is \$23,767.00, reduction by council is \$22,000.00 and the difference is \$1,676.00. In other words, nearly every merit increase awarded over the past two and a half years have effectively been eliminated. What is especially difficult to understand is that the council has repeatedly stated it does not want to hear about accomplishments of the city administrator. However, performance is precisely what compensation should reflect. Under her leadership and administration, the city has secured more than \$1,000,000.00 in revenue funding for the city, over \$700,000.00 in grants, identified and recovered revenue owed to the city by developers \$176,625.00. Initiated the water meter replacement program which will generate an additional \$30,000.00 in monthly revenue. Conducted reviews and updates for city fees to improve long-term stability. Assumed significant responsibilities during vacancies and key leadership positions while maintaining the city's daily operations. These are measurable accomplishments that have directly benefited the city and its taxpayers. The question before us tonight is larger than one employee it is about fairness, consistency, and equal treatment. If the council believes raises should be reconsidered, then there should be a consistent policy that applies to all. Employees, excuse me, I'm sorry I'm working on one eye tonight, applies to all employees, not the creation of a separate department and the reduction of compensation for one individual. So, before this vote is taken, I ask the council once again, why is this employee being singled out when no other employee has been treated this way?

Councilmember Patterson stated, Well, we can also come back as to why one employee is clear favoritism for the last two years.

Mayor Krause stated she called for the vote.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes
Motion passed 5-0.

AMEND AGENDA-

Councilmember Penn made a motion to amend the agenda to include voting item
IV.9 BS&A Software Contract Proposal.

Councilmember Barton seconded the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson- Yes, Penn- Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

IV. VOTING ITEMS CONTINUED

IV.9 BS&A Software Contract Proposal

Jody Campbell explained the need for the new accounting software and the components of the contract proposal.

Councilmember Terilli made a motion to approve the proposal of the purchase of the accounting software from BS&A Software, in the amount of \$69,115.00 in start-up cost and \$15,925.00 yearly cost with a year-to-year contract.

Councilmember Penn second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- No

Motion passed 4-1.

V. ADJOURN

Councilmember Penn made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.

Councilmember Burnette second the motion.

Terilli -Yes, Burnette-Yes, Patterson-Yes, Penn-Yes, Barton- Yes

Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Mayor Debi Krause

Date

Deputy City Clerk, Joe Davis