



CITY OF STATESBORO
COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 19, 2026

Regular Meeting

50 E. Main St. City Hall Council Chambers

5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jonathan McCollar called the meeting to order

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember Tangie Johnson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jonathan McCollar	Mayor	Present	
Tangie Johnson	Councilmember	Present	
Paulette Chavers	Councilmember	Present	
Ginny Hendley	Councilmember	Absent	
John Riggs	Councilmember	Present	
Shari Barr	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	

Other staff present: City Manager Charles Penny, Assistant City Manager Jason Boyles, Public Affairs Manager Layne Phillips, City Attorney Cain Smith and City Clerk Leah Harden

3. Recognitions/Public Presentations:

A) Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing May 17- 23, 2026 as National Public Works Week.

Mayor McCollar read aloud the proclamation designating the week of May 17–23, 2026 as National Public Works Week in the City of Statesboro, honoring the contributions of public works professionals—engineers, managers, and employees—whose work is vital to the health, safety, and quality of life of the community. The proclamation noted that 2026 marks the 66th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association. The proclamation was presented to the Public Works staff in attendance.

B) Recognition and Public Presentation from Dr. LaSara Mitchell recognizing graduating members of the Youth Council.

Dr. LaSara Mitchell addressed the Mayor and Council to honor the charter graduating class of the Statesboro Youth Council (2023–2026). She described the significance of the cords presented to graduates, each color representing a core value: navy blue for loyalty and leadership, white for civic engagement, gold for academic achievement, and cobalt blue for youth advocacy. Dr. Mitchell recognized the following graduates individually, Jamersyn Hughes - Junior Mayor, Ja’Kori Cope - Public Outreach, Za’Mya Colbert - Events Committee Chair, Isley Simpkins - Service Committee Chair Eden Chavers - District 1 Representative, and Grace Huff-Colbert – Secretary, noting their college destinations and fields of study, and thanked the Mayor, Council, parents, and city staff for their support of the program.

Mayor McCollar offered personal remarks, expressing deep pride in the young people of the community and expressing appreciation to Dr. Mitchell, city staff across multiple departments, and community partners who contributed to the program's success. The Mayor noted his aspiration for the program's alumni to one day seek elected office.

4. Public Comments (Agenda Item): None

5. Consideration of a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

A) Approval of Minutes

a) 05-05-2026 Council Minutes

B) Consideration of a motion to set the date for a Public Hearing for the proposed City of Statesboro Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for June 02, 2026 during the regular scheduled Council Meeting.

A motion was made to approve consent agenda.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Mayor Jonathan McCollar recused himself from agenda item #6, turned the meeting over to Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr and stepped down from the dais.

6. Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve:

- a. APPLICATION V 26-04-01: Southeastern Development Associates requests a variance from Section 2.2.9 – Table 2.2.9-B Dimensional Standards for MX (Mixed-Use District), which requires a twenty-five (25) foot maximum building setback. The proposed project for a new grocery store is requesting a maximum 675-foot setback to accompany all the parking required for this type of multi-use project at 6850 Cypress Lake Road and 7406 Veterans Memorial Parkway (Tax Parce l# MS330000023 002).**
- b. APPLICATION V 26-04-02: Southeastern Development Associates is requesting a variance from UDC Section 2.2.9 (H)(4) to allow parking in front of the store at 6850 Cypress Lake Road and 7406 Veterans Memorial Parkway (Tax Parcel # MS420000004A000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Planning Director Justin Williams presented the application, explaining that the 25-foot maximum building setback required under the MX District is a recurring challenge for large-scale projects. The anchor building—a Kroger grocery store—requires a significantly deeper setback to accommodate the parking layout on the 28-acre parcel. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval with two conditions: (1) approval of the variance does not grant the right to build without appropriate permitting, and (2) conditions from the original rezoning (RZ 25-10-07 and RZ 25-10-08)—which include the submission of a traffic study, residential concurrency for Whispering Pines Boulevard, and a wetland plan—must be maintained.

Steve Rushing a local attorney representing the applicant He affirmed support for the MX zoning district but noted that a 25-foot maximum setback is not workable for a parcel of this size, and that placing the grocery store toward the rear of the parcel necessitates parking in front of the building. He stated that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval and requested the Council adopt that recommendation.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions **APPLICATION V 26-04-01**: Southeastern Development Associates requests a variance from Section 2.2.9 – Table 2.2.9-B Dimensional Standards for MX (Mixed-Use District), which requires a twenty-five (25) foot maximum building setback. The proposed project for a new grocery store is requesting a maximum 675-foot setback to accompany all the parking required for this type of multi-use project at 6850 Cypress Lake Road and 7406 Veterans Memorial Parkway (Tax Parce l# MS330000023 002) and **APPLICATION V 26-04-02**: Southeastern Development Associates is requesting a variance from UDC Section 2.2.9 (H)(4) to allow parking in front of the store at 6850 Cypress Lake Road and 7406 Veterans Memorial Parkway (Tax Parcel # MS420000004A000).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Mayor Jonathan McCollar returned to the dais to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

7. **Public hearing and consideration of a motion to approve: APPLICATION RZ 26-04-03: Belair Estates Inc. requests a Zoning Map Amendment on the corner of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Highway 80 from R-15 (One- Household Residential) to MX (Mixed Use District). The Zoning Map Amendment requests is for two parcels and a total of 6.17-acres and is proposed for multi-use commercial development (Tax Parcels # MS84000004 002 and MS84000004 000).**

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Director of Planning Justin Williams presented the application, noting the property is a wooded corner lot situated within a heavily commercial corridor. He noted that the original concept plan included a multi-use commercial development with multiple stores but that the proposal had since been scaled back to a single sit-down restaurant with no drive-through component. Staff identified delineated wetlands on the northern portion of the parcel and noted that a townhome subdivision to the north, though currently stalled, is expected to eventually be developed. Staff as well as the Planning Commission recommended approval subject to two conditions: (1) the applicant may not receive a land disturbance permit prior to submission of a traffic study, and (2) the applicant must provide a wetland protection plan.

Nathan Brown with Hussey Gay Bell representing the applicant confirmed that following a Right Start meeting with the city, the team revised the concept from a multi-use development to a single sit-down restaurant—eliminating drive-throughs, gas stations, and all-day traffic generation in favor of a lunch-and-dinner use. He confirmed that a traffic study had already been initiated and that the wetlands had been delineated by an environmental firm, with zero wetland impacts shown in the current plan. He further noted that the wetlands, combined with the required MX buffer, would result in a buffer two to three times the ordinance minimum adjacent to the residential neighborhood.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr noted familiarity with the neighborhood and sought clarification on access points, confirming with Mr. Brown that a southern connection would run to Bel Air Drive. She also asked whether the wooded wetland areas would remain undisturbed and whether a detention pond would be required. Mr. Brown confirmed both: the wetland areas would remain untouched, and a stormwater detention pond would be incorporated into the engineering plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Barr also sought clarification from Planning Director Justin Williams about what uses would be permitted under the rezoning if approved—not just what is currently proposed. Mr. Williams confirmed that any use permitted within the MX District could be built on the site, but that all wetland restrictions and special use conditions would run with the land regardless of future ownership or development.

A motion was made to approve with staff conditions **APPLICATION RZ 26-04-03**: Belair Estates Inc. requests a Zoning Map Amendment on the corner of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Highway 80 from R-15 (One- Household Residential) to MX (Mixed Use District). The Zoning Map Amendment requests is for two parcels and a total of 6.17-acres and is proposed for multi-use commercial development (Tax Parcels # MS84000004 002 and MS84000004 000).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

8. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve:

- a. **APPLICATION V 26-04-05**: Macon Signs requests a Variance to Section 2.5.3(H)(1) to allow an increase in the height of the flagpole from the allowable forty (40) feet to fifty (50) feet at 581 Northside Drive East (University Commons) for Academy Sport & Outdoors (Tax Parcel# MS72000001 000).
- b. **APPLICATION V 26-04-06**: Macon Signs requests a Variance to UDC Section, Sign 2 District-Dimensional Standards, Table 2.5.3-C, to allow an increase of the building square footage from 222.6 sq feet to 537.70 square feet at 581 Northside Drive East (University Commons) for Academy Sport & Outdoors (Tax Parcel # MS72000001 000).

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Planning Director Justin Williams presented Applications V 26-04-05 and V 26-04-06 together, noting both relate to Academy Sports & Outdoors at University Commons. Regarding the flagpole height variance, Mr. Williams explained the flag height increase from 40 to 50 feet is necessitated by the building's significant height and that an administrative variance was not possible for an increase of this magnitude. He also explained that due to the significant distance of the building from the right-of-way, a larger building sign is warranted. He noted a comparable precedent with a sign approved for a Franklin dealership on the bypass. Staff as well as the Planning Commission recommended approval, with the sole condition that the variance does not grant the right to install signage or structures without appropriate permitting.

Scott with Macon Signs on behalf of Academy Sports and Outdoors spoke in favor of the request affirming the request, citing visibility challenges due to the building's distance from the main road.

No one spoke against the request.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

A motion was made to approve **APPLICATION V 26-04-05**: Macon Signs requests a Variance to Section 2.5.3(H)(1) to allow an increase in the height of the flagpole from the allowable forty (40) feet to fifty (50) feet at 581 Northside Drive East (University Commons) for Academy Sport & Outdoors (Tax Parcel# MS72000001 000) and **APPLICATION V 26-04-06**: Macon Signs requests a Variance to UDC Section, Sign 2 District-Dimensional Standards, Table 2.5.3-C, to allow an increase of the building square footage from 222.6 sq feet to 537.70 square feet at 581 Northside Drive East (University Commons) for Academy Sport & Outdoors (Tax Parcel # MS72000001 000).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

9. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance 2026-01: An Ordinance Amending - Section 2.4.14: of the Unified Development Code to create zoning classifications and requirements for the development of Technological Facilities & Data Centers.

A motion was made to open the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

City Attorney Cain Smith briefly introduced the ordinance as an amendment to Section 2.4.14 of the UDC, establishing requirements for data center development.

Planning Director Justin Williams presented the item noting the Planning Commission had previously recommended approval of an earlier draft.

City Manager Charles Penny clarified for the public that during a work session earlier that day, the Council had discussed modifications to make the ordinance more restrictive than the version approved by the Planning Commission.

Justin Williams summarized the key changes discussed:

- Hyperscale facilities banned: The definition of hyperscale facilities would be retained for reference, but such facilities would be explicitly prohibited within city limits, effectively capping all permissible data centers at 50 acres.
- Removal of hyperscale-related language: Sections addressing parking, setbacks, buffers, and reuse water provisions specific to hyperscale facilities would be removed.
- Noise standard update: The ordinance would utilize ambient DBC conditions rather than DBA for noise and sound study requirements.
- Sustainability provisions: Language regarding bioswales and permeability improvements would be added.
- Special Use Permit required: Data centers would not be permitted by right in any zoning district; all proposals would require a Special Use Permit, giving the Council full discretion to approve or deny any application.

No one spoke in favor of the request.

Jason McCoy raised concerns about power consumption, asking whether data centers would draw from the public grid or provide their own power infrastructure. Mr. McCoy also inquired about water consumption.

Planning Director Justin Williams confirmed that the proposed ordinance would require closed-loop water systems.

Mayor McCollar responded that updated state policy requires data centers to provide their own power infrastructure, a matter regulated at the state level rather than locally.

Virginia Russell shared with the Mayor and City Council a list of potential drawbacks regarding data centers, which she compiled through online research. In addition to this list, she expressed specific concerns regarding noise levels, the use of renewable energy, and water consumption.

Mayor McCollar addressed by referencing the Council's recent site visits to edge data center facilities in the Atlanta area, where noise was found to be negligible even at close proximity.

David Warren Goodknife, a member of the Greener Boro Commission, urged the Council to proceed cautiously, drawing an analogy from the music industry's transition from cassettes to CDs to streaming, suggesting that data center technology may evolve rapidly enough to render current decisions moot. He expressed concerns about the impact on the electric grid, potential surveillance implications, and electromagnetic frequency exposure from related infrastructure, recommending the Council take its time before committing.

A motion was made to close the public hearing.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

Council deliberation centered on the question of whether to advance the ordinance to a first reading that evening or to defer it to allow additional public input on the modified version. Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr expressed a preference for deferral, noting that the public had not yet had the opportunity to review and respond to the modified—more restrictive—version. She indicated that passing it forward at first reading would mean any subsequent public comment at second reading would be responding to an already-approved document.

Mayor McCollar acknowledged the concern but noted the Council had engaged in an extensive process over several months, including site visits to Atlanta-area facilities and multiple work sessions. He expressed confidence in the changes made and noted that no residents had contacted him directly with concerns about data centers. He also stated that if new, compelling information emerged at second reading, the Council retained the ability to further amend or delay final approval.

Councilmember John Riggs both expressed support for moving forward, acknowledging that public engagement typically increases after a first reading is reported in the press. The Council agreed that public comment on the modified ordinance would be accommodated at the second reading.

Mr. Penny emphasized for the public record that the Special Use Permit requirement is the most critical safeguard in the ordinance: regardless of what data center proposals may come forward, no facility can be approved without an affirmative vote of the Council.

A motion was made to approve with staff modifications as discussed during the work session, the first reading of **Ordinance 2026-01**: An Ordinance Amending - Section 2.4.14: of the Unified Development Code to create zoning classifications and requirements for the development of Technological Facilities & Data Centers.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

10. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-19: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2026.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-19**: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2026.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember Paulette Chavers
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

11. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-20: A Resolution authorizing execution of documents with Queensborough Bank relating to a Refunding Revenue Bond necessary to refinance the installation of public infrastructure in the Old Register TAD.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-20**: A Resolution authorizing execution of documents with Queensborough Bank relating to a Refunding Revenue Bond necessary to refinance the installation of public infrastructure in the Old Register TAD.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

12. Consideration of a motion to approve Resolution 2026-21: A Resolution authorizing and directing City of Statesboro to appropriate available and uncommitted funds in its budget for the current fiscal year and future fiscal year budgets in an amount equal to the sum of any deficiency in the payment of debt service, if any, on the City of Statesboro, Georgia Tax Allocation District Refunding Revenue Bond (Old Register TAD Projects), Series 2026, anticipated to be issued and delivered on or about June 15, 2026.

A motion was made to approve **Resolution 2026-21**: A Resolution authorizing and directing City of Statesboro to appropriate available and uncommitted funds in its budget for the current fiscal year and future fiscal year budgets in an amount equal to the sum of any deficiency in the payment of debt service, if any, on the City of Statesboro, Georgia Tax Allocation District Refunding Revenue Bond (Old Register TAD Projects), Series 2026, anticipated to be issued and delivered on or about June 15, 2026.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

13. Consideration of a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Statesboro and the Development Authority of Bulloch County to continue the Business Recruiter position.

A motion was made to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Statesboro and the Development Authority of Bulloch County to continue the Business Recruiter position.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

14. Consideration of a motion to award a three-year contract with the option to renew for two additional years on a year-to-year basis for Property & Casualty and Workers Compensation insurance brokerage services to Gallagher.

A motion was made to approve an award of a three-year contract with the option to renew for two additional years on a year-to-year basis for Property & Casualty and Workers Compensation insurance brokerage services to Gallagher.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

15. Consideration of a motion to approve Contract Amendment #2 with Cranston Engineering in the amount of \$29,900 for engineering design services for ENG-92 West Main Streetscape, to be funded by 2018 TSPLOST funds.

A motion was made to approve Contract Amendment #2 with Cranston Engineering in the amount of \$29,900 for engineering design services for ENG-92 West Main Streetscape, to be funded by 2018 TSPLOST funds.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Chavers, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

16. Public Comments (General):

Jammie Chavers addressed the Council as a concerned parent. He described a situation in which his eleventh-grade daughter, an honor student who had not previously been in trouble, was arrested, handcuffed, and expelled from Statesboro High School following an incident in which he stated she was the victim of an assault. He expressed frustration with what he described as an incomplete investigation, lack of access to full video footage, and the school administration's handling of the matter. He requested fairness, transparency, and accountability from those in authority over the school.

Mayor McCollar directed City Manager Charles Penny and the Police Chief to meet with Mr. Chavers following the meeting to review the situation and determine what assistance could be offered.

17. Other Business from City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr offered congratulations to Allen Muldrew and the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority (DSDA) on their recertification as a Main Street USA city, recognizing the organization's continued contributions to the vitality and character of Statesboro.

18. City Managers Comments

City Manager Charles Penny, presented the Council with updated information regarding the city's budget challenges stemming from Bulloch County's dissolution of the fire district 18 months prior, which created an estimated \$2.7 million negative impact on the city's budget. The city funded fire department operations through intergovernmental loans in the current fiscal year, a measure acknowledged as unsustainable.

Mr. Penny reported that recent developments may reduce the extent of any millage rate increase previously anticipated. Specifically, the state began receiving FLOST funds in January 2026, and the city may receive five to six months' worth of those funds this fiscal year—potentially \$1.6 to \$1.7 million—rather than waiting for the full year's allocation. Additionally, early tax digest data suggests the digest may come in higher than the conservative 8 percent growth assumption used in the budget, which could further reduce the revenue gap.

He outlined the alternatives if the Council chose not to pursue a millage rate increase: a reduction of approximately 60 personnel from the general fund, or a significant drawdown of the city's general fund reserve—currently at approximately \$6.7 million (roughly 25 percent of the budget)—neither of which he recommended.

Mayor McCollar responded, stating he did not provide direction to cut 60 positions. He recounted the history of the fire district dissolution in detail, emphasizing that the decision was made by a reduced quorum of the County Commission without the presence of the then-Chairman or County Manager, and without prior notice to the city. He described the decision as "asinine" and noted that the city had warned at the time that dissolving the 47-year fire service agreement would increase costs for the entire county—a prediction he stated has been borne out. He made clear that reducing city staff to offset a problem caused by the county's decision was not a direction he would support.

Councilmember Paulette Chavers echoed those remarks, stating she was not in favor of cutting staff members who are trying to feed their families, and referenced her prior advocacy for a modest millage rate increase to address the issue before it reached this point.

Councilmember John Riggs noted that a more gradual transition—had the county approached the city years in advance—could have allowed for a managed resolution without the current fiscal strain.

The Council provided no direction to reduce personnel or draw down reserves. Mr. Penny acknowledged the guidance and noted the situation is expected to normalize as FLOST funds flow in, characterizing the current budget pressure as a one-year adjustment.

Mr. Penny announced that Police Chief Mike Broadhead has submitted his retirement, effective July 1, 2026. He informed the Council that Development Associates—the firm used in the original search that resulted in Chief Mike's hiring—has been engaged to manage the search process for a replacement. The process will include employee and community focus groups to identify desired characteristics for the next chief.

Mayor McCollar expressed strong appreciation for Chief Mike's service, describing him as the most knowledgeable local law enforcement professional he had encountered and praising his character and dedication to the people of Statesboro.

Councilmember Paulette Chavers read a formal statement of resignation as District 2, Councilmember, effective immediately. The following is her statement:

“Mayor, Fellow Council Members, and Citizens of Statesboro,

It is with deep gratitude and sincere reflection that I submit my resignation from Statesboro City Council effective immediately.

Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am truly thankful for the trust placed in me by the residents of this city and for the opportunity to work alongside dedicated leaders, staff, and community members who care deeply about the future of our city.

Throughout my time on the council, I have witnessed the strength, resilience, and compassion that make this community special. Together, we have celebrated victories, faced challenges, and worked diligently to create positive change for our citizens. I am proud of what we have accomplished and grateful for every conversation, partnership, and moment of service.

This decision has not been easy. After much prayer and consideration, I believe it is time for me to step away from this role and focus on the next season of my personal and professional journey. While I may be resigning from my official position, my love and support for this community will remain steadfast.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to my fellow council members for your collaboration and commitment to public service. I also thank the city employees whose hard work often goes unseen but is essential to the success of our city. I also want to thank my family and friends who have stood by and supported me during the toughest seasons of my life. Most importantly, I thank the citizens for allowing me to serve you. Your voices, concerns, and hopes have continually inspired me.

I leave this position hopeful for the future of Statesboro and confident that the strong leadership lead by Mayor McCollar and community unity will continue to move this city forward.

May God continue to bless our city, its leaders, and every family who calls this community home.”

Mayor McCollar offered heartfelt personal remarks recognizing Councilmember Shay's contributions, particularly her willingness to lead ad hoc community initiatives, her kindness, and her service as part of the incoming class of council members. He announced that a public reception would be organized to allow the community to honor her service.

19. Consideration of a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss “Personnel Matters” “Real Estate” and/or “Potential Litigation” in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).

At 7:24 pm a motion was made to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-14-3(b).

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

At 7:30 pm a motion was made to exit executive session.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember John Riggs
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

A motion was made to appoint Michelle Wilson and Megan Kriss to the Keep Statesboro Bulloch Beautiful Advisory Board.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Shari Barr
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

20. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn.

RESULT:	Approved (Unanimous)
MOVER:	Councilmember John Riggs
SECONDER:	Councilmember Tangie Johnson
AYES:	Johnson, Riggs, Barr
ABSENT:	Councilmember Ginny Hendley

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor

Leah Harden, City Clerk