Statesboro City Council Meeting

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**Statesboro City Council Meeting Meets for First Time at Georgia Southern University**

STATESBORO- The Student Government Association and the American Association of University Professors arranged The Statesboro City Council meeting and public hearing, at the Georgia Southern University’s Nesmith Lane Continuing Education building, on Wednesday April 20. Usually meetings are conducted at City Hall in downtown Statesboro.

“The reason why we moved was because we wanted to have the student population of GSU more involved in the city of Statesboro government…We feel like we would make a convenience to come to you, the GSU students, and let them see how the city government operates…We are looking at this as historical, we had a good crowd, and we were happy to be here.” Said Mayor Brannen

The Statesboro City Council meeting was represented by: **Mayor Joe Brannen, Mayor Pro Tem Will Britt (3rd district), Travis Chance (5th district), John Riggs (4th district), Gary Lewis (2nd district), and Tommy Blitch (1st district). Roughly 400 students, staff and public were also in attendance, including Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel.**

**The hearing began with a call to order by Mayor Joe Brannen. Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was conducted, by Council member Travis Chance. Following, a representative from Georgia Southern University Student Government Association gave a welcome speech to the students and public.**

**The first considerations of motion were the approvals of a business license for Roosevelt Robertson, of the Circle Double RR Taxi Service; an alcohol license for Pallavi Patel, of Sparkers Convenience store; and of** *Ordinance 2010-13*, which amends the franchise agreement granted to Georgia Power Company.

The Statesboro City Council also approved the nomination of City Manager Shane Haynes and Finance Director Cindy West to the Statesboro-Bulloch County Land Bank Authority, which was created to dispose of properties that were purchased or received by the city due to abandonment or tax sale. Due to approval, Michael Graves has asked the county to select its two members for the board should the council approve these appointments.

City Manager Shane Haynes was also approved to enter into negotiations with Blount, Burke, Wimberley & Hendricks Insurers to establish property and liability insurance terms and final pricing.

Southern Champion Construction, Inc was given a contract as the low-bidder, in the amount of $697,701.00, for construction of the new Reuse Water System to supply Georgia Southern, referred to as the “Purple Pipe Ordinance.” Also, a 1987- 24 foot Dorsey Aluminum Semi Trailer was approved to be disposed of by government.

**The only consideration denied was an alcohol license was denied to Hayward Arthur Fields, of Platinum Lounge, for insufficient documentation in regards to the alcohol license application.**

**The public hearing was adjourn after final reports from the staff, including the City Manager’s report, the Department Head reports and any remaining business from the City Council. A brief acknowledgement of Georgia Southern University’s President, Brooks Keel, was also made, as he stood in the back of the auditorium with his collages, witnessing many student’s first City Council meeting.**

“You can't ask for a better opportunity for students to understand how government work unless you can see it in person and touch it and feel it - and that's what happened here tonight,” Keel said. “Obviously some were encouraged to be here, there's no doubt about that, but I think more importantly the students care about where they live. They care about Statesboro, they care about what's going on here and they're proud to be a part of Statesboro and this county. The turnout speaks to that.”

Usually, the Statesboro City Council Meetings are conducted the first Tuesday of the month, at 9 a.m. and the third Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m. They are held on the Second floor of City Hall, in downtown Statesboro, off Main Street. For more information on the Statesboro City Council meetings and its members, visit the City of Statesboro website at: <http://www.statesboroga.net/>.