



**Mayor and City Council Regular Session**  
Tuesday, March 04, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

**Minutes**

1 **Mayor and Council: Dr. Beverly Jones – Mayor | Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith**  
2 **Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass | Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos**  
3 **Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman | Post 5: Council Member Shawnette Bryant**  
4 **Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe**

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6 **Staff: Shawn Edmondson - City Manager | Maggie Dimov - Assistant City Manager**  
7 **DDA/Economic Development Director | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Jeff Strickland - City**  
8 **Attorney**  
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11 Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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13 PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,  
14 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:  
15 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

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17 **I. Public Hearing**

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19 1. Public Hearing: Special use permit to allow for a granite fabrication shop at 973 Sheppard  
20 Road (Parcel ID: 18 074 02 052).

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22 City Planner Elizabeth Mitchum gave an overview of the project. It was the recommendation of  
23 the Planning Commission to deny approval.

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25 Partner of the applicant, Megan Benardize, translated Cesar Hernandez. Ms. Benardize noted  
26 the building was being leased for 4 months and explained further dust won't cause problems.

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28 Opposed

29 **Public Comment 1: Joan Monroe** - explained how building is across from homes and  
30 granite dust is toxic and harmful

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32 **Public Comment2: Grace Kelley:** - explained the emissions issues, the wait of granite  
33 trucks coming in and out, and how it doesn't need to be near homes

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35 **Public Comment 3: Ms.Thomas** - explained how it is a toxic process, causes health risk,  
36 and waste coming from product

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38 **Public Comment4: Vanessa Wallace** - explained how residents and the park are across  
39 the street and agreed with others with opposing

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41 No comments received in favor of the project.

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43 2. Public Hearing: Special use permit to allow for a self-service laundromat at 5444  
44 Rockbridge Road (Parcel ID: 18 037 12 007).

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Applicant, Daljeet Singh, gave details of the shopping center and the 10,000 sq. ft. proposed laundromat; also explained how it suits/benefits the area

In Favor

**Public Comment 1: Gail Graham** - explained how no other laundromat is close by

**Public Comment 2: Grace Kelley:** explained it's useful to the city and a gateway; also how there's no other business in plaza and no harm to community

**Public Comment 3: Name inaudible** - explained how it's useful to community and greeting other businesses to shopping center

Opposed

**Public Comment 4: Sharon Frierson** - explained because it's a gateway doesn't think it's a good look and doesn't bring quality business

**Public Comment 5: Ms. Thomas** - doesn't think it's a good look because people hang out at laundromats and need security; sewer problems need to be addressed and what it's doing to infrastructure

- 3. Public Hearing: Rezoning request from Village Center Mixed-Use (VCM) to Traditional Residential (R-2) at 1031 Ridge Avenue (Parcel ID: 18 089 02 004).

The applicant, Grace Kelley, addressed the rezoning issue, advocating for the area to be designated as residential rather than Village Center Mixed-Use.

In Favor

**Public Comment 1: Joan Monroe** - explained how it's always been a home and shouldn't be mixed use

**Public Comment 2: Ms. Thomas** - should not have happened and needs to be fixed

**Public Comment 3: Clint Monroe** - should be removed and original zoning was an error

II. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem motioned to adjourn, Councilman Freeman seconded; Motion was approved with a unanimous vote and adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

III. Call to Order – 7:01 p.m.

IV. Determination of Quorum

PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

V. Invocation and Pledge

Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation.

VI. Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders

100 **Citizen Comment 1: Grace Kelley** - commended Mardi Gras and to use events like this for  
101 revenue; should use lawn for events to not have so much road closure; DOA and Zoning  
102 meeting should not be on same night.  
103

104 **Citizen Comment 2: Cheryl Dudley** - commended Mardi Gras and more events like this can  
105 bring revenue and community; use lawn to not charge for parking; take confederate symbols  
106 out of cemetery.  
107

108 **Citizen Comment 3: Carl Wright** - parade came out well and many people at businesses;  
109 potholes still on James B. Rivers; Kaboom at McCurdy Park; trashcans not by playground.  
110

111 **Citizen Comment 4: Joan Monroe** - festival was great; Council doesn't listen to people but  
112 Mayor can talk whenever while citizens are shorted; mentioned Women's Hist and Black  
113 History; talked about parking; missing 300k; DDA member wanted credit for business; doubled  
114 staff inabilities of manager and Chief isn't doing his job; do your job no matter how long it  
115 takes.  
116

117 **Citizen Comment 5: Waini Buggs**- sidewalks at Mountain View still needed; potholes at  
118 Sheppard Road and not included in budget; senior citizens don't know who to talk to and need  
119 help with houses.  
120

121 **Citizen Comment 6: Clint Monroe**- Mardi Gras was a great success; issue inviting  
122 confederate groups and gave info on history; suggested to rescind 2002 resolution previously  
123 passed.  
124

125 **Citizen Comment 7: Christopher Hunt** - trying to get MLK on Stone Mountain; state  
126 legislation changed flag of GA; Confederate flag - let's get past this war.  
127

128 **Citizen Comment 8: Sylvia** – came forward to speak about 5563 Memorial Drive, but it is not  
129 in the city limits of Stone Mountain.  
130

131 **Citizen Comment 9: Jelani Linder** - Mardi Gras was a great event; business owners gave  
132 great feedback and thanked all involved.  
133

134VII. **Review of the Journal (City Clerk)**  
135

- 136 1. Request Minutes from City Council Special Called Meeting February 8th, 2025 be  
137 approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**.  
138

139 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED**  
140 **MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

141 Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 3  
142 Smith  
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144 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor  
145 Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe  
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147 **Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant  
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149 **MOTION PASSED**  
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- 151 2. Request Minutes from City Council Special Called Meeting February 13th, 2025 AT 10:00  
152 AM be approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**  
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**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025 (10:00 A.M) SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos

**Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

**Voting No:** Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

**MOTION PASSED**

- 3. Minutes from City Council Special Called Meeting February 13th, 2025 AT 6:30 PM be approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025 (6:30 P.M.) SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

**Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

**Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

**MOTION PASSED**

- 4. Request Minutes from City Council Workshop Meeting February 18th, 2025 be approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos

**Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

**Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

**MOTION PASSED**

**VIII. Reading of Communications**

**IX. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day**

City Clerk Shavala Ames requested to remove Item 7 Benefits Resolution, and Item 8, A&S Paving Project from the agenda.

**ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY AS AMENDED**

208 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith moved to approve to adopt the Agenda of the Day with the  
209 request to remove Item 7, Benefits Resolution, and Item 8, A&S Paving Project, seconded  
210 by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos

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212 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,  
213 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council  
214 Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe  
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216 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**  
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218 X. **City Manager's Report**  
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220 1. City Manager - Shawn Edmondson  
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222 City Manager Edmondson gave an overview of the report provided to Mayor and Council.  
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224 2. February Employee of the Month – Ms. Carolyn Jewell was announced as the  
225 employee of the month.  
226

227 XI. **Council Policy Discussion Topics**  
228

229 XII. **Unfinished Business**  
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231 XIII. **New Business**  
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233 1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve special use permit to allow for a  
234 granite fabrication shop at 973 Sheppard Road (Parcel ID: 18 074 02 052), requested  
235 by City Planner Richard Edwards  
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237 **ACTION: MOTION TO DENY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR GRANITE**  
238 **FABRICATION SHOP AT 973 SHEPPARD ROAD**

239 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 2  
240 Marianos  
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242 **Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor  
243 Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5  
244 Bryant, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe  
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246 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSY)**  
247

248 2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve special use permit to allow for a  
249 self-service laundromat at 5444 Rockbridge Rd (Parcel ID: 18 037 12 007), requested  
250 by City Planner Richard Edwards  
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252 Mr. Singh stepped forward to advocate for the laundromat project, emphasizing the  
253 significant financial investment involved and his desire to safeguard it. Members of the  
254 Mayor and Council discussed the potential advantages and drawbacks of the project,  
255 including concerns about loitering, and another laundromat being in close proximity. To  
256 address security, it was recommended that cameras be installed, and that the operating  
257 hours be limited to no later than 10:00 p.m.  
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259 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR SELF-**  
260 **SERVICE LAUNDROMAT AT 5444 ROCKBRIDGE ROAD CLOSING NO LATER**  
261 **THAN 10 P.M.**  
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Motion made by Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**Voting No:** Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

**MOTION PASSED**

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve rezoning request from Village Center Mixed-Use (VCM) to Traditional Residential (R-2) at 1031 Ridge Avenue (Parcel ID: 18 089 02 004), requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ZONING REQUEST FROM VILLAGE CENTER MIXED-USE (VCM) TO TRADITIONAL RESIDENTIAL (R-2) AT 1031 RIDGE AVENUE**

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**Voting No:** Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

**MOTION PASSED**

4. Consideration of an action on a request of consideration of Theresa Thomas for appointment to the Planning Commission, requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

City Attorney provided an overview of the committees and outlined the policy regarding family members serving on City of Stone Mountain committees.

Theresa Thomas came forward and gave an overview of her background and experience as it relates to the Planning Commission.

**ACTION: MOTION OF CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT THERESA THOMAS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

**Voting No:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**MOTION FAILED**

5. Consideration of an action on a request of consideration of Clint Monroe for appointment to the Planning Commission, requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

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Clint Monroe came forward and gave an overview of his background and experience as it relates to the Planning Commission.

**ACTION: MOTION OF CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT CLINT MONROE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman

**MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND**

- 6. Consideration of an action on a request of approval of Communication Specialist Position - request by City Manager Shawn Edmondson

City Manager Edmondson described the duties of the Communications Specialist as outlined in the job description and how it will be budgeted. Funds that were initially budgeted for the contracted firm will be allocated for the Communications Specialist position if approved.

Council members shared their perspectives on the proposed addition of a Communications Specialist, expressing concerns about insufficient funds to hire a qualified candidate and the lack of events to justify the position. The City Manager also emphasized that hiring a Communications Specialist directly would ultimately save the city money.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST OF COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST POSITION**

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**Voting No:** Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

**MOTION PASSED**

- 9. Consideration of an action on a request for an extension of the zoning entitlements at 6803 James B River Memorial Drive (Parcel ID: 18 126 06 002), requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

City Planner Elizabeth Mitchum provided an overview of the proposed extension. City Attorney Strickland reviewed the statutory restrictions and recommended against a long-term extension. Mr. Hunt then addressed the council, discussing efforts to collaborate with DeKalb County Water to advance the project.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF ZONING ENTITLEMENTS AT 6803 JAMES B RIVER MEMORIAL DRIVE WITH THE PROVISIO TO STRIKE CONDITION #18**

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**Voting No:** Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

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**MOTION PASSED**

10. Consideration of an action on a request to update the Historic Design Guidelines to include guidelines on the installation of solar panel, requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO UPDATE THE HISTORIC DESIGN GUIDELINES TO INCLUDE GUIDELINES ON THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANEL**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

11. Consideration of an action on a request to approve Kaboom! agreement, requested by Council Member Gil Freeman

Councilmember Freeman provided an overview of the Kaboom! Project, emphasizing the urgency of approving the item in a timely manner. Members of the Mayor and Council engaged in a discussion about the project's timeline and the necessity of incorporating a playground cover.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE KABOOM! AGREEMENT**

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant, Mayor Jones

**Voting No:** Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**MOTION PASSED**

**[Due to the adoption of Resolution 2024-14, the meeting will end at 10:00 p.m. and any remaining items will be moved to the next available meeting]**

**Adjournment**

**ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING at 10:03 P.M.**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos

**Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

**MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**



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433 **Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor**

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**City Clerk, Shavala Ames**

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