



Mayor and City Council Regular Session

Tuesday, September 03, 2024 at 6:30 PM

City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Minutes

Mayor and Council: Dr. Beverly Jones – Mayor | Post 3 :Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith

Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass | Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos

Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman | Post 5: Council Member Shawnette Bryant

Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe

**Staff: Shawn Edmondson - Interim City Manager - City Clerk | Danny Mai - Assistant City Clerk |
Jeff Strickland - City Attorney**

City of Stone Mountain, GA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofStoneMtn/>

Link to join Webinar: [\[LINK\]](#)

Call to Order

Mayor Jones called Meeting to order at 06:43 PM ET.

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

Invocation and Pledge

Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance at 06:44 PM ET. Mayor Jones led the Invocation at 06:45 PM ET.

Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders (3 minutes per comment)

Comments from the Public

The public comments are reserved exclusively for comments from the public and not for immediate reply. The purpose of public comment is to allow the public to voice city related requests, concerns or opinions only during the public comment portion of the City Council meeting. I. The Mayor and City Council reserves the right to extend or limit the length of public comments based on: (1) the issue under discussion; (2) the number of items on the agenda; and (3) the extent to which the speaker remains constructive in their comments and questions. II. The public may not directly confront the public speaker but must direct all comments and questions to the Mayor and City Council. III. Public harassment of or confrontation with a public speaker will not be tolerated. Members of the public violating tenets two or three will be asked to sit down or leave the premises.

Citizen Comment #[1] (Eileen Smith): Smith discussed the prior meeting, noting the importance of creating legislative decisions. Smith noted the importance of time management, understanding the charter, and actions of elected officials. Smith additionally noted the differences between the City Master Plan & City Comprehensive Plan.

Citizen Comment #[2] (Sara Abrams): Abrams noted the importance of having dialogue including nondenominational inclusive invocations, between other religions. Abrams also noted that there is a diverse community amongst the City of Stone Mountain, and that it is important not to alienate community members.

Citizen Comment #[3] (Kay Nunez): Nunez mentioned the importance of respecting and embracing volunteers. Nunez additionally mentioned the importance of having safe crosswalks within City Limits and hopes that the city can identify major crosswalk hazards within limits. Nunez noted that it is important to make them (the crosswalks) safer, and brighter.

Citizen Comment #[4] (Ginger Criswell): Criswell noted that JBR should be scheduled for the next round of SPLOST Funding. Criswell additionally mentioned the importance of having crosswalks that are safe within City Limits. Criswell noted that many cars speed well past the speed limits, disregarding speed limit up to 90MPH.

Citizen Comment #[5] (Ms. Thomas): Thomas noted that it is important to have collaboration between council members in order to become more efficient. Thomas noted that there needs to be more value given to citizens given the amount of taxes that citizens pay.

Citizen Comment #[6] (Joan Monroe): Monroe noted that crime reports are important for Citizens. Monroe is requesting that it becomes mandatory for the city to publish real crime reports weekly. Monroe noted that it is important to do research on city finances before adopting new financial software.

Citizen Comment #[7] (B Patterson): Patterson noted that it is important to investigate and look into why the city is looking into getting a new accounting software. Patterson additionally noted that it is important to look at the City Budget. Patterson noted the importance of ordinances and keeping them updated.

Review of the Journal (Interim City Manager & City Clerk Edmondson)

1. Request Minutes from City Council Meeting [12.19.2023] be approved

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED

2. Request Minutes from City Council Meeting (Millage Rate) [06.20.2024] be approved

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED

3. Request Minutes from City Council Meeting (Millage Rate) [06.27.2024] at 12:00 PM ET be approved

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED

4. Request Minutes from City Council Meeting (Millage Rate) [06.27.2024] at 06:00 PM ET be approved

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED

5. Request Minutes from City Council Meeting [08.20.2024] be approved

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED

Reading of Communications

Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

Interim City Manager Edmondson requested that there be 3 new additions to the Agenda of the Day:

- under "Unfinished Business" section #1; subsection #4 Allowing the appointment of Sarah McQuade as the lead for the Town Hall regarding zoning around the City.

- under "New Ordinances and Resolutions" section: **Resolution 2024-05** "Budget Amendment", **ORDINANCE 2024-06** (relating to the approval of text amendments to Article 3 and 5 of Appendix A – Zoning to create definitions and commercial uses for convenience stores, alcohol outlets, package stores, and smoke shop), **Ordinance 2024-05** (relating to the approval of text amendments to Article 3, 5, 16, and 17 of Appendix A – Zoning and Article 2 of Chapter 12 – Licenses and Business Regulations

to further define and regulate short-term lodging in the City of Stone Mountain)

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE DAY WITH THE ABOVE CHANGES

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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION PASSED

City Manager's Report

6. Interim City Manager - Shawn Edmondson

Interim City Manager Edmondson spoke to council regarding the City Manager's Report.

(REPORT IS ATTACHED TO AGENDA PACKAGE)

Council Policy Discussion Topics

Unfinished Business

NEW ITEMS ADDED:

#4: Appoint Sarah McQuade as the lead for the Town Hall regarding zoning around the City.

MOTION TO APPOINT SARAH MCQUADE

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, 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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman

MOTION PASSED

7. 2ND READING: Review of the proposed ordinance 2025 relating to the approval of text amendments to Article 3, 5, 16, and 17 of Appendix A – Zoning and Article 2 of Chapter 12 – Licenses and Business Regulations to further define and regulate short-term lodging in the City of Stone Mountain (City Planner Edwards)

MOVED TO NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2024-05:

MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2024-05

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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman

MOTION APPROVED

8. 2ND READING: Review of the proposed ordinance relating to the approval of text amendments to Article 3 and 5 of Appendix A – Zoning to create definitions and commercial uses for convenience stores, alcohol outlets, package stores, and smoke shops. (City Planner Edwards)

MOVED TO NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2024-06:

MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2024-06

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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION PASSED

NEW ITEM ADDED

Resolution 2024-05 "Budget Amendment"

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-06

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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION APPROVED

9. Discussion regarding Part 2 of the DDA Report (CM Gil Freeman)

CM Freeman requested City Attorney Strickland speak to council. CM Freeman requested a written email from City Attorney Strickland regarding his findings. CM Freeman noted that City Attorney Strickland has had the information for 8-10 weeks and noted that City Attorney Strickland should provide a write up regarding the information. City Attorney Strickland requested that the body direct City Attorney to create the write up.

MOTION TO COMPEL THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PROVIDE A WRITE UP REGARDING PART II OF THE DDA REPORT

Motion made by Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Seconded by Council Member: Post 5 Bryant.

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

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

MOTION FAILS

New Business

10. Discussion and Approval of Entering into an Agreement for Questica Accounting Software (Finance Director Danny L.)

Interim City Manager Edmondson spoke regarding this item.

NO ACTION... ADDITIONAL RESEARCH REQUESTED BY COUNCIL

New Ordinances and Resolutions

Remarks of Privilege

Announcements by The Mayor

Executive Session to Discuss Personnel, Legal, Cyber Security and/or Real Estate (if needed)

Executive Session

MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

EXECUTIVE SESSION at 09:39 PM ET

Adjournment