

RESOLUTION 2024-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA (THE “CITY”), TO ENFORCE ADHERENCE TO RULES OF DECORUM AND ENSURE EQUITABLE AND EFFECTIVE MEETING MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the City Charter, Section 2.16(b) provides that, “In addition to all other powers conferred upon it by law, the city council shall have the authority to adopt and provide for the execution of such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this charter and the Constitution and the laws of the State of Georgia, which it shall deem necessary, expedient, or helpful for the peace, good order, protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation, comfort, convenience, prosperity, or well-being of the inhabitants of the City of Stone Mountain and may enforce such ordinances by imposing penalties for violation thereof”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stone Mountain City Council values participatory democracy, civil discourse, and adherence to the established Rules of Decorum, which are designed to promote respect, inclusivity, and fairness in public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City’s adopted Rules of Decorum emphasize the importance of treating all participants courteously, focusing on issues rather than personalizing debates, and uniformly enforcing order at public meetings; and

WHEREAS, instances of prolonged discussions, selective recognition of speakers, avoidance of certain topics, and debates centered on personal views undermine the effectiveness of meetings, discourage participation, and conflict with the Rules of Decorum; and

WHEREAS, the role of the Presiding Officer is crucial in ensuring adherence to these rules and maintaining a public meeting environment conducive to open and respectful public discourse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia, this _____ day of _____, 202__, as follows:

Section 1: Affirmation of the Rules of Decorum. The Rules of Decorum, as adopted by the City Council on September 6, 2022, are hereby reaffirmed as the guiding principles for all public meetings in the City of Stone Mountain.

Section 2: Public Meeting Requirements.

(a) The Presiding Officer shall ensure equitable treatment of all attendees and participants by:

1. Allowing all individuals a fair opportunity to speak during public comment periods, without favoritism or bias;

2. Adhering to established time limits and agenda structures to ensure orderly and efficient meetings; and
 3. Preventing personal or extended debates that detract from agenda topics.
- (b) The time allotted for citizen comments may only be extended upon a majority vote of the members of City Council present at such meeting.
 - (c) Upon conclusion of the citizen comments portion of the agenda, no meeting attendees shall speak during the meeting without consent approval of the City Council. Meeting attendees who violate this rule will be removed from the meeting.
 - (d) A City Council member may motion to have a disruptive attendee removed from the meeting. By majority vote of the City Council members present at such meeting, the disruptive attendee shall be removed.
 - (e) No applause from the meeting attendees shall be allowed except for recognition of an achievement and in conjunction with applause from the City Council.
 - (f) All City Council meetings shall end no later than 10:00 pm and any unfinished agenda items will flow over to the next scheduled or special-called meeting.
 - (g) At the work session or the regular meeting, for each item on the agenda, City Council members shall be allotted a total of ten (10) minutes to speak and the Mayor shall be allowed two (2) minutes.
 - (h) No regular (voting) meeting agenda may be modified during a meeting to add new business items except in cases of emergency which shall be articulated and captured in the minutes of the meeting.
 - (i) No City Council member shall act in an aggressive or combative manner towards the public or with other City Council members or the Mayor.
 - (j) The Mayor shall not act in an aggressive or combative manner towards the public or with the City Council members.

Section 2:

- (a) The Presiding Officer shall remain, and if necessary, a majority of the City Council members shall ensure that the Presiding Officer remains, impartial and focus discussions on agenda items, avoiding selective omission or overemphasis of topics.

(b) All actions and rulings by the Presiding Officer shall align with the adopted Rules of Decorum and shall serve to:

1. Prevent disruptions caused by disorderly conduct or unstructured debates; and
2. Promote robust and inclusive dialogue that respects differing viewpoints.

Section 3: Monitoring and Enforcement

- (a) The City Council may review adherence to this Resolution and the Rules of Decorum through periodic assessments of meeting conduct.
- (b) Persistent violations of these principles by the Presiding Officer shall result in a formal review of conduct by the City Council.
- (c) Potential corrective actions, including censure or other measures as deemed appropriate by the City Council.

(signature page follows)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall serve as a directive to maintain the integrity, fairness, and decorum of all public meetings within the City of Stone Mountain.

**CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA, by
and through its City Council**

Beverly Jones, Mayor

Anita Bass, Post 1

Mark Marianos, Post 2

Ryan Smith, Post 3

Gil Freeman, Post 4

Shawnette Bryant, Post 5

Teresa Crowe, Post 6

[Affix City Seal]

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk