



Mayor and City Council Regular Session
Tuesday, September 2 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: Maggie Dimoc - Interim City Manager/Economic Development/DDA | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney

I. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

II. 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

III. Invocation and Pledge

Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation.

IV. Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders

Citizen Comment 1: Ann Thomas – discussed special event at Medlock Park; advocate for kids however the noise and crowd size was disruptive; seeking more supervision, rules and regulations.

Citizen Comment 2: Beverly Patterson – questioned why Truist was only being subpoenaed; concerned about work not being done on Rockborough going into week three.

Citizen Comment 3: Carl Wright – the Pond project – parking concerns; there is a lack of commercial properties; do similar as surrounding cities like Avondale.

Citizen Comment 4: Dave Thomas – is the focus on business or people; barely support current businesses; plea to keep Stone Mountain Elementary and support them.

Citizen Comment 5: Joan Monroe – nominees for removal should be non-bias; Mayor Pro Tem seems to have intent; ugly political game; SPLOST misappropriated; Mayor did not act against the law.

Citizen Comment 6: C. Monroe – fighting witch hunt battle since May; wasting the city's resources; no sworn testimony from the investigation; proposing the City of Stone Mountain adopt Stone Mountain Elementary School

V. **Review of the Journal (City Clerk)**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 19, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

VI. **Reading of Communications**

City Attorney Angela Couch came forward and read a communication from Truist Attorney Jena Bost and DDA Attorney Kyle Williams to City Attorney Angela Couch.

VII. **Adoption of The Agenda of The Day**

ACTION: ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

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

City Clerk Shavala Ames presented an addition to the agenda at the request of Council Member Freeman, who sought to remove his current Ethics Board appointee and designate a replacement.

City Attorney Couch clarified that additions to the agenda must meet the threshold of being either urgent or an emergency. Council Member Freeman stated that this matter is urgent, as his current Ethics Board appointee is no longer able to serve.

ACTION: SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE DAY AS AMENDED, REFLECTING THE REMOVAL OF STACY GREEN AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW MEMBER TO THE ETHICS BOARD

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

Voting Yea: 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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

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

ACTION: MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:04 P.M. TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 8:30 PM

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

Voting Yea: 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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

IX. City Manager's Report

1. Operations Report - Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov

Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov reviewed the Operations Report, highlighting key accomplishments and providing updates on ongoing capital projects and departmental activities. Concerns were raised regarding the limited presence of Code Enforcement in the Rockborough subdivision. Additional discussion focused on the Oakridge drainage issue and potential steps to address it.

X. Council Policy Discussion Topics

Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith provided a brief overview of the responsibilities of the Mayor Pro Tem position and indicated that he does not have an interest in serving as Mayor.

XI. Unfinished Business

XII. New Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint a hearing panel and a City Attorney for the case regarding the removal of Mayor Beverly Jones

City Attorney Couch addressed the City Council, outlining the parameters and responsibilities of the hearing panel. Attorney Couch provided clarification regarding the selection process for panel members, including the roles of the judge and attorney. The Council discussed the judge's salary and the corresponding budget allocation. Additionally, Council members inquired about the current expenditures for the City Attorney and requested that the Interim City Manager provide the invoices to date.

ACTION: MOTION TO JUDGE WIGGINS APPOINTMENT TO THE HEARING PANEL FOR THE CASE REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF MAYOR BEVERLY JONES AT \$250 AN HOUR

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

Voting Yea: 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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO APPOINT KARLA BROWN TO THE HEARING PANEL FOR THE CASE REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF MAYOR BEVERLY JONES

Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

ACTION: MOTION TO APPOINT VIRGINIA TOWNES TO THE HEARING PANEL FOR THE CASE REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF MAYOR BEVERLY JONES

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

Further discussion focused on the process for selecting hearing panel members. It was suggested that panel members be chosen at random, similar to the method used by the courts for jury selection.

ACTION: MOTION TO DESIGNATE RANDOM SELECTIONS TO THE HEARING PANEL FOR THE CASE REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF MAYOR BEVERLY JONES

Motion made by Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Shawnette Bryant

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

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

MOTION FAILED

ACTION: MOTION TO APPOINT ATTORNEY MARY PREBULA TO THE HEARING PANEL FOR THE CASE REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF MAYOR BEVERLY JONES

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the Lawn concept design

ACTION: MOTION TO POSTPONE THE CONSIDERTION OF THE LAWN CONCEPT DESIGN UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos

Voting Yea: 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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

- 220 3. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint Denise Phillips to the Ethics Board to finish an
221 unexpired term
222

223 Discussion clarified that the appointment was to complete the unexpired term of a member who no
224 longer resides within the City of Stone Mountain. Questions were raised regarding a possible conflict of
225 interest, as Ms. Phillips currently serves on another City Board. The City Attorney confirmed that no
226 conflict exists, noting that the member would be required to recuse herself should a complaint involve
227 her directly.
228

229 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPOINT DENISE PHILLIPS TO THE ETHICS BORD**

230 Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
231 Mark Marianos
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233 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
234 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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236 **Voting Nay:** Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant
237

238 Additional discussion was held regarding the process for appointing members to the Ethics Board, with
239 clarification that full Council approval is not required. The City Attorney confirmed that appointments
240 may be made directly by the elected officials. Council Member Freeman announced the appointment of
241 Joan Monroe to the Ethics Board, noting that this appointment is to fill the vacancy created by his prior
242 appointee's inability to continue serving.
243

- 244 4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve a Forensic Audit
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246 Deliberation took place regarding the forensic audit, which was first proposed in 2024 when three firms
247 were under consideration. It was recommended that the matter be revisited once the information is
248 presented to the governing body and that action be postponed until that time.
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250 **ACTION: MOTION TO POSTPONE THE CONSIDERATION OF A FORENSIC AUDIT UNTIL**
251 **THE SUPPORTING INFORMATION FROM THE THREE PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED FIRMS IS**
252 **PROVIDED.**

253 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
254 Marianos
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256 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
257 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:
258 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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260 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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- 262 5. Consideration of an action on a request to approve an emergency purchase of Axon body cameras
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264 **ACTION: MOTION TO POSTPONE THE CONSIDERATION OF A FORENSIC AUDIT UNTIL**
265 **THE SUPPORTING INFORMATION FROM THE THREE PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED FIRMS IS**
266 **PROVIDED.**

267 Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
268 Marianos
269

270 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
271 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:
272 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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274 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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279 **XIII. New Ordinances and Resolutions**
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281 1. Ordinance 2025-06 – Amend Employee Personnel Policies
282

283 Attorney Couch presented the ordinance as a first read. It will be brought back at a later meeting for
284 possible consideration. No action taken.
285

286 **XIV. Remarks of Privilege**
287

288 **XV. Adjournment**
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290 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING 10:00 P.M.**

291 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
292 Mark Marianos
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294 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
295 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:
296 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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298 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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311 **Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor**

Shavala Ames, City Clerk