

MEMORANDUM
City of Stone Mountain
875 Main Street
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

DATE: July 16, 2024
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Darnetta Tyus
RE: City Manager's Report

Thank you, Economic Development Director Maggie Dimov, for planning an amazing Business Round Table where 35+ Businesses showed up to discuss the next phase of the Main Street paving project scheduled to begin on Monday, July 22, 2024

Depot Cleanup Initiative

The City of Stone Mountain's Train Depot (922 Main Street) continues to face a plethora of perils that will affect the health and wellbeing of staff, and the quality of the building. As seen by the Department of Code Enforcement case #24-07-C10, their inspection reviews extensive damage to the following: Exterior walls, Interior walls, and ceiling. Additionally, rodent droppings (bats, rats, other rodent-like animals) can be seen scattered throughout the building. This could indicate an ongoing rodent infestation.

Code enforcement rated the building as "poor", providing a remediation of thoroughly cleaning out the building with officials wearing PPE suits and hats during the clean-up. Additionally, they recommend that this demolition be done prior to any extermination work, which will be provided at the end of the demolition by the construction company.

Attached in the agenda package should be a comprehensive report done by Code Enforcement, in addition to estimates done by Kissberg Construction. It should be noted that Kissberg Construction submitted the lowest bid of \$29,950.00. The funds used for this project are slated to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Staff is requesting approval of the contract.

Stone Mountain Elementary School Mentoring Program & Adoption of the School

Administration is excited to propose to City Council the Stone Mountain Elementary School Reading and Math Club mentoring program. This program aims to be

"a collaborative initiative between the Stone Mountain City Council and Stone Mountain Elementary School to establish a Reading and Math Club combined with a Mentorship Program for students in grades Pre-K through 5th grade. This program aims to enhance academic achievement, foster a love of learning, and provide positive role models for young students."

Ultimately concluding that,

"By partnering with Stone Mountain Elementary School, the Stone Mountain City Council can play a pivotal role in supporting the academic and personal growth of young students. This Reading and Math Club, combined with a Mentorship Program, will provide essential resources and positive role models, helping to build a stronger, more educated community."

Updates on City Finances

Monthly Financial Report: The latest financial report for 05. 2024 is in your agenda package.

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SPLOST I Update: Please see the updated chart attached in the agenda package.

SPLOST II Update: Currently we have received two (2) payments totally approx.. \$200,000.00

ARPA Update: This will be discussed in executive session

ARPA Opinion Update: As mentioned by the grant writer in their memo, ARPA can be utilized for the following items: **Government Services** (Public Safety, Public Health, Education, Infrastructure, Parks and Recreation), **Economic Development** (Business Support, Land Acquisition), **Public Use** (Community Facilities, Public Housing), and **Infrastructure Projects** (Transportation, Utilities). Additionally, the grants writer specifically mentions the ability to utilize ARPA funds for the use of land acquisition. Please see attached memo.

Grants Report Update: Attached is the Grants Report Update.

Potential Short-Term uses for the "Baptist Lawn"

Chief Westerfield created a document labeled, *Short-Term Plan for the Use of City of Stone Mountain Baptist Lawn: Special Events Space vs. Public Green Space*, concluding that

"Utilizing the Baptist lawn as a special events space provides greater financial benefits and better control over the property's condition. However, transforming it into a public green space offers community recreational benefits but comes with higher maintenance costs and potential depreciation."

This item will be further discussed as the agenda progresses. Please note that staff is seeking further guidance from City Mayor and Council.