Mayor and City Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:30 PM
City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Minutes

Mayor and Council: Jelani Linder – Mayor| Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith | Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass | Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos | Post 4: Council Member Kay Nunez Post 5: Council Member Hub Jordan | Post 6: Council Member Elaine Vaughn

Staff: Maggie Dimov – City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Angela Couch - City Attorney | City Clerk – Shavala Ames

Mission Statement: The City of Stone Mountain serves our residents, businesses, and visitors by providing an enhanced quality of life and a unique sense of place, guided by trust and integrity.

I. **Call to Order**
Mayor Linder called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

III. **Invocation and Pledge**
Mayor Linder led a 30-second moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. **Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders**

Citizen Comment 1: Dave Thomas – Recognized and praised Elle Walker, the City's Tourism Manager, for the exceptional job she's doing in her position. Also recognized Garret Shan, the City's Senior Planner, for his assistance during the permit application submission process.

Citizen Comment 2: Joan Monroe – Spoke regarding the safety of citizens. Does not feel the City has taken the proper steps to protect citizens. Feels that crime has increased and that citizens live in fear.

Citizen Comment 3: Michael Rollins – Spoke regarding the Mayors background in being a broker, the feasibility studies completed regarding the Lawn on Main, and the Mayors Facebook post regarding a hotel being the best outcome for the Lawn. Advised that the Mayor predicted the Lawn on Main Project to be 30 million dollars. Feels that the City Manager pressured JLL to move quickly regarding the feasibility study and that the Mayor is vested in having a hotel on the Lawn. Reiterated the discussion had at the City Council Meeting held on 10/06/2026 regarding changing the Lawn on Main operating hours.

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

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve October 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames **Goal - Governance**

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 6, 2026, MEETING MINUTES
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

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 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. **Reading of Communications – None**

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

ACTION: MOTION TO ADPOT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY WITH THE AMENDED CHANGE TO ADD ITEM #4 UNDER NEW BUSINESS TO ITEM #1 UNDER COUNCIL POLICY DISCUSSION TOPICS
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 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. **Committee Reports**

1. Stone Mountain Community Garden – SMCG Chair Columbus Brown – reviewed report as outlined in the agenda packet.

2. Planning Commission – Community Development Director Thatcher Hart – reviewed report as outlined in the agenda packet.

The governing body inquired regarding the timeline for completion of the GovWell Software. It was also noted that there are outdated forms on the City's website and inquired if they can be updated.

3. Historic Preservation Commission – Community Development Director Thatcher Hart – reviewed report as outlined in the agenda packet.

Council Member Nunez inquired regarding how new residents are informed about permits they need from the City and Council Member Jordan inquired regarding the purpose of the Historic Survey and the product everyone can expect from it.

IX. **Staff Reports**

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1. Operations Report – City Manager Maggie Dimov – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet. Announced the City's Trunk or Treat event to be held on Friday, October 30th, from 6pm-9pm.

The governing body inquired regarding the timeline to complete the LAP Certification for the Public Works Department, if the Mimosa and Main Project is tied to the LAP Certification and whether the Certification is individual specific or for the City.

2. Budget to Actuals – Michelle Uran – Financial Consultant – reviewed report as outlined in the agenda packet.

The governing body inquired regarding the Finance Departments confidence with where the City is financially and invited everyone to the next Ambassadors Meeting regarding Governmental Budgets, if SPLOST I funds are encumbered to something or are unspent and the possibility of the City being able to invest into GA Fund 1 in the new year.

3. Public Safety – Major S.E. Parks – reviewed report as outlined in the agenda packet.

The governing body inquired regarding whether the City has an officer visiting and connecting with schools in the City, citation statistics, and the difference between violations and citations.

X. **Council Policy Discussion Topics**

1. Tax Allocation District Partnership – Representative for Decide Dekalb Tiffany Wills – presented.

The governing body inquired regarding if the TAD Team helps cities decide, how TAD and Decide Dekalb gets funded and is a portion from businesses, how long it freezes, if the map or parcels define the TAD and if TAD can fund the Downtown Development Authority.

XI. **Unfinished Business – None**

XII. **New Business**

1. Consideration of approval of an agreement with Legacy Mechanical Services for preventative maintenance on HVAC units at City Hall, Police Department, and Historic Museum facilities

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH LEGACY MECHANICAL SERVICES FOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE ON HVAC UNITS AT CITY HALL, POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HISTORIC MUSUEM FACILITIES
Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

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 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the purchase of a Storm Drain Inspection Camera

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A STORM DRAIN INSPECTION CAMERA

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Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn, 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 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve Southern Premier Contractors to repair six damaged catch basin tops within City limits

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE SOUTHERN PREMIER CONTRACTORS TO REPAIR SIX DAMAGED CATCH BASN TOPS WITHIN CITY LIMITS
Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

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 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the finalist for the Mardi Gras Event – No Action Taken

Bundos Entertainment and The Event Collective presented their proposals to host the City's 2027 Mardi Gras event. Both organizations outlined their respective plans for the event route, schedule of activities, vendors, sponsors, and other event components, as detailed in the Council packet.

Following the presentations, it was determined that both proposals offered potential benefits and opportunities for partnership with the City. The selection of the organization to host the event will be considered at the next City Council meeting.

5. Consideration of an action on a request approve the renaming of Mackin Street to Woodson Morris Street

Council member Vaughn gave a brief background on the renaming of Mackin Street that was initially approved in 2025. Community Development Director Thatcher Hart gave further insight that the original proposed name was to long to fit on the street sign, therefore a shortened version of the name should be considered.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RENAMING OF MACKIN STREET TO WOODSON MORRIS STREET
Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn, 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 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

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XIII. **New Ordinances and Resolutions**

1. Resolution 2026-22 – Adoption of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-22 ADOPTION OF THE 2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, 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 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

XIV. **Remarks of Privilege**

Council Member Bass thanked everyone who participated in the fifth Community Ambassadors Cleanup and mentioned the Teachers Appreciation Event that was held at Stone Mountain Elementary School. Council Member Bass also invited everyone to the Helping Hands Event on Thursday, October 22nd. Council Member Marianos requested a consensus to have further discussion regarding the proposals received for the City's 2027 Mardi Gras Event at the next City Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Smith mentioned the fundraiser at the Wells Brown House on Saturday, October 24th. Council Member Nunez invited everyone to Pastor G's Movie on the Lawn Event to be held on Saturday, November 7th.

XV. **Announcements by The Mayor**

Mayor Linder expressed his excitement for the opening of the Welcome Center and Museum on October 31st.

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

ACTION: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:12 P.M. TO DISCUSS LEGAL AND PERSONNEL
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 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 10:03 P.M. - (2) ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
Motion made Mayor Pro Tem: Ryan Smith, 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 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

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XVII. **Adjournment**

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 10:03 P.M.
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, 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 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

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Jelani Linder, Mayor **City Clerk, Shavala Ames**

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