



Mayor and City Council Regular Session
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 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 - City Manager | Maggie Dimov - Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney

I. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:32 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, followed by the invocation.

IV. Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders

Citizen Comment 1: Kay Nunez – City is alive with energy – thanked all those involved; Used See Click Fix and it works great.

Citizen Comment 2: Cherly Dudley – Council needs to review what open record requests are about – requester is able to contact the Attorney General and copy him on open records requests; requests should be honored and at a reasonable cost.

Citizen Comment 3: Joan Monroe – The law is being ignored; contracts issued are against City code; someone was chosen to lead the charge to get rid of the black mayor; the state will shut you down; public oversight has been removed from funds and parks; Parks and Rec Chair asked for records repeatedly for over a year – records should be turned over; council refuses to look at millions in misappropriated tax dollars; stop being self-serving – most corrupt city in the county; the 15.827 millage should be 12.

V. Review of the Journal

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve June 17, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 17, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Motion made by 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 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting No: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

VI. Reading of Communications

City Clerk Shavala Ames read a communication from Dekalb Beautification, Super District 7 Commissioner LaDena Bolton, and Super District 6 Commissioner Ted Terry who recognized the City of Stone Mountain for valuable contribution and strong commitment to creating a cleaner, greener, and more vibrant Dekalb County.

VII. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

ACTION: MOTION TO ADD TO THE AGENDA A DISCUSSION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR COUNCILMEMBER BRYANT'S BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

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 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE DAY WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS: MOVE NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2, REQUEST TO OBTAIN FROM TRUIST BANK ANY AND ALL CHECKS FROM THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN AND DDA ACCOUNTS, TO UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS; DESIGNATE ORDINANCE 2025-04, ESTABLISHMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE, TO A FIRST READ; ADD R&B BID TO NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2

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 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

VIII. City Manager's Report

City Manager Shawn Edmondson presented the City Manager's report as outlined. Highlights included updates on the upcoming Fourth of July festivities and recent improvements made to the public restrooms, including various facility upgrades.

Council Member Bryant inquired about the possibility of a budget amendment to allocate funds for a Back-to-School Bash. The City Manager noted that an action item will be presented at the next City Council meeting for consideration.

Council Member Freeman requested information regarding the restroom renovations, specifically related to construction contracts, invoices, and ADA compliance. The City Manager confirmed that these records are available and can be provided.

Mayor Jones requested a cost estimate for the restroom upgrades, and the City Manager will follow up with that information.

IX. Council Policy Discussion Topics

X. Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to obtain from Truist Bank any and all checks from City of Stone Mountain and DDA accounts that cleared with only one signature, list of any and all City of Stone Mountain and DDA accounts (open or closed) in existence for the last eighteen (18) months, statements for each of these City of Stone Mountain and DDA accounts (open or closed) for the past eighteen (18) months, list of any and all security risks and other concerns identified by the Truist Bank Security team in the past eighteen (18) months, any and all correspondence that you have with any and all persons from Truist Bank relating to the above requests, requested by Council Member Gil Freeman

Council Member Freeman Council Member Freeman led the discussion, emphasizing that the Mayor did not initiate contact with the bank; rather, the bank approached the Mayor. Freeman reminded Council that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) previously stated that any questions should be directed to them and that is exactly what is being done. If an investigation is to proceed, Freeman stressed, it must be a full investigation. It is the Council's duty to provide proper oversight, and information should not be selectively requested to fit a specific narrative or policy.

City Manager Edmondson responded that the City is conducting a full investigation and confirmed that the investigator has already requested some of the relevant information.

Council Member Freeman then asked whether the DDA related items in question would be included in the investigator's final report as he does not want to have to submit an open records request to obtain the information. The City Manager confirmed that they would be.

ACTION: MOTION TO REQUEST TO OBTAIN FROM TRUIST BANK ANY AND ALL CHECKS FROM CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN AND DDA ACCOUNTS THAT CLEARED WITH ONLY ONE SIGNATURE, LIST OF ANY AND ALL CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN AND DDA ACCOUNTS (OPEN OR CLOSED) IN EXISTENCE FOR THE LAST EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS, STATEMENTS FOR EACH OF THESE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN AND DDA ACCOUNTS (OPEN OR CLOSED) FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS, LIST OF ANY AND ALL SECURITY RISKS AND OTHER CONCERNS IDENTIFIED BY THE TRUIST BANK SECURITY TEAM IN THE PAST EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS, ANY AND ALL CORRESPONDENCE THAT YOU HAVE WITH ANY AND ALL PERSONS FROM TRUIST BANK RELATING TO THE ABOVE REQUESTS

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

XII. New Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve a long-term facility use agreement with the Pharaohs Youth Football Team

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE A LONG-TERM FACILITY USE AGREEMENT WITH THE PHAROAHS YOUTH FOOTBALL TEAM

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 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve R&B Developer for the parking lot paving

City Manager Edmondson provided an overview of the bidding process, stating that four bids were received for the parking lot paving project. R&B Developers have been recommended as the preferred contractor. It was also noted that the project engineer will serve as a safeguard against potential change orders by ensuring that thorough preliminary assessments are completed. While change orders may be necessary in cases of unforeseen circumstances, they must be approved by City Council and should be minimal, if any. An agreement with R&B Developers will be presented at a later council meeting for formal approval.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE R&B DEVELOPER AS THE RECOMMENDED CONTRACTOR FOR THE PARKING LOT PAVING PROJECT

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, 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)

XIII. New Ordinances and Resolutions

1. Resolution 2025-18 Adoption of the Millage Rate

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-18 ADOPTION OF THE MILLAGE RATE

Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Seconded 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 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

2. Ordinance 2025-04 - Stone Mountain Parks and Recreation Committee (FIRST READ)

Mayor Jones noted that the Parks and Recreation bylaws had been submitted for review. However, the City Clerk clarified that the bylaws were submitted after the agenda was published. As the matter is not time-sensitive, the item will be placed on the agenda for the July 15, 2025, City Council meeting. Rev. Orea Parker addressed the Council to provide an overview of the proposed changes to the bylaws. City Attorney Couch reminded the Council that the only item currently up for consideration is the first reading of Ordinance 2025-04.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith pointed out that the second paragraph of the document states that greenspace facilities such as the lawn, should not be considered part of parks. Rev. Parker returned to the podium and clarified that the statement originated from the previous version of the bylaws adopted in 2020.

Council Member Crowe sought clarification on whether the proposed ordinance would allow the committee to adopt bylaw updates without requiring City Council approval. The City Attorney confirmed

that this is indeed what the current language of the ordinance states. However, no clear consensus was reached on how to proceed with potential modifications to that provision.

3. Ordinance 2025-05: Procedures for Removal (SECOND READ)

City Attorney Couch reviewed the proposed ordinances noting that there were two versions, one that includes residents and one that does not include residents.

Concerns were raised regarding moving the will of the voters. It was stated to be clear that the proposed ordinance is for all elected officials.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-05 PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL WITH PROOF OF PROPONDERANCE

Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 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 No: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Remarks of Privilege

City Manager Edmondson provided an overview of the street paving project, detailing the scheduled timeline and specifying which roads are slated to begin paving on which days.

XV. Announcements by The Mayor

Mayor Jones took a moment to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July. A question was raised regarding approximately \$5,000 worth of unused fireworks from a previous year. The City Manager indicated that he did not have any information on the matter at this time.

XVI. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:22 P.M.

Motion was 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 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor

Shavala Ames, City Clerk