

## RESOLUTION 2025-05

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA (THE “CITY”), TO SUPERSEDE RESOLUTION 2024-14 REGARDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ADHERENCE TO RULES OF DECORUM AND ENSURING 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; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the above, the City Council adopted Resolution 2024-14; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, in further consideration of the policies adopted by Resolution 2024-14, has agreed to language certain modifications to such policies and procedures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of **December**, 2024, 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: Repeal and Replacement of Resolution 2024-14.** The City Council hereby repeals Resolution 2024-14 and adopts the following policies and procedures as written below.

### **Section 3: 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 an individual citizen's 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 and approval of the City Council. Meeting attendees who violate this rule will be warned and, if such disruptions continue, will be subject to removal from the meeting.
- (d) A City Council member may motion to have a disruptive attendee warned and/or 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 be tabled until 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, collectively, be allotted a total of ten (10) minutes to speak and the Mayor shall be allowed a total of 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) Neither the Mayor nor any City Council member shall act in an aggressive or combative manner towards the public or with each other.

- (j) 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.
- (k) All actions and rulings by the Presiding Officer shall align with the City Council's 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, the Mayor or any City Council Member shall result in a formal review of conduct by the City Council.
- (c) Potential corrective actions, including censure or other measures, shall be available as deemed appropriate by the City Council.

**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**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly Jones, Mayor

*[Affix City Seal]*

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shavala Ames, City Clerk