



Special Called Meeting

February 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Train Depot, 922 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Minutes

1 **Mayor and Council: Dr. Beverly Jones – Mayor | Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith**
2 **Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass | Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos**
3 **Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman | Post 5: Council Member Shawnette Bryant**
4 **Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe**

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6 **Staff: Shawn Edmondson - City Manager | Shavala Ames - City Clerk**

7 **Call to Order**

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9 Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the meeting to order at 10:08 A.M.

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

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14 ABSENT: Mayor Beverly Jones, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman Council Member: Post 5
15 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member

16 17 1. Public Hearing #1 - HB 581 Homestead Tax Exemption Opt-Out Consideration

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19 City Manager Edmondson gave an overview of HB 581 to include the Georgia Municipal
20 Association synopsis of House Bill 581.

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22 City Council members engaged in a thorough and detailed discussion regarding the potential
23 implications of opting in or out, recognizing that each decision would have profound and far-
24 reaching effects on the city's future. The conversation included concerns about the city's ability to
25 retain its current residents, with several members emphasizing the importance of maintaining a
26 stable and engaged community. At the same time, they explored strategies for attracting new
27 residents to foster growth and economic development.

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29 The council also examined the potential consequences for renters, noting the complexities of how
30 either decision could impact their housing options and affordability. A key concern was whether the
31 proposed changes may or may not hurt renters in the city. Furthermore, the council discussed the
32 specific impact on seniors and individuals on fixed incomes, acknowledging that any changes could
33 disproportionately affect these vulnerable groups. Members expressed a need to carefully consider
34 how the city could protect and support these residents, ensuring that their well-being is not
35 compromised in the process.

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37 The City Manager provided an overview of which cities in the region have chosen to opt in or opt
38 out. It was collectively agreed that a set of conditions should be outlined to guide a more informed
39 decision on the matter. Additionally, the council emphasized the importance of developing a
40 strategic plan that would allow the city to proactively address the issue, regardless of the final
41 decision. The primary goal is to ensure that the chosen course of action is beneficial to the
42 community as a whole.

43 **Adjournment**

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45 **ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:11 A.M.**

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49 **Ryan Smith, Mayor Pro Tem**

City Clerk, Shavala Ames