



Mayor and Council Retreat

January 29, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.

875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Minutes

1 **Mayor and Council: Jelani Linder – 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 Kay Nunez | Post 5: Council Member Hub Jordan**
4 **Post 6: Council Member Elaine Vaughn**

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6 **Staff: Maggie Dimov – Interim City Manager | Keturah Hall – Assistant City Clerk | Angela Couch**
7 **- City Attorney**

9 I. Call to Order

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11 Mayor Linder called the meeting to order at 6:46 P.M.

12 II. Determination of Quorum

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15 PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member:
16 Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

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18 PRESENT VIRTUALLY: Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

19 III. Adoption of the Agenda of The Day

20 21 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY AS AMENDED TO INCLUDE AN** 22 **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERONNEL**

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24 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1
25 Anita Bass

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27 Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
28 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post
29 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

30 31 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

32 33 1. Retreat Discussion

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35 The retreat was facilitated by Warren Hutmacher of Sumter Consulting, who guided the session using
36 the SMART framework: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely as the foundation for
37 establishing actionable goals presented by Council.

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39 Warren led an open discussion in which each Council member identified priorities and proposed goals
40 aligned with the mission statement drafted at the prior meeting. The conversation focused on defining
41 anticipated progress across five core areas:

- 42 • Public Safety
- 43 • Quality of Life
- 44 • Economic Development
- 45 • Public Works and Infrastructure
- 46 • Internal Operations and Government Efficiency

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48 The session emphasized creating clear, practical directives for staff that reflect Council’s shared vision
49 and strategic priorities.

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51 The Council began by identifying key **Public Safety** issues facing the City. The first goal focused on
52 developing a police department that follows best practices and strengthens community trust in the
53 quality of services. Council discussed potential strategies to support this goal, including achieving
54 Georgia State Certification and constructing or renovating a police headquarters to better meet
55 operational needs. The second goal centered on reducing crime. Actionable items proposed to support
56 this objective included establishing additional neighborhood watch programs and improving police
57 response times.

58
59 Council then discussed goals aimed at enhancing the **Quality of Life** for residents, visitors, and
60 businesses. The overarching objectives included increasing access to basic needs, improving public
61 spaces, and strengthening connections between the community and its local government. To support
62 these goals, Council outlined several actionable items, such as improving walkability, developing the
63 City’s green spaces to enhance their usability, and hosting Mayor and Council meet-and-greet events
64 to build stronger relationships with community members.

65
66 Council next discussed strategies to strengthen the City’s **Economic Development** efforts, identifying
67 the diversification of revenue sources as a primary goal. Proposed actions included recapturing the
68 City’s investment in acquired properties such as the Lawn on Main by prioritizing their development, as
69 well as exploring potential annexation along Memorial Drive to expand the City’s tax base. Council also
70 emphasized the need to revitalize blighted areas by attracting higher-value businesses and
71 encouraging quality redevelopment. Additionally, members discussed leveraging the City’s historic
72 assets, including renovating the cemetery to accommodate guided tours and promoting historic districts
73 and other culturally significant areas to increase tourism and economic activity.

74
75 Next, Council discussed priorities related to **Public Works** and overall infrastructure. Members
76 emphasized the importance of investing in staff capacity and improving the quality of their working
77 environment. Actionable items included constructing or renovating a proper Public Works facility,
78 developing an itemized list of equipment needed to increase operational efficiency, and expanding
79 training programs to enhance staff skill levels. Broader goals focused on reducing staff travel time
80 across the city and advancing citywide beautification efforts, including improved signage and enhanced
81 gateway features.

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83 Lastly, Council discussed **Internal Operations and Government Efficiency**, emphasizing the need for
84 a more structured approach to policy review, improved transparency, and clearer tracking of staff
85 progress toward achieving Council’s strategic goals. Ideas included developing a digital information
86 board to support transparency and accountability, as well as providing ongoing education and training
87 to enhance staff skills and performance. Actionable items identified by Council included updating
88 internal policies, strengthening permitting review processes, improving ordinances through charter
89 review, and fostering stronger communication practices between staff and City residents.

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91 This concluded the discussion with Warren, who noted that a follow-up retreat will be scheduled for City
92 staff to outline strategies and specific measures that they will implement to achieve and execute the
93 goals established by Council.

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95 IV. **Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Legal, Cyber Security, and/or Real Estate (if**
96 **needed)**

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98 **ACTION: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:44 P.M. TO DISCUSS**
99 **PERSONNEL**

100 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1
101 Anita Bass

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103 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
104 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post
105 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

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107 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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109 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE RETREAT**
110 **DISCUSSION AT 9:33 P.M.**

111 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1
112 Anita Bass

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114 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
115 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post
116 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

117
118 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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120 V. **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:34 P.M.**

121 Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3
122 Ryan Smith

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124 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
125 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post
126 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

127
128 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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132 **Jelani Linder, Mayor**

City Clerk, Shavala Ames