



Mayor and City Council Regular Session Minutes

Tuesday, September 1, 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 | Shavala Ames – Deputy City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney

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.*

Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor – Jelani Linder, 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

I. Public Hearings

1. 2026 Comprehensive Plan

Lauren Blaszyk, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Planning Administrator and Project Manager, presented the Comprehensive Plan and provided an overview of the progress thus far.

Mayor Linder opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing comments

Public Comment 1: Grace Kelly – Expressed concern regarding the direction of the Comprehensive Plan and mainly the push for a hotel. Also expressed the importance of preserving the City's green space for festivals, community events, concerts, and children's activities. Reiterated the public's opposition to a hotel and stated that the City should improve and activate the Lawn while keeping it available for public use.

Public Comment 2: Summer Moss – Advocated for safer pedestrian crosswalks across 900 Main Street as well as convex mirrors for when the public is backing out into traffic.

Public Comment 3: Michael Rollins – Requested that the citizens have an opportunity to vote prior to the City updating the code for the Comprehensive Plan.

Public Comment 4: Kwabeno Nkromo – Spoke about the Stone Mountain Village Citizens Food Project initiative. Expressed hope to become the best in class as a City for innovation around connecting the dots for our food system. Suggested localizing and capturing data for economic development for the City

such as jobs, net worth, development of households and tax space growth. Offered services to assist with the initiative.

Mayor Linder closed the public hearing.

2. Entertainment District

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an overview of the Entertainment District as outlined in the agenda packet and meetings prior.

Mayor Linder opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing comments

Public Comment 1: Michael Rollins – Expressed support for the Entertainment District but does not understand the map.

Mayor Linder closed the public hearing.

II. Adjournment – 7:00 P.M.

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M.

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)

III. Call to Order

Mayor Linder called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

IV. 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

V. 30 Second Moment of Silence and Pledge

Mayor Linder led a 30-second moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders (3 minutes per comment)

Citizen Comment 1: Andrea Redmond – Expressed that proclamations are lacking in the City and the contention it's causing. Announced the Governors Proclamation declaring Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and suggested that the governing body adopt the proclamation or create its own. Read the Governors Proclamation into the record.

Citizen Comment 2: James Rollins – Expressed that it is a conflict of interest for a Mayor to be a realtor for business property in a City that they represent, while in office.

Citizen Comment 3: Sara Abrams – Expressed repeated requests for golf nets and goal posts for soccer use at VFW Park. Does not like the idea of the hotel on the Lawn but loves the idea of the local businesses being able to grow and the open green space.

Citizen Comment 4: Grace Kelly – Mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan is registered with the State of Georgia and guides all decisions by Council. Feels Council should not be pigeonholed into one type of development for the Lawn.

Citizen Comment 5: Summer Moss – Advocated for safer pedestrian crosswalks across 900 Main Street as well as convex mirrors for when the public is backing out into traffic.

Citizen Comment 6: Kwabeno Nkromo – Expressed love for the City. Praised the Sweet Potato Café waffles which brought him to the City. Provided history on how sweet potatoes are grown. Inquired if a Banana Peel Campaign could be had. Advised the need for code compliance and land use strategy for growing food and how to zone urban farming in the City which will create food sovereignty.

VII. Review of the Journal (City Clerk)

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve August 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 18, 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

VIII. Reading of Communications – None

IX. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY TO ADD CONSIDERATION OF AN ACTION ON A REQUEST TO SEND THE 2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (DCA) UNDER NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3.

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)

X. Council Policy Discussion Topics

1. Discussion – Stone Mountain High School Parade, requested by Mayor Jelani Linder

Mayor Linder expressed that he'd like to find a way to bring the community and schools back together and would like Stone Mountain High School to come down Main Street for their Homecoming Parade. Mayor Linder also expressed that this would bring out alumni and advised that many schools and individuals are willing to participate. Seeking consensus from Council on ways to support the event. Clarified that if approved the Parade will take place on October 17th. City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided feedback.

2. Discussion – Limited Hour Parking on Main Street, requested by Council Member Hub Jordan

Council Member Jordan expressed concern regarding there being no parking limits on Main Street and feels that not enforcing parkin limits is being abused. Suggested a two-hour parking limit from the Mountain to Mimosa on Main Street. Also discussed the benefits for businesses, the forthcoming Welcome Center and Museum at the Depot as well as continuity. Chief Westerfield provided feedback.

XI. Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the appointment of proposed Ethics Board Member Will Galloway

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF PROPOSED ETHICS BOARD MEMBER WILL GALLOWAY

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay

Voting Yea: 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)

XII. New Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve Change Order No.3 with R&B Developers

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO.3 WITH R&B DEVELOPERS

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

Voting Yea: 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 to Approve the LCI Trail Study Summary

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE LCI TRAIL STUDY SUMMARY

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Smith: 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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

3. Consideration of an action on a request to table transmitting the 2026 Comprehensive Plan to the DCA to the next Council Meeting

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE TRANSMITTING THE 2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO THE DCA TO THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

XIII. New Ordinances and Resolutions

1. Ordinance 2026-15 – Entertainment District – Second Read – No Action

It was recommended that the ordinance language be revised to clarify that only businesses that sell alcohol for on-premises consumption may participate in Entertainment District alcohol sales within and/or adjacent to the Downtown District.

2. Resolution 2026-16 – Entertainment District Guidelines & Map – No Action

XIV. Remarks of Privilege

Council Member Bass thanked everyone who participates in the Ambassadors Program and announced that the next Clean Up will take place on September 30th and advised that Commissioner Johnson will be attending to speak regarding her numerous accomplishments this year. Mayor Pro Tem Smith addressed the email received regarding Council directly communicating with City Staff. He acknowledged that communicating directly with City Staff is improper and should be communicated through the City Manager. Council Member Nunez announced that the City's Cow has arrived at the Caboose, praised Tourism Manager, Elle Walker, for her Cow arrival video post and encouraged everyone to vote on a finalist to paint the Cow.

XV. Announcements by The Mayor

The Mayor thanked everyone for their participation in the City's Mural Unveiling on Thursday, August 27th.

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

ACTION: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:14 P.M. TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL

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)

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 9:15 P.M. - (2) ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made 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)

XVII. **Adjournment**

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 9:16 P.M.

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

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)

Jelani Linder, Mayor

City Clerk, Shavala Ames