



Mayor and City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 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 - Interim City Manager - City Clerk | Danny Mai - Assistant City Clerk |
Jeff Strickland - City Attorney**

City of Stone Mountain, GA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofStoneMtn/>

Link to join Webinar: [<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81079327852>]

Call to Order

Mayor Jones Called the Meeting to order at 06:35 PM ET

Determination of Quorum

RESENT

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

Invocation and Pledge

Mayor Jones led the pledge of allegiance at 06:37 PM ET. Major Jones led the invocation at 06:37 PM ET.

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

Comments from the Public

The public comments are reserved exclusively for comments from the public and not for immediate reply. The purpose of public comment is to allow the public to voice city related requests, concerns or opinions only during the public comment portion of the City Council meeting. I. The Mayor and City Council reserves the right to extend or limit the length of public comments based on: (1) the issue under discussion; (2) the number of items on the agenda; and (3) the extent to which the speaker remains constructive in their comments and questions. II. The public may not directly confront the public speaker but must direct all comments and questions to the Mayor and City Council. III. Public harassment of or confrontation with a public speaker will not be tolerated. Members of the public violating tenets two or three will be asked to sit down or leave the premises.

Citizen Comment #(1) (Joan Monroe): Monroe spoke on the importance of having a safety plan in place for the entirety of the city. Additionally, Monroe spoke on the importance of having crime reports be published on a regular basis to the City Website.

Citizen Comment #(2) (Dave Thomas): Thomas spoke about the treatment of the DDA by City Council Members. Thomas additionally noted that Tunes by the Tracks is one of the major activities that get involvement from others outside of the city and the importance of that involvement.

Citizen Comment #(3) (Ms Thomas): Thomas thanked the Interim City Manager for the lights on the signage. Thomas noted that there additional Maintenace to Rockborough court. Thomas noted that there be an official accounting for SPLOST I, the total accounting of SPLOST II to date, and that the Audit for 2023 be presented for citizen transparency.

Citizen Comment #(4) (Johnnie R. Ellison): Ellison additionally thanked the city for the Rockborough signs. Ellison noted that the quality of work, specifically relating to the street signs, are not up to standard. Ellison sighted various potential liabilities, hazards, and risks associated with the poor signage. Ellison urged City Council to ensure that all future work have better quality.

Citizen Comment #(5) (Carl Wright): Wright spoke on the agenda of the day. Wright noted that council should remove various items from the agenda. Wright additionally questioned the inclusion of an outside third-party attorney, and who would pay the cost for the attorney to be present.

Citizen Comment #(6) (Cheryl Dudley): Dudley thanked the city for posting about constitution day. Dudley stressed the importance of voting early and ensuring that people are still on the voter registration rolls. Dudley noted that it is important that the city ensure that council meetings are civil. Additionally, Dudley commented that a review of the City Charter should occur, citing the potential improvements that the city could see.

Citizen Comment #(7) (C. Monroe): Monroe noted that it is important to pay attention to civility within the City. Monroe noted the importance of tone when speaking to others. Monroe thanked city staff for implementing the light up crosswalk signs but mentioned the importance of ensuring that both signs light up at the push of a button, from either side. Monroe spoke about the importance of the rural designation that the city has.

Review of the Journal (Interim City Manager & City Clerk Edmondson)

1. Request Minutes from City Council Meeting [09.03.2024] be approved

Interim City Manager requested that the meeting minutes from 09.03.2024 be approved.

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

Reading of Communications

Interim City Manager request that council recognize the City Employee of the Month.

The City Employee of the Month is Vicki Tucker, information is in the City Manager Report.

Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA OF THE DAY, REMOVING ITEMS 2-5 of new business.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos.

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION APPROVED.

Committee Discussion Items

2. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority
DDA Report in AGENDA PACKAGE.
3. Historic Preservation Commission
N/A
4. Stone Mountain Community Garden

REPORT IN AGENDA PACKAGE

5. Parks and Recreation Committee

REPORT IS IN THE AGENDA PACKAGE

6. Planning Commission

REPORT IS IN THE AGENDA PACKAGE

Staff Reports

7. Public Safety- Police Chief- James Westerfield Jr

REPORT IS IN THE AGENDA PACKAGE

Chief Westerfield noted that Det. Swisher became the first member of a special unit called "Cyber Children Crimes" and became certified to do so.

8. Administration- Interim City Manager-City Clerk- Shawn Edmondson

Combined with the City Managers Report

REPORT IS IN THE AGENDA PACKAGE

City Manager's Report

9. Interim City Manager - Shawn Edmondson

REPORT IS IN THE AGENDA PACKAGE

Council Policy Discussion Topics

Unfinished Business

10. Discussion regarding Part 2 of the DDA Report (CM Gil Freeman)

CM Freeman asked City Attorney Strickland regarding if the Stone Mountain DDA is on probation. CM Freeman noted that he has obtained a letter relating to the fact that the DDA is on probation from the Department of Community Affairs. CM Freeman noted the importance of the contract regarding Tunes by the Tracks, citing various examples of potential risks that he identified. CM Freeman noted that moving forward, this agenda item will be on every agenda moving forward until an answer has been arrived and all information has been presented to CM Freeman.

11. City Staff request the approval to enter into the agreement with Questica Accounting Software to replace ClearGov (Finance Director Danny L.)

Mayor Jones proposed to table until Danny L. can be in attendance.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT - CM Crowe; 2nd CM Bass

SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO TABLE - CM FREEMAN; 2nd NO SECOND

SUBSTITUTE MOTION FAILED DUE TO NO SECOND

CALL TO QUESTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT- CM Crowe; 2nd CM
MARIANOS

MOTION TO TABLE - CM FREEMAN; 2nd CM BRYANT

Motion made by Council Member: Post 4 Freeman.

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro
Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED

MOTION TO APPROVE

Motion made by Council Member: Post 4 Freeman.

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro
Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION APPROVED

12. City Staff request the approval to enter into the agreement for the Enterprise Fleet Management Program to manage and monitor maintenance and inventory of the City of Stone Mountain's Vehicles. The budgeted funding lines are (01-5040.52.2220 Vehicle Repair & Maintenance) (Chief Westerfield & Interim City Manager & City Clerk Edmondson)

City Manager noted that there are officers without patrol cars, citing that the city has been spending a lot of money on maintenance. City Manager noted that without a clear path, the City's fleet will be neglected with patrol officers' automobiles being down. Discussion occurred between Chief Westerfield, Interim City Manager Edmondson, and Enterprise Representative Lucas.

MOTION TO MOVE TO APPROVE; CM CROWE; 2nd CM BASS

CALLED TO QUESTION; CM CROWE; 2nd CM BASS

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
Marianos.

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro
Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION PASSED

13. Discussion on directing city staff to search for a firm to complete a forensic audit (Mayor Jones)

MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO RESEARCH AND FIND A QUOTES (THREE BIDS) FROM A FORENSIC AUDITING FIRM FOR 1 YEAR, 2 YEAR; AND/OR 3 YEAR AUDIT, TO INCLUDE CONTRACTS, CREDIT CARDS, ALL FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELATING TO CITY MATTERS.

NOTICE: THIS IS NOT A VOTE TO APPROVE ANY AUDIT BUT TO FIND SOME QUOTES

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe
Voting Nay: Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith

MOTION PASSED

14. Discussion on a proposed Downtown Development Area boundary modification (CM Gill Freeman)

Discussion occurred between Council Members and Interim City Manager Edmondson.

New Business

15. Presentation by Attorney Walker regarding possible community improvement grants, and a program assisting with blighted homes within the Stone Mountain Community (Mayor Jones)
Attorney Walker spoke to council regarding the presentation.

PRESENTATION ATTACHED IN AGENDA PACKAGE

16. Discussion on the removal of dead peach tree and clear branches and overgrowth along both fences, as requested by the Stone Mountain Community Garden Committee (Mayor Jones)
REMOVED FROM AGENDA

17. Discussion on the control of rodent activity in and around the storage building and shed, as requested by the Stone Mountain Community Garden Committee (Mayor Jones)
REMOVED FROM AGENDA

18. Discussion on the removal of weed piles from stalls and replenishment of the depleted compost supply, as requested by the Stone Mountain Community Garden Committee (Mayor Jones)

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

19. Discussion on addressing the drainage and safety issue near the entrance of SMCG, as requested by the Stone Mountain Community Garden Committee (Mayor Jones)

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

New Ordinances and Resolutions

Remarks of Privilege

Announcements by The Mayor

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

Adjournment