



Mayor and City Council Work Session

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 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 - City Manager | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Maggie Dimov - Assistant
City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Angela Couch - City Attorney

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

PRESENT: 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

I. Public Hearing

1. Millage Rate Hearing #3

City Manager, Shawn Edmondson, gave an overview and provided more information on the Millage
Rate including the rollback rate.

II. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:38 P.M.

Motion made by Post 2: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith, seconded by Post 2: Council Member
Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass, Post 2: Mark Marianos, Post 3: Mayor Pro
Tem Ryan Smith, Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman, Post 5: Council Member Shawnette
Bryant, Post 6: Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

III. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called Work Session to order at 6:39 P.M.

IV. Determination of Quorum

PRESENT: Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass, Post 2: Mark Marianos, Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem
Ryan Smith, Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman, Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe

Post 5: Council Member Shawnette Bryant present via Zoom

V. **Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Jones led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Citizen Comment 1: B. Patterson – came to Council in October about Parks and Recreation requesting itemize of the work done and what went into it; understand McCurdy Park lights – no excuse for restrooms not being ADA accessible and asked to do a walk through but was not allowed: 800k is a lot of money for work not done; Assistant City Manager Maggie Dimov went a few weeks ago; holding all accountable,

Citizen Comment 2: Carl Wright – tree down in front of house; thanked Mayor and Council as citizen should be able to point out or reject any request for DDA records – should be done via open records request, DDA does,

Citizen Comment 3: Cheryl Dudley – allowed to state opinions, Georgia Constitution and Georgia Sunshine Laws – do not have to be a citizen to state comments or submit an open records request and the processes; requested open records and received nothing; not accusing the city – stated penalties for destroying or preventing records; need to find the 800k.

Citizen Comment 4: Jelani Linder – referenced article from Clarkston who had to increase millage rate; doing rollbacks for short term gain could affect city; roads at Rockborough being approved – miscommunication on how those plans are being implemented – a clear plan should be given to the residents.

Citizen Comment 5: Antonia Amadi-Emina – does not understand rollback; please look into taxes – residents need to work hard to keep their home; requesting a flat tax rate.

Citizen Comment 6: Kay Nunez – do better reaching out to community as Mayor and Council; Council held a round table for senior citizens – some seniors are not internet savvy; find other ways to reach out to residents – setting up tables at events, or City Ambassadors.

VII. **Review of the Journal (City Clerk)**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the May 12, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 12, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 20, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith, seconded by Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos

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

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the May 30, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 30, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

MOTION PASSED

4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve June 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 3, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Reading of Communications

City Attorney Angela Couch presented a Reading of Communications from DDA Attorney Kyle Williams.

IX. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA OF THE DAY AND REMOVE NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2, NEW BUSINESS #6, REMOVE ORDINANCE 2025-04, AND REMOVE EXECUTIVE SESSION PERSONNEL

Motion made by Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith, seconded by Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass, Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos, Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith, Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman, Post 5: Council Member Shawnette Bryant, Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

X. Committee Discussion Items

1. Stone Mountain Community Garden

Columbus Brown presented a detailed review of the Stone Mountain Community Garden report that was provided in the agenda packet.

2. Planning Commission – No updates

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166 **3. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority**

167 Assistant City Manager Maggie Dimov provided a review of the DDA report. Mayor Pro Tem requested
168 clarification on why the DDA still does not have access to its bank accounts. Council Member Freeman
169 inquired about the DDA's level of independence. Assistant City Manager Dimov addressed each of the
170 questions.

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172 **4. Historic Preservation Commission – No updates**

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174 **5. Parks and Recreation Committee**

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176 Beverly Patterson noted that the committee entered Executive Session during the last meeting and, as
177 such, is unable to discuss those matters publicly. She also addressed the topic of park signage, noting
178 that the committee is awaiting follow-up from the City Manager. Additionally, Ms. Patterson provided an
179 update on restroom facilities and ADA compliance, highlighting ongoing concerns in that area. The
180 committee also discussed accountability safety issues related to the playgrounds, outdoor gym
181 equipment, and restrooms.

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183 **XI. Staff Reports**

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185 **1. Public Safety- Police Chief- James Westerfield Jr**

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187 Chief James Westerfield presented a detailed review of the Public Safety report provided in the agenda
188 packet.

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190 **XII. City Manager's Report**

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192 **1. City Manager - Shawn Edmondson**

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194 City Manager Edmondson introduced Mike Vasquez, Stormwater Administrator, and Tamaya Huff,
195 Planning Manager. He also provided updates on upcoming city events and discussed recent film
196 productions and the revenue they've generated for the city. The City Manager highlighted the ongoing
197 Table Talks initiative and announced that the city has advanced to the next step in the grant selection
198 process led by Senator Ossoff. He also inquired about which restroom facilities are not ADA-compliant,
199 emphasizing the city's commitment to making necessary improvements.

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201 Mayor Pro Tem Smith requested an update on the ongoing investigation. City Manager Edmondson
202 provided a brief response, noting that the investigation is still in progress. Council Member Crowe
203 inquired about the status of utilizing the church parking lot and asked for consensus to proceed. City
204 Manager Edmondson provided an overview, stating that, based on the consensus offered, an
205 agreement will be drafted in coordination with the City Attorney.

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207 Mayor Jones brought up the idea of hosting a Caribbean Festival. City Manager Edmondson clarified
208 that the event has been rebranded as the Stone Mountain Fest. Mayor Jones also expressed concerns
209 regarding the CSX Bridge on James B. Rivers Drive. The City Manager confirmed there is no matching
210 grant requirement at this time and committed to reaching out for additional information and providing a
211 report back to the Council. Council Member Freeman requested an update on site plans for The Lawn.
212 Assistant City Manager Dimov responded that no formal site plan has been submitted, but noted that
213 community input can still be provided during upcoming Table Talks sessions.

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215 **XIII. Council Policy Discussion Topics**

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217 **XIV. Unfinished Business**

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219 **XV. New Business**

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221 **1. Consideration of action on a request for the City Manager to ensure that all council members are**
222 **equally and promptly informed about all matters, request by Council Member Gil Freeman**
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Council Member Freeman expressed a desire for the request to be formally drafted and codified. Other members of the City Council also shared their comments and perspectives on the matter.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST FOR THE CITY MANAGER TO ENSURE THAT ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE EQUALLY AND PROMPTLY INFORMED ABOUT ALL MATTERS

Motion made by Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman, seconded by Post 5: Council Member Shawnette Bryant

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

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

MOTION FAILED

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve a City of Stone Mountain Community Ambassador Program, requested by Council Member Anita Bass

Council Member Anita Bass gave an overview on the vision of the Community Ambassador Program. City Council Members provided their feedback regarding the project.

ACTION: MOVE TO APPROVE REQUEST FOR CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Motion made by Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass, seconded by Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe

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

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the purchase of tree lights, requested by Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Maggie Dimov

Assistant City Manager Maggie Dimov presented the quotes as provided in the agenda packet. Discussion was held by various council members regarding the specifics of tree lights to be purchased.

ACTION: MOVE TO APPROVE REQUEST OF THE PURCHASE OF TREE LIGHTS WITH CITY WIDE SOLUTIONS

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

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

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

MOTION PASSED

4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the caboose upgrades, requested by Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Maggie Dimov

Assistant City Manager Dimov presented the quotes as outlined in the agenda packet. Council Member Marianos expressed a preference for utilizing a local business for the project. Mayor Pro Tem Smith recommended preserving the original caboose, if possible. Council Member Freeman noted that oversight of the caboose falls under the purview of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Council Member Bryant expressed interest in prioritizing the completion of other ongoing projects.
Council Member Crowe voiced opposition to the proposal of placing City staff in the caboose.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF CABOOSE UPGRADES WITH HANDY MAN SERVICES

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

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

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

MOTION PASSED

XVI. New Ordinances and Resolutions

1. Ordinance 2025-05 - Procedures for Removal (FIRST READ)

City Attorney Couch reviewed the ordinance as presented in the agenda packet, offering clarity on the two versions provided. Members of the governing body provided their feedback. No action taken. First read only.

XVII. Remarks of Privilege

Council Member Bass reiterated the concept of the City Ambassador Program. The program is voluntary to provide information and not door knocking.

Council Member Marianos stated the City Ambassador Program should be nonpartisan, 100% approval from city staff. Elected Officials should not interject.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated the reason for initially voting against the #3 Kaboom project. It is not the best decision for a park that we already have two parks for that age group.

Council Member Freeman mentioned that adult gym never gets used; volunteers can reach out to Assistant City Manager for the Kaboom project. The 2025-05 ordinance violates the will of the voters – why take the choice away from voters. It is improper.

Council Member Bryant – no comments.

Council Member Crowe mentioned time ran out when voting for the third Kaboom project – no time left to state why the vote was a no. Voted yes for first two Kaboom project. Voted no for the third Kaboom not because of voting against children, it was because of the enormous amount of staff time.

XVIII. Announcements by The Mayor

Mayor Jones mentioned many people was there at the the Kaboom projects day and night - was a community affair. We should be generous receivers – let's continue to open up the park and entertainment.

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

XX. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AT 9:31 P.M.

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

341 **Voting Yea:** Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass, Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos, Post
342 3 Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith, Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman, Post 5: Council Member
343 Shawnette Bryant, Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe
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345 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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Beverly Jones, Mayor

Shavala Ames, City Clerk