Mayor and City Council Regular Session Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 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 – 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. Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2027 Budget

Mayor Linder outlined the rules and procedures for the Public Hearing. City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an overview of the budget presentation as outlined in the agenda packet.

Mayor Linder opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing comments

Public Comment 1: Denise Phillips – Advised that the original budget had no adjustment for insurance costs increase. Feels that there should be a budget increase for property liability and medical insurance. Inquired if there was a budget revision for a Public Works facility. Expressed frustration with the suggestion of increasing the Mileage Rate.

Public Comment 2: James Michael Rollins – Expressed that the governing body as well as the City Manager made good points, provided great insight and voiced valid concerns at the initial Budget Meeting. Voiced concern regarding the budget cuts for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Suggested funds from busking fees be given to the DDA.

Mayor Linder closed the public hearing.

II. **Adjournment** – 6:51 P.M.

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ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:51 P.M.
Motion made by Council Member Bass: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Smith: 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)

III. **Call to Order**

Mayor Linder called the meeting to order at 6:51 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: Sharon Frierson – Asked for an update regarding 806 Ridge Avenue as well as the stormwater drain issue at Oakridge Drive.

Citizen Comment 2: Joyce Thomas – Referenced letter sent to the governing body regarding Mardi Gras. Expressed that the timing for Mardi Gras should be set in stone and advised the background and importance of the season. Asked that the dates of Carnival and Mardi Gras remain the same.

Citizen Comment 3: Dave Thomas – Expressed excitement for the opening of the Visitor Center and hopes it draws visitors to the Village. Reiterated the importance regarding the dates of Mardi Gras Season.

Citizen Comment 4: James Michael Rollins – Feels that the Mayor and City Manager are very intelligent and capable of doing their jobs but use tactics to distract from what they're saying when tying to avoid transparency. Expressed that the Mayor should be more solution driven and that the City Manager gets defensive when asked a question she doesn't want to answer. Encouraged everyone to pay attention to the tactics used when the City Manager and Mayor don't want people to look deeply at something or don't want to answer a question.

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

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve October 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 14, 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

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve October 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 20, 2026, MEETING MINUTES
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

VIII. **Reading of Communications – None**

IX. **Adoption of The Agenda of The Day**

ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY
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 Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

X. **Council Policy Discussion Topics**

1. Discussion – Food Truck Ordinance requested by Mayor Pro Tem Smith

Mayor Pro Tem Smith suggested that the City establish an Ordinance regarding food trucks. City Attorney, Angela Couch, advised that a food truck Ordinance is in process.

XI. **Unfinished Business**

1. Lawn on Main Project – JLL Study Update

JLL Representatives appeared virtually and reviewed the report updates prepared by their firm. The presentation outlined updates and suggestions of developing the Lawn on Main. There was no action taken.

2. Discussion of the Proposed FY 2027 Budget

The governing body provided feedback regarding Version 5 of the City's 2027 Budget. There were many concerns heard by the governing body including why there was no budget for insurance increases, GA Fund I, the Crabapple agreement, timeline on county pavements, Public Safety, and budget for Stone Mountain Parade. There was no action taken.

XII. **New Business**

1. Discussion Item: Mardi Gras Event Season

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City Manager Maggie Dimov presented the concept of a Mardi Gras event season and discussed the possibility of waiving vendor fees to encourage participation. Mayor and Council discussed the proposal, with differing opinions regarding the waiver of fees. It was the consensus of Mayor and Council to proceed with the original Mardi Gras event dates as advertised in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

2. Consideration of an on a request to approve the City Attorney to present a new contract for the City's 2027 Mardi Gras Season that will be executed by Mayor Linder

Representatives from The Event Collective and Bundos Entertainment came forward to discuss their availability as potential consultants for the Mardi Gras RFP.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PRESENT A NEW CONTRACT FOR THE CITY'S 2027 MARDI GRAS SEASON FOR THE EVENT COLLECTIVE AS THE SELECTED CONSULTANT THAT WILL BE EXECUTED BY THE MAYOR
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Smith: 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)

3. Discussion Item: Civic Brand Strategy and Guidelines – Partnership Opportunity Between the City of Stone Mountain and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Treasurer, Bobby Singleton, presented a collaborative initiative for a City Branding Partnership as outlined in the council packet. No action taken.

4. Discussion Item: Historic Shermantown Bridge Mural Project

City Manager Dimov presented the Shermantown Mural project in noting that $20,000 was awarded to the City from Commissioner Chakira Johnson for mural designs. The governing body provided a consensus for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to lead the Shermantown Bridge Mural Project initiative.

XIII. New Ordinances and Resolutions

1.Amendment to Ordinance No. 2025-01 – Film Production Regulations – First Read – No Action

City Attorney, Angela Couch, provided insight regarding the amendment to the Ordinance.

XIV. Remarks of Privilege

1. Council Member Bass announced and invited everyone to the Ambassadors Budget Workshop Meeting on Thursday, November 12th at 6:30pm. Mayor Pro Tem Smith expressed his appreciation for the City designating the GMC Building for housing the Public Works Staff and encouraged providing what's necessary to have the GMC Building operable for City staff. Council Member Nunez reminded everyone regarding Pastor G's Movie on the Lawn taking place on Saturday, November 7th at 6:30pm. Council Member Vaughn announced and invited everyone to the City's Veterans Day Breakfast to be held on Tuesday, November 10th from 8:00am-9:30am.

XV. Announcements by The Mayor

1. Mayor Linder thanked the Dekalb County School District for the recent productive discussion held that laid a foundation for a comprehensive strategy to bring the school and community together.

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

ACTION: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:43 P.M. TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL
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)

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 9:52 P.M. - (1) ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
Motion made 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)

XVII. **Adjournment**

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 9:52 P.M.
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 Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

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Jelani Linder, Mayor **City Clerk, Shavala Ames**

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