



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, July 2, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**  
**City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor called meeting to order at 7:03pm after Public Hearing.

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Mayor determined that a quorum was present. Council Members Little, Mailman, Hollis, Johnson, Waller and Bryant were present.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Council member Hollis gave the invocation and Council Member Waller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

- Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting 06/04/19

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the approval of the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 4, 2019; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

No corrections noted by Council.

Approved 5-1. Council member Little abstained from vote since she was not present for the June 4, 2019 meeting.

- Minutes of Work Session Meeting 06/18/19

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the approval of the minutes of the Work Session Meeting held on June 18, 2019; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

No corrections noted by Council.

Approved 6-0.

- Minutes of Special Called Meeting 06/18/19

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the approval of the minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on June 18, 2019; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

No corrections noted by Council.

Approved 6-0.

- Minutes of Special Called Meeting 06/26/19

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the approval of the minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on June 26, 2019; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

No corrections noted by Council.

Approved 5-1. Council Member Hollis abstained from vote since she was not present for June 26, 2019 meeting.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Rory Webb  
1130 Ridge Avenue

Business on Main Street  
He thanked Council for their service to the City.

Hilde Friese  
6655 JBR Memorial Drive

She invited everyone to the ice cream social to be held on July 14 from 2 – 4pm to celebrate volunteers in the City. The winner is a Ms. Summers.

## **READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor had no communications to read.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY – Request to add by unanimous consent Presentation of the City's 2019 Tax Digest as New Business Item A.**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to adopt the Agenda of the day with a request to add by unanimous consent under New Business Item A the Presentation of the City's 2019 Tax Digest; Item B to approve the bid for FY2019 Storm System repairs project Zachary Drive, Stone Trace and Main Street in the amount of \$264,298 and Item C request to place signs in City's right of way First Baptist Church of Stone Mountain; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Approved 6-0.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson advised that under Unfinished Business both items are for discussion only.

### **A. Hearthstone Subdivision Covenant Restrictions – update**

City Manager Thornton stated that there was no update for this Item, but there also had been no new residential permits Submitted for Hearthstone Subdivision.

### **B. Easement Agreement – 5197 Central Drive (18 090 04 015) – Bradford Botwick – Requestor – update**

City Manager advised that she has reached out to Mr. Botwick's attorney with no response. Mr. Botwick however did respond and he is still interested in the easement request. His attorney is currently on maternity leave.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Presentation of City's 2019 Tax Digest.**

City Manager Thornton presented the City's 2019 Tax Digest.

City Manager Thornton went on to explain that the City's gross digest is \$115,061,804 as presented by the Tax Assessors office for this year and the \$3,000,000+ are the exemptions that are expected for the year leaving a net digest of \$112,000,000 which is an increase in the digest from last year, so without the increase in the millage rate there would be an increase in values due to the increase in the digest.

She explained the 5-year tax digest history and the computation of the millage rate to determine the rollback rate based on current valuations in comparison to last year's revenue. Therefore, the rollback rate for 2019 would be 19.194 mills and the Council set the tentative rate at 22 mills which is the rate that was used to set the 2019 budget.

City Manager Thornton reviewed the needs for the City, and the amount of the increase would not be sufficient to cover those needs. One of the most important projects for the City is the renovation of the Historic Train Depot to become the Visitor's Center and the Senior Center. Projected cost for the train depot renovations is \$2,083,000.

There were questions and discussion on the land lease for the Train Depot.

City Manager then gave the Council and the citizens scenarios with the three different millage rates at 22.00, 21.00 and

20.90.

- B. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the approval of the bid for FY2019 Storm System repairs project Zachary Drive, Stone Trace and Main Street in the amount of \$264,298; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Council asked for an explanation.

City Manager Thornton explained that we received an email from our Engineer's regarding the bid packet being satisfactory. She explained that the City went out to bid on this project twice, once in May and the other on June 28 in which we only received one bid in the amount of \$264,298.

Jim Tavenner, Public Works Director was asked to expound on the storm water projects.

Council asked where this would leave us in reserves for storm water.

City Manager Thornton advised of our net position after the storm water projects.

Approved 6-0.

- C. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the approval of the request to place signs in the City's right of way for First Baptist Church of Stone Mountain; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

City Manger Thornton explained that the church wants to place 12 in x 18 in yard signs to advertise their free movie nights or days up until August 31.

Mayor asked how many signs would be put out. City Manager Thornton didn't have an answer because she hadn't received a return email from Mr. Dudley. City Manager Thornton did assure that our Code Compliance Officer would keep up with the amount of signs being put out at one time to be sure in compliance.

Approved 6-0

## **NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

- A. Ordinance 2019-05 To Amend Chapter 17 Offences and Miscellaneous Provisions by Adding Article VI. Unlawful Discrimination

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for discussion only of Ordinance 2019-05 to amend Chapter 17 Offences and Miscellaneous Provisions by Adding Article VI. Unlawful Discrimination.

Citizens came forth to speak on the Ordinance.

Rory Webb  
1130 Ridge Avenue & own business on Main

Susan Leisure  
6570 JBR Memorial Drive – owner of AARF

Andrea Redmond  
5317 Mimosa Drive

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson expressed concern with the enforcement of the ordinance which will require a hearing officer and mediation and how it will be funded before we say yes to this ordinance.

There were more citizen comments.

Edward Adams  
448 Jaywood

Dr. George Coletti  
5417 E. Mountain Street

Council Member Waller expressed the extra workload on the City Clerk and alleviating that by obtaining service from a lawyer to relieve that extra load.

Michelle Cerrito  
5272 Cloud Street

City Manager Thornton expressed consideration of obtaining services from litigation with Civil Rights experience that would handle out outside of Municipal Court.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked if we could consider a separate resolution of this presented ordinance where enforcement is concerned until we have worked out the kinks before adopting the ordinance.

City Manager Thornton agreed.

Citizen comments continued.

Cheryl Woods  
5494 Lucille Avenue

B. Ordinance 2019-06 To Set the Rate for Ad Valorem Property Taxation for 2019 at 22.00 mils (Second Read)

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson opened the floor for discussion of Ordinance 2019-06 to set the rate for Ad Valorem Property Taxation for 2019.

Council had discussion and questions on the setting of the millage rate as well as gave their recommendation of set rate.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-06 to set the rate for Ad Valorem Property Taxation for 2019 at 21 mils preamble read an ordinance pursuant to the charter of the City of Stone Mountain Section 6.11 to set the rate of Ad Valorem Property Taxation ; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Approved 5-1.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Planning and Zoning

Assistant City Clerk, Alicia Daniels, reported that they will meet on the third Monday with two items on the agenda.

B. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson reported the last meeting. Next meeting will be Monday, July 8.

C. Historic Preservation Commission

Assistant City Clerk, Alicia Daniels, reported that they will meet the third Wednesday of this month with three items on the agenda.

D. Sub-Committee for Busking Permissions

Council Member Little reported that the next meeting will be Monday at 11:00am and that the drafted ordinance has been completed.

E. Parks & Recreation Committee

Gina Cox reported the meeting was discussion of the overview of all parks. They will have a table at the Stone Mountain Day for citizen feedback.

**REMARKS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Council thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and for their input.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

No announcements by the Mayor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss Personnel; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:26pm.

Approved 6-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson called meeting back to order at 8:48pm; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Approved 6-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson stated that there was no action to take out of Executive Session on Personnel.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to adjourn; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Approved 6-0.

Adjourned at 8:48pm.

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Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

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Alicia Daniels, Assistant City Clerk