

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, August 2, 2016 @ 7:30 P.M.
875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Wheeler, Mayor ProTem Chakira Johnson, Council Members Susan Coletti, Steve Higgins, Richard Mailman, Andrea Redmond, Steve Wells.

STAFF: City Manager ChaQuias Thornton, City Attorney Joe Fowler, Director of Public Works Jim Tavenner, Chief of Police Chauncey Troutman, City Clerk Kate Settle and Assistant City Clerk Alicia Daniels.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Council Member Higgins gave the invocation. Council Member Wells led the pledge to the flag.

Dr. and Council Member Coletti presented the flag flown over the City on July 29, 2016 and a certificate honoring Captain Timothy W. Hoffman for his years of service in Kuwait.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Sara Abrams, 976 Ridge Avenue and Katrina Grant, 13 Pennybrook Lane. Ms. Abrams and Ms. Grant reported there is a clean-up starting at Medlock Park and ending at the Elementary School in conjunction with the Jett Jones Foundation on August 5, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Registration is \$10 and participants will receive a T-shirt. They thanked Council Member Redmond for giving them the supplies for the clean-up through Keep DeKalb Beautiful. They wanted to make sure that anyone could join them for free but they would not get a T-Shirt if they did not register.

Ms. Abrams updated the Council on the revitalization of Medlock Park and the volunteer committee's work. She distributed a flyer announcing the dedication of the Lending Tree on Saturday, August 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Abrams asked for volunteers to help oversee the activities and for the clean-up after the event. Aaron Robinson, a member of the committee, commended Sara and Katrina for their leadership and is happy to be a part of the revitalization of Medlock Park. Mayor Wheeler thanked Sara Abrams for taking the lead on the project.

Diana Hollis, 733 Mountain Village Drive, felt the proposed ordinance regarding no parking on the front lawn should include no parking on the grass at all.

Shawnette Bryant, 690 Rockborough Drive, reviewed photos with the Council of a crane parked across the street from her home. She reported the equipment has been sitting there for quite some time and felt that it was unsightly. She asked the City to take action to either get it removed or to start the project.

Maurice Elliot, 917 Main Street, expressed his concern regarding turning Second Street to a one way street because the delivery trucks would have a difficult time accessing his building.

Ed Patton, 1037 S. Millard Way, introduced himself as a candidate for the DeKalb County District 7. He reviewed his background with Council and encouraged the Council and the public to share any concerns with him.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL:

A. *Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – July 5, 2016:* Council Member Johnson made to the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti. Council Member Redmond noted the following corrections need to be made to the minutes: Page 2, Item D, the word “local” is missing and on Page 3, Item G, Katrina Grant should be spelled with a “K.” The motion and seconded were amended. Motion by Council Member Johnson, second by Council Member Coletti to approve the minutes as corrected.

Motion approved 6-0.

B. *Minutes of the Special Call Meeting – July 18, 2016:* Council Member Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

C. *Minutes of the Committee/Work Session – July 18, 2016:* Council Member Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. Council Member Redmond asked for the following corrections to be made to the minutes: page 2, Community Outreach, Council Member Redmond felt it should be noted that she asked for changes to be made on S. Main Street before Second Street was addressed. The motion and second were amended. Motion by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Coletti to approve the minutes as corrected.

Motion approved 6-0.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY: Council Member Johnson made the motion for the adoption of the agenda of the day. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY LEGISLATION VETOED BY THE MAYOR: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. *Consent Agenda:* None.

B. *Request to Change Regular Council Meeting Time to 6:30 p.m.:* No action taken tonight.

C. *Proposal of the Stone Mountain Village Business Association – Updating Kiosk located on the corner of Main and East Mountain Streets:* Council Member Johnson made the motion for approval of the Stone Mountain Village Business Association to update the kiosk located at the corner of Main and East Mountain Streets. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

- D. *East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project – Request for Consideration of Original Streetscape Plan (Second Street Residents):* Motion by Council Member Johnson to postpone the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project – Request for Consideration of Original Streetscape Plan (Second Street Residents). The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti. Council Member Coletti wanted to make sure all the property owners and businesses were aware of what might happen. She also hoped to we have in writing something from the citizens and the merchants so that the Council can make an informed decision of what the majority would like to see at that location.

Council Member Mailman agreed with Council Member Coletti.

Council Member Johnson spoke to City Manager Thornton regarding a timeframe of when the Council would need to make a decision. City Manager Thornton thought the decision should be made within a 30 day window.

Council Member Coletti also wanted to be assured the City would inform the merchants as soon as the construction date is known.

City Manager Thornton reported that she and Public Works Director Jim Tavenner would like to meet with all the property owners and merchants to discuss both scenarios in order for all to be properly informed.

Motion approved 6-0.

- E. *Agreement for Ad Valorem Tax Billing:* Council Member Johnson made the motion to approve the Agreement for Ad Valorem Tax Billing. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti. City Manager Thornton reported the agreement has not been received by the County as of yet. The motion and the second were withdrawn.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

- A. *Ordinance 2016-14 Text Amendment to Appendix A Zoning – Accessory Structures:* Council Member Johnson moved to adopt Ordinance 2016-14, Text Amendment to Appendix A Zoning. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. Council Member Wells spoke to the history of the item. City Manager Thornton explained that the ordinance needs to go to Planning and Zoning on August 8th for discussion and recommendation. The public hearing will be held on September 6. Council Member Mailman made the motion to table Ordinance 2016-24, Text Amendment to Appendix A Zoning – Accessory Structures. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

- B. *Ordinance 2016-15 Parking in Front Yard of Dwelling Prohibited:* Council Member Johnson made the motion to approve Ordinance 2016-15 Parking in Front Yard of Dwelling Prohibited. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti. Council Member Coletti asked Attorney Fowler to explain his memo to the public. Council Member Coletti asked Attorney Fowler for clarification if it is ever permissible to park on the grass.

Council Member Mailman felt the ordinance was confusing. He hoped Council would be willing to sit down and fix the ordinance. Attorney Fowler thought the Council might consider starting with a clean slate. Ms. Thornton thought a large part of the confusion might be that some of the parking regulations are part of the zoning regulations which is for future building and others are in the maintenance part of the code. The ordinance before council was to be included in the property maintenance part of the code and would be used to enforce current use not future use.

Council Member Wells agreed with Attorney Fowler and the ordinance needs to be cleaned up.

Motion by Council Member Redmond to table the ordinance, have a future meeting to find the points we want addressed, reword it and present it at a later date. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

- C. *Resolution 2016-26 to renew the Service Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County, Georgia:* Council Member Johnson motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-16 to renew the Service Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County, Georgia. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti. City Manager Thornton reported that the City has not received the agreement from DeKalb. Ms. Thornton reported the deadline for this agreement is in September. Council Member Redmond made the motion to table Resolution 2016-16 the Service Delivery Strategy with Dekalb County to a later date because we have not received verification from DeKalb County. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

- D. *Resolution 2016-27 FY 2016 Budget Resolution:* Motion by Council Member Johnson to adopt Resolution 2016-27. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

- E. *Resolution 2016-28 Official Signatures Required for SunTrust Banking Transactions:* Council Member Johnson to adopt Resolution 2016-28 Official Signatures Required for SunTrust Banking Transactions. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti.

Motion approved 6-0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- A. *Planning and Zoning:* Planning and Zoning will be meeting on August 8, 2016.

- B. *Community Affairs:* Council Member Coletti reminded all that the City Wide Yard Sale will be held October 22. The dumpsters will be delivered the Friday before the Yard Sale. The shredder will be available the day of the event. She reported on August 13-19, there will be a tiny house on display on 2nd Street adjacent to the Art Station. On Monday, August 15 at Out to Lunch, Will Johnston, head of the Atlanta Tiny House movement will be making a presentation.

- C. *Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority:* The Downtown Development Authority has cancelled their session on August 8. Their regular session will be held on August 22 at 6:30 p.m.

- D. *Finance:* None.

E. *Community Outreach:* Council Member Redmond reported the Mason Breakfast will be held on August 6, 2016 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Mason Lodge on VFW Drive. The Jett Jones Foundation clean-up at Medlock Park will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Stone Mountain Days at Lela Mason Park will be held on August 6 from 10:00 a.m. until dark. The Yard of the Month for the month of August was awarded to Richard Keyton and Rose Danko of 1012 Hill Street. The Community Watch next meeting will be held at new Café Jaya.

Council Member Redmond asked if the residents around 5506 East Mountain Street were aware the plants and the Crepe Myrtles will be removed. If the residents of East Mountain are not planning to save the plants, she is willing to take them. Council Member Redmond reported the first case of the Zika Virus in Florida was contracted in the State of Florida. Florida is asking for residents to invest in a Smart Trap. The traps are available through the CDC. She felt it was necessary for the Council to consider a mosquito control program for coming year.

Council Member Johnson reported the Stone Mountain Historical Preservation will be holding their annual BBQ on Saturday, August 6 at the Wells Brown House from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

F. *Public Safety:* Council Member Mailman reported he was looking into the viability of providing the Police Department with tasers. With the recent events in the nation regarding police officers, there were incidents when there was a shooting and the officers did not have the alternative of having a taser. He hopes to acquire two tasers a shift before next year's budget. Council Member Mailman did some work on VFW Park. There are unwanted activities going on after dark. Council Member Mailman asked that the park be opened and closed on a scheduled time. He reported two new officers have been hired. Stone Mountain Days will be taking place in Shermantown. The organization feeds the people, speakers are community leaders and pastors and there are many activities for children. He encouraged everyone to participate.

G. *Public Works:* Council Member Wells thanked the Medlock Park Committee for all their hard work. He also thanked Katrina Grant for organizing the clean-up with the Jett Jones. He recognized Jim Tavenner, Public Works Director to speak on the issue at Rockborough. Mr. Tavenner reviewed the history of the project. The erosion was caused by a large junction box. It was determined that the junction box could not be fixed and should be replaced. In order to replace the junction box, Public Works needed to coordinate with Georgia Power to secure a telephone pole. When that was completed, Dash Construction was to start work on July 13. They did not. July 18, they were supposed to start; they did not. The equipment is sitting there, the boxes are sitting there but there is not a crew.

Council Member Johnson asked if there is anything contractually that we can do to go after the contractor. It was the consensus of the Council Members to write the contractor a letter and give the Contractor a timeframe to complete the work.

Mr. Wells asked, in regard to the Zika Virus, for City Manager Thornton to check to see what DeKalb County is doing for the citizens.

Council Member Mailman expressed his disappointment with Advanced Disposal. Part of the agreement with Advanced Disposal was to make dumpsters available to the citizens on a quarterly basis. The dumpsters were put out for the citizens. Advanced Disposal did not pick up the dumpsters. Public Works, in the end, had to clean up the area and take care of the dumpsters. He asked staff to communicate his disappointment to Advanced Disposal. Council Member Mailman also asked for a schedule of when they were putting out the dumpsters and when they were picking the dumpsters up.

H. Historic Preservation Commission: None.

I. Visitor Center: Ms. Cumbie reported at the Work Session. The Visitor Center was commended by Council Member Mailman, particularly Kim Cumbie.

REMARKS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Council Member Johnson was not in town over the weekend and was not able to attend Gary Peet's retirement party. She thanked Mr. Peet for his years of service and for everything he has done for the City.

Council Member Mailman thanked Mr. Peet for always taking the time to explain the issues to him during his tenure.

Mr. Higgins thanked the public for their participation.

Mayor Wheeler thanked the audience for their participation and invited them back for the Work Session on August 15 at 6:30 p.m.

City Manager Thornton introduced the new Assistant City Clerk, Alicia Daniels and commended her for her work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti.

Motion approved 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

Kathleen E. Settle, City Clerk

APPROVED AT THE 9/6/2016 REGULAR MEETING