

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

**PRESENT:** Mayor Patricia Wheeler, Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson, Richard Mailman, Andrea Redmond, Steve Higgins, Susan Coletti, Steve Wells.

**STAFF:** City Manager Gary Peet, City Attorney Joe Fowler, City Clerk Cha-Quias Johnson, Chief of Police Chauncey Troutman, Public Works Director Jim Tavenner, Assistant City Clerk Kate Settle.

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

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:** Mayor Wheeler determined a quorum.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE** Council Member Redmond gave the invocation. Council Member Wells led the pledge.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** Michael Labbe-Webb, a business owner on Main Street, felt the repair work on Main Street was ill timed. He hoped, in the future, the City would better communicate with those impacted during a road closure and reconsider closing roads during a holiday weekend.

Fritha Dinwiddie, 5505 E. Mountain Street, asked Council to consider asking the public to stand for the invocation and to continue standing for the pledge.

Mark Keyton, 5380 Poole Street, expressed his concerns regarding the work being done on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in reference to the East Mountain Street project. He was not satisfied with the information he received at a recent meeting at City Hall. Mayor Wheeler assured Mr. Keyton, the engineers are working through the problems.

Joan Monroe, 5499 Windsong Trace, read a statement against the proposed increase in Sanitation Fees.

Sara Abrams, 976 Ridge, suggested putting a box outside of City Hall to be used for payments, suggestions and house watch requests.

She gave an update on Medlock Park:

- She will be receiving lending trees to put in the park and proposes to put adolescent and children books in the lending trees and place them in the park.
- Mr. Rhodes from the Labyrinth Society will be meet Ms. Abrams at Medlock Park on Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Volunteer Committee will be having their first gathering. They are meeting at the park at 6:00 p.m. and having a meeting at Café Jaya at 7:15 p.m. They will be doing their fundraising under the DDA's not-for-profit designation.
- She introduced Catrina Grant as one of the grant writers for the project.

Mr. Michael Henry, 419 Miguel Court, asked if the City has any regulations regarding the number of home rentals allowed for each street. He was concerned many rental properties are not being maintained. Mayor Wheeler suggested he contact the City's Code Enforcement Officer.

***READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL***

- A. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 3, 2016. Council Member Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 3, 2016. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. Council Member Redmond asked for clarification regarding the motion for Resolution 2016-16. Council Member Johnson clarified the vote and the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0** with Council Members Coletti, Johnson, Mailman and Redmond voting yes. Council Members Wells and Higgins abstained.

- B. Minutes of the Work Session of May 16, 2016. Council Member Johnson made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Work Session of May 16, 2016. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti.

**Motion approved 4-0** with Council Members Coletti, Johnson, Mailman and Redmond voting yes. Council Member Wells and Higgins abstained.

***READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:*** None.

***ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY:*** Request for unanimous consent to add under New Ordinances and Resolutions, Item C. Resolution 2016-24 – Support of Doraville TAD. Council Member Johnson made the motion to adopt the agenda of the day and add Item C under New Ordinances and Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mailman.

**Motion approved 6-0**

***CONSIDERATION OF ANY LEGISLATION VETOED BY THE MAYOR:*** None

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS:*** None

***NEW BUSINESS***

- A. *Consent Agenda:* None

- B. *Facility Use Agreement: DeKalb County School District and the City of Stone Mountain re: Rock Gym:* Council Member Johnson motioned to postpone action on this agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti.

Council Member Johnson was not clear what action could be taken by the City when the agenda item comes before Council again. She hoped the City would meet with the School Board again to determine terms.

Council Member Wells suggested the citizens contact the DeKalb School Board and the Superintendent and let them know of the concerns regarding the Rock Gym.

Council Member Redmond hoped the City could renegotiate a contract.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

- C. *Local Government Entities Agreement between American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and the City of Stone Mountain:* Council Member Johnson motioned to approve the agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

**Motion Approved 6-0.**

- D. *Facility Use Agreement: Ray of Hope and City of Stone Mountain – Use of Medlock Park for Football July 11, 2016-December 10, 2016 - \$4,800:* Council Member Johnson motioned to approve the Facility Use Agreement with Ray of Hope for the use of Medlock Park for Football. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. Mayor Wheeler thanked City Manager Peet for his work on this project.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

- E. *Publication of Property Tax Notice and Public Hearings – Tentative adoption of 2016 Milage Rate. Adoption of the advertising schedule:* Council Member Johnson motioned to approve the publication of the Property Tax Notice and Public Hearings and tentative adoption of the 2016 milage rate and adoption of the advertising schedule. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. The motion and the second were amended to reflect the tentative mil rate to be proposed as 22.27.

City Manager Peet reminded Council, one mil out of the 22.27 will be dedicated to the Stormwater Fund.

City Clerk Thornton announced the publication schedule as: the ad is to run June 16 for two public hearings to be held on June 27. The first hearing will be held at 11:00 a.m.; the second hearing to be held at 6:00 p.m. The advertisement for the third hearing will run on June 23 and the third hearing will be held at July 5 at 7:00 p.m.

**Motion approved 6-0**

## ***NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS***

- A. *Resolution 2016-18: Solid Waste Collection Fees:* Council Member Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-18. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. Council Member Johnson clarified Advanced Disposal did not raise their fees. In the past, the increase in the fees has not been passed onto to the consumer. The increase in fees being proposed is the cost the City has to pay.

Discussion turned to the field audit, the City's participation in assisting in the audit and securing carts that were not being charged to the resident.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

- B. *Resolution 2016-20: FY 2016 Budget Amendment.* Council Member Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-20. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti.

The amendment to the budget was \$1,120 to pay for half the cost of security for Tunes by the Tracks.

Council Member Higgins made a motion to amend the Resolution to include \$50,000 to be transferred from the General Fund to the Stormwater Fund for the Rockborough Drainage Project. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion.

City Manager Peet explained, the homeowners affected by the sinkhole have been patient but are anxious for the City to complete the project. The City has looked into other methods of repair but has found the junction box is beyond repair. Council Member Coletti asked when the project is to begin. Public Works Director Tavenner reported the City is waiting on Georgia Power to relocate their pole. The removal of the pole will present a cost to the city.

Council Member Wells asked why the funds for security and for the license with ASCAP were not being paid by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Council Member Johnson explained the cost for security was not known until after the budget period was over. ASCAP license fee was in the City's budget.

The Council voted on the motion to approve the amendment to adding Resolution 2016-18: the transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Stormwater Fund.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

The Council voted on motion to approve Resolution 2016-18.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

- C. *Resolution 2016-24 – Support of Doraville TAD.* Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-24 in support of Doraville TAD. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. Mayor Wheeler reported on the background of the Resolution. **Motion approved 6-0.**

## ***REPORTS OF COMMITTEES***

- A. *Planning and Zoning:* None.

- B. *Community Affairs:* Council Member Coletti reported on her attendance at the Stone Mountain Business Association Meeting. As Mr. Labbe-Webb had commented earlier, she felt closing the street on Memorial Day weekend was poor planning. Council Member Coletti hoped in the future the City would communicate when road closing will happen.

The businesses and the residents are in the process of having a petition concerning road closures. They would like traffic to be re-routed to Rockbridge and Stone Mountain/Lithonia and East Ponce and Mountain Industrial during city events.

The Business Association would like to invite all Department Heads to speak at their meetings in order for them to become familiar with staff and learn staff's role in City government.

Council Member Coletti announced the Fall City Wide Yard Sale will take place on October 23.

C. *Economic Development/ Downtown Development Authority*: Council Member Johnson announced the DDA Board will be meeting Monday night at 6:30 p.m. They are working on adding a movie to the Back to School Batch on July 23.

D. *Finance*: None.

E. *Community Outreach*: Council Member Redmond asked for anyone wanting to nominate Yard of the Month within the Watch Group area, to please let her know. The Community Watch Group is planning to have a cook-out. City Walkers are meeting at 7:30 a.m. at the library on Saturdays. Stone Mountain Women's Club is having a book sale on June 16-20, 2016.

She reported Stone Mountain Elementary made a rating of an F rating. In her experience in working with Title 1 Schools, funding can be an issue. She hoped the City would consider assisting Stone Mountain Schools in the next budget. Council Member Redmond is trying to put together a summer lunch program for school aged children.

F. *Public Safety*: Council Member Mailman asked the public to make extra precautions during the summer months. Typically, vandalism increases during the summer months. He asked the citizenry to please be watchful, lock their car doors, set their alarm system and call 911 if they feel there is suspicious activity in their neighborhood. Council Member Mailman also reminded everyone that the City has a house watch service. When residents go out of town, they can let the police know in order for them to patrol the area.

G. *Public Works*: Steve Wells felt the City failed in communication to the citizens and the merchants regarding road closures. He hoped to find ways to improve the communications.

H. *Historic Preservation Commission*: None.

I. *Visitor Center*: The report was given at the Work Session.

**REMARKS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:** Council Member Mailman thanked the public for attending the meeting and invited them to voice their opinions.

Council Member Wells reported he missed recent meetings due to his attendance at Air Force School in Alabama. He appreciated all the support he received for serving the Air Force Reserve.

Council Member Redmond thanked the public for their support regarding Rock Gym.

Mayor Wheeler was pleased with those in attendance and stated if they ever felt they were not being heard, to please put their concerns in writing and she would make sure all council members received their statements.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

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Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

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ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, City Clerk