



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:43pm immediately after the Special Called Meeting adjourned.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the adoption of the Agenda of the Day; seconded by Councilmember Hollis.

Approved 6-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Gina Cox

787 Fourth Street

Concerned with the installation of speed breakers in her neighborhood.

Advised by City Manager for Ms. Cox to call her for the procedures.

Steve Higgins

1028 Ridge Avenue

He outlined some concerns regarding the Rock Gym negotiations.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Planning and Zoning

Jelani Linder reported on the Planning & Zoning meeting held last night, Monday, April 15, 2019.

He reported on an idea for 5380 E. Mountain application for a buffer of either a fence or landscaping.

There were questions from the Council concerning the buffer idea and hours of operation for 5380 Studios.

B. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority

Alan Peterson reported on the Downtown Development Authority & Main Street activity.

C. Historic Preservation Commission

There was no report from Historic Preservation Commission. However, the Assistant City Clerk, Alicia Daniels reported that HPC will meet for the month to consider three items.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Code Compliance Officer – Sgt. Roseberry

Sgt. Roseberry reported on the current court cases.

City Manager Thornton gave an update on 5444 Rockbridge barricade and demolition plan.

B. Public Works Director – Jim Tavenner

Jim Tavenner reported on bid packets for 5312 Zachary Drive and 5200 Stone Trace for pipe work which will be one project; 951 Main Street Stormwater project, bids due May 13 at 2pm; bids due for the resurfacing & striping from Sheppard Rd down to JBR on April 29 at 2:00pm; still working on the Creek problem at Sexton Drive near McCurdy Park scope of work being 572ft of creek & 27ft wide.

Questions from Council on the Creek Conservation; VFW Park's bleachers removal and ridding of poison ivy; flag pole monument in remembrance of a young lady that needs to be cleaned up; Sheppard Road patching of holes headed to W. Mountain; however, advised by Jim that this is a County street, but he will take care of it.

C. Chief of Police – Chief Troutman

Chief Troutman reported on calls, citations and arrests as well as a recent crime that occurred, home burglary; the start of passing out pamphlets to the citizens in reference to crime tips to keep them safe.

Council asked for VFW park to be closed later since the sun is up longer now; enforce parking by stop signs; random firing of guns.

D. Assistant City Clerk – Alicia Daniels

Alicia Daniels reported on permitting and occupational tax certificate renewal numbers for the month of March.

Council questioned Hearthstone Subdivision permitting permissions and adherence to the court order. City Manager Thornton advised that no permits are being issued at this time for Hearthstone until the issue is resolved of adherence by builder to the court order.

E. Tourism Manager – Kim Cumbie

Kim Cumbie reported on Visitor's Center statistics for the month of March; Ambassador training on April 30 at 10:00am; invitation to the GA Department of Economic Development at Art Station on May 8 at 9am – 10am; the itinerary and press release for the event to be held May 7 and May 8 meeting for the Tourism Product Development Team events; Farmer's Market first event May 14; Village Cruisers car show first event April 27; Christmas parade to be held on December 7.

Council questioned when the Visitor's Center will hold the appreciation party for the volunteers of the Visitor's Center.

City Manager Thornton elaborated on the Suntrust banking account for the Farmer's Market. \$1500 will be kept in the account in order to have online access and set aside an amount in reserves for fees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Development of Interactive Zoning Map – update

City Manager Thornton spoke on the meeting that with Blue Cypress of Decatur, GA and their proposal to develop a software similar to what the County provides. The company will provide proposal on mapping stormwater as well.

B. Request to Consider Busking Permissions within the City of Stone Mountain

City Manager Thornton asked for item to be taken from the active agenda because of restrictions in our zoning code relating to Busking and for the Mayor to arrange a sub-committee to review Busking Permissions and our current zoning code.

Mayor Wheeler asked for Councilmembers Hollis, Little and Waller to serve on the committee. Councilmembers accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Professional Services Agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and Newborn Permitting Services, LLC for Permitting Technician Services

City Manager Thornton advised that Safebuilt is discontinuing the Permit Tech service. Current Permit Tech, Angela Newborn has become an asset to the City; therefore, the City would like to keep her on as Permit Tech; this will change the vendor from Safebuilt to Newborn Permitting Consultants. We will not have to bid out per City Attorney. The fees are still the same; the vendor is only changing.

Council asked if we have received the 30-day notice from Safebuilt ending the agreement. City Manager advised that we have not yet, and the new agreement will not be fully executed until the 30 days has ended.

Council commented on the service and the connection that Angela Newborn has with the City and thinks that it is important to keep her service.

City Manager Thornton explained that the only change with this Agreement is the length of notice to give to the vendor if services is being terminated by City; it is 60 days with Newborn Permitting Consultants instead of 30 days as before with Safebuilt.

Council questioned the change in 24 hours of service by the Permit Tech to 28 hours.

City Manager Thornton advised that there is a contingency line item which allows for transfers funds from the Professional Services account if the hours go up to 28 hours because of an influx of permits which occurs during the spring and summer months.

- B. Request to Dispose of City Surplus Property by Sale – 1992 Asplundh Timberwolf Commercial Wood Chipper

No questions or discussion by Council.

- C. Parks & Recreation Committee – Establishment of Committee and Member Appointment

City Manager Thornton informed that a notice has been posted that the City is receiving letters of interest from those that want to be considered for the Parks & Recreation Committee. The Committee will consist of 7 members; four citizens, one community stakeholder, one member will be appointed by Council and one will be appointed by Administration. Administration appoints Jim Tavenner, Public Works Director. City Manager explained the purpose and functions of the committee. Letters of interest will be received through April 22. Appointments will be voted on May 7.

- D. Virtual Academy Solution Agreement – To Permit the Stone Mountain Police Department to Offer Training Online

City Manager Thornton elaborated on Agreement which will help to prevent off-site training being that the police department is small in man power especially when officers are off. The cost will be \$69.00/year per officer and if the agreement is voted on May 7, the services will begin June 1.

Council had no questions just comments on the reasonable price and that it would save money on travel.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution 2019-14 – To Reset the Terms for Downtown Development Authority Board Members (place holder)

Gary Peet, treasurer for DDA, advised that the board has a vacancy for a board member and there is a nomination for Joy Pittman of Coze Tea. The board has obtained the services of an attorney to draft a resolution to submit to Council to reset the Board member terms as an attempt to regain the initial intent of terms that provide for staggering expiration dates.

Council asked does DDA have to wait until the issue is cleared up with the staggering expiration dates

or can the board move on with the nomination of Ms. Pittman. Gary Peet advised that the attorney plans to have the resolution drafted before their next voting session of DDA.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Thornton

City Manager Thornton gave the City Manager's Report speaking on the annexation of the Park Properties where DeKalb the City has received letter from DeKalb County in response to the annexation request of properties at 1169, 1176, 1177, 1187 and 1203 Park Blvd. The next course of action is for the City to adopt an ordinance which approves the annexation of these properties into the incorporated boundaries. Once the ordinance is adopted the City will have to provide copies to the Department of Community Affairs and to DeKalb County.

Administration received the Memorandum of Understanding for the parking study and analysis by ARC. The bill was received for our portion totaling \$3200.00.

Administration is requesting a Special Called Meeting for the Rezone application for 5380 E. Mountain as well as first read of ordinance to annex.

Second phase of audit scheduled for April 29.

City Manager Thornton spoke on the recent Planning & Zoning class that she, Councilmember Hollis and Assistant City Clerk attended.

Micah Richards updated Council on communications efforts via Facebook & Twitter page live. Template of Newsletter will be out May 1.

Government 101 Series will take place Thursday, April 25 at 6:30pm. Council asked how communication is going out in regards to this class. City Manager Thornton advised by fliers and Social Media.

City Manager Thornton reported on the Revenue and Expenses through March 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson invited the citizens to the Historic Society's Pancake Breakfast this Saturday at Wells Brown House.

Councilmember Waller asked Council about setting up a meeting with HPC to discuss guidelines and expectations. Mayor would like to put out notice for letters of interest of new members to the Commission first before setting up this meeting.

Mayor passed out letter to Council and City Manager given to her by a citizen of Ridge Forest and hope to discuss resolution of these issues presented in the letter.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved 6-0.

Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

Alicia Daniels, Assistant City Clerk