

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

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



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:38pm immediately following the Special Called Meeting.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

There was a determination of a quorum during the Special Called Meeting. Council Members Little, Mailman, Hollis, Johnson, Waller and Bryant were present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Council Member Hollis gave the invocation and Council Member Mailman led the pledge of allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Andrea Redmond
5317 Mimosa Drive
Expressed concerns with the memorial event for Chief Rivers.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Wheeler had no communications to read.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to adopt the agenda of the day with Executive Session to discuss Personnel at the end of the meeting; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Approved 6-0.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Planning and Zoning

City Manager Thornton advised Council that the Committee did send a written report for the last meeting where they recommended approval of the variance on 1056 Griffin Street with conditions that the driveway would fall within the setbacks and that the documentation be submitted to the City in reference to the owner which was submitted to Administration today.

City Manager Thornton asked Council if they will consider meeting to look over the code to clarify the application process for variance. Council recommended that the City Manager put together a proposal of the cost, so they can move forward as well as the position and scope of the Planning and Zoning Committee

B. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority

Director of Downtown Development Authority, Alan Peterson II reported that it has been recommended that Main Street's probation to end; RFQ to be released in September; Marta lot survey done this month; OPO has received possible tenant; October 4th is the BOOST deadline; no applications have been received for the FAÇADE grant at this time.

C. Historic Preservation Commission

There was no one to report from HPC; however, Assistant City Clerk reported that there will be four items heard by the Commission on Wednesday, August 21.

D. Sub-committee on Busking

Council Member Little reported that the City Attorney is reviewing the ordinance.

E. Parks and Recreation Committee

City Manager Thornton advised the Committee would fall under guidelines as other committees; the field trip scheduled to several parks cannot be considered their public meeting, they can still have a field trip, but will have to schedule a date, time and location for the public meeting.

Gina Cox reported that they will still have the field trip on Saturday, September 7 at 10:00pm to meet at Medlock Park and resume to the rest of the parks spending about 15 minutes at each park.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Code Compliance Officer – Sgt. Roseberry

Sgt Roseberry reported on attempts to get rid of mosquitos. DeKalb County is having an event to dispose of tires on September 14 from 8am – 1pm at 4380 Memorial Drive. They will accept any tires from vehicles and small trucks. She also reported on her court cases.

B. Public Works Director – Jim Tavenner

Public Works Director, Jim Tavenner, reported on the storm water project pre-construction meeting on Zachary Drive, Stone Trace and Main Street will be held on August 22 at 1pm on Zachary Drive.

City Manager Thornton advised Council that they will give ample time to Main Street businesses information on the street closures.

He reported on areas that they have cut back brush and limbs; Manor and Second Street stop signs have been placed; waiting on cost estimates for creek that run along Sexton Drive; meeting with Stone Mountain park about their gate area.

C. Chief of Police – Chief Troutman

Chief Troutman reported on police department stats; announced three commendations to Palmer, Whitehead and Aponte; and spoke on the rash of break-ins within the City.

D. Assistant City Clerk – Alicia Daniels

Assistant City Clerk, Alicia Daniels, reported on business licensing updates for 2019, permitting activity and applications/meetings for Planning & Zoning and Historical Preservation Commission.

E. Tourism Manager – Kim Cumbie

Tourism Manager, Kim Cumbie, was not available to report.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – City Manager ChaQuias Thornton

City Manager Thornton reported that interviews for City Clerk position will occur soon; her classes for accreditation started today; she reviewed the expense and revenue report which was emailed to Council earlier in the week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Hearthstone Subdivision Covenant Restrictions – update

City Manger Thornton had no update to present. The negotiations are stalled at 15% from Council and 50% from Hearthstone.

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

City Manager Thornton updated the Council that the requestor is deciding about the cost of the work.

- C. Extension of East Mountain Street Sidewalk to Stone Mountain Park West Gate

City Manager Thornton gave Council an update on their last meeting with Stone Mountain Park which included Council Member Mailman, Public Works Director, Jim Tavenner and Director of Downtown Development Authority, Alan Peterson II. It was discussed at the meeting the cost of the project to be \$100,000 with the scope of work to be an expansion to the E. Mountain Street Gate and the renovation of the gate itself. The City and the Park will split the cost 50/50.

Council discussed and questioned that the cost includes the gate also and where the City's portion of the cost would come from.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Application for Variance on 1056 Griffin Street, Stone Mountain, GA 30083; Parcel 18 090 19 014; for Deviation from the District Regulations for Traditional Residential (R2).

City Manager Thornton advised Council that the house build has gone before HPC and was approved; the house is within the setbacks and lot coverage complies.

City Council discussed Variance Application and posed questions (owner of the property in question, variance application concerns posed at Planning & Zoning).

- B. Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS); Restated Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan

City Manager Thornton briefly explained the retirement plan and asked for Council to review and if they have any questions to contact her.

- C. Request for Street Name Change – To Change a Portion of “Venable Street” to “Mamie Ella Lane Street” – Vanessa Cummings, Requestor

City Manager Thornton explained that Council must initiate the street name change according to code and then Administration will schedule a Public Hearing. The area where the name change is being considered has no addresses, so there would not be a need for changes in post office or mailing addresses.

Gina Cox explained to Council and the public about Mamie Ella and her contributions to the City.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution 2019-20 FY2019 Budget Amendment

City Manager Thornton explained the need for the budget amendment for an increase in the line item for court services due to personnel changes in court services therefore causing a savings in the personnel line item; therefore, asking for \$15,000 of that moneys to be moved to the vehicle and maintenance line item for the police department. She will forward to the Council the Real and Personal Property Amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson gave Council an update on her orientation class for Leadership of DeKalb which will be once a month for the next nine months. She also announced the celebration for Chief James B Rivers on Sunday, August 25.

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

Approved 6-0.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:35pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to reconvene Work Session; seconded by Council Member Hollis.

Approved 6-0.

Mayor Pro Tem advised that there was no action to be taken out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved 6-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14pm.

Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

Alicia Daniels, Assistant City Clerk