

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, GA
Monday, November 21, 2016
6:30 pm
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson, Council Members Susan Coletti, Steve Higgins, Richard Mailman and Andrea Redmond.

ABSENT: Mayor Patricia Wheeler, Council Member Steve Wells

STAFF: City Manager ChaQuias Thornton, Chief of Police Chauncey Troutman, Public Works Director Jim Tavenner, DDA Executive Director Mechel McKinley and City Clerk Kate Settle

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Council Member Steve Higgins gave the invocation. Council Member Richard Mailman led the pledge.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY: Council Member Redmond made the motion to approve the agenda of the day. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved: 4-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (*The public is encouraged to speak but to keep comments to three minutes.*): The following citizens came forward to share their concerns, opinions and suggestions: Fritha Dinwiddie, Clint Monroe, Jasmine Little, Darrell Patton, Kwabena Nkromo from the SMV Citizens Food Project.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. *Planning and Zoning:* None.
- B. *Community Affairs:* Council Member Coletti asked if the relocation of the dog park has been discussed. She was informed there had been no further discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson directed staff to look into any restrictions moving the dog park to VFW Park.
- C. *Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority:* Ms. McKinley reported the last farmer's market would be taking place tomorrow, November 22. The diorama has been transformed into a Holiday theme. On Friday, November 25 starting at 4:00 p.m., the festivities and the parade and will be taking place on November 25th. Due to the drought, the DeKalb County Fire Marshal will not issue a permit for the annual fireworks display. Christmas ornaments are for sale for \$15.00.
- D. *Finance:* None.
- E. *Community Outreach:* Council Member Redmond reported there are four new members to the Community Watch Group; on December 3 from 8-4, Christmas at Smoke Rise being held at Smoke Rise Elementary

School; on December 10 from 10-4 is the Tour of Homes in Stone Mountain. Tickets are available at Nan Nash's Antique Emporium.

F. *Public Works*: None.

G. *Public Safety*: None.

H. *Historic Preservation Commission*: None.

- I. *Visitor Center*: Ms. Cumbie was absent from the meeting due to her son's birthday. Her report was distributed in the packet.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. *Code Compliance Officer*: Sergeant Roseberry reviewed her report with the Council. She explained the method she will taking in the future regarding rooming houses. Sergeant Roseberry informed Council that she had responded to a complaint on a home with hoarding issues that turned into a situation where the Division of Family and Children Services needed to be contacted. The case involves a family where English is their second language and the City does not employ a staff member who speaks their language. The City is working with the help of County and State agencies to get the family the help they need.
- B. *Public Works Director*: Mr. Tavenner reported 63 people has worked toward their community service hours. Bids were advertised for milling and lay on Ridge from Mountain to Mimosa. One bid was received from Shepco. The amount of the bid was within the estimated range. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the bid. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson wanted to be assured that a detour would be put in place as well as door hangers for those residents that would be affected. He asked if the Council would be interested in doing patching on Zachary Drive using some of the DOT funding the City has received. The road was originally concrete and the base has fallen. Council Member Redmond asked Mr. Tavenner to possibly look at cleaning up Poplar Springs going toward Ferndale.
- C. *Chief of Police*: Chief Troutman reviewed his report with Council. He distributed a subject that has been arrested for vehicle theft. Three burglaries have occurred within the City limits. Chief Troutman asked that everyone be careful, locking doors, where your purses are left, during the holiday season.
- D. *City Clerk*: Ms. Settle had submitted a written report and asked for volunteers for Historical Preservation Commission and the Planning Zoning Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. *East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project - Additional Sidewalk Consideration*: City Manager Thornton has spoken with Atwell and the contractor will be submitting full price invoice for the additional sidewalk that was not contracted. It was the consensus of Council not to pay for the sidewalk as it was not contracted. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

A. *Consent Agenda*:

1. Appointments by the City Council
 - a. City Attorney – Joe Fowler
 - b. Assistant City Attorney – Solicitor – L'Erin Barnes-Wiggins
 - c. Chief Municipal Court Judge – Honorable Warren Hoffman
 - d. Associate Municipal Court Judge – Honorable Mark Gaffney
 - e. Associate Municipal Court Judge – Honorable LaTisha Dear Jackson

- f. Legal Organ – The Champion Newspaper
- 2. Contract for Services Renewal City of Stone Mountain Art Station, Inc.
- 3. Contract for Services Renewal – City of Stone Mountain and Professional Probation Services, Inc.
- 4. Visitor’s Center Agreement Renewal – City of Stone Mountain and Stone Mountain Memorial Association
- 5. Lease Agreement – City of Stone Mountain and VFW Park Stone Mountain Community Garden
- 6. Renewal Agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and Federal Property Registration Corporation

Mayor ProTem Johnson went through the items with Council. Public Comment was open. The following citizens came forward with opinions and concerns regarding Judge Dear: Diana Hollis and Joan Monroe.

- B. *Employment Contract between the City of Stone Mountain and City Manager ChaQuias Thornton*: City Manager Thornton distributed a draft of her contract for Council’s review. She explained in the past, the City Manager position has been under contract until the last City Manager’s agreement was by resolution. City Manager Thornton preferred the contract agreement and was amenable to the contract being an appendix or an attachment to a resolution. She brought to their attention the difference in the contract was an increase in order to cover the cost of insurance. If she wanted the insurance, she would have to pay out of pocket.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. *Ordinance 2016-19 - An ordinance amending Appendix A, Zoning, Uses – Churches (first reading)*: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson read the preamble of the ordinance into the record. City Manager Thornton reported the Planning and Zoning Committee met and voted in favor of the item.
- B. *Ordinance 2016-20 – Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (first reading)*: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson read the preamble of the ordinance into the record. Council Member Redmond ask the Council an addition to the budget in way of a donation of \$500 a month to both the Sue Kellogg Library and the Stone Mountain Elementary School. Discussion centered on putting forth an inter-local agreement; whether there are funds in the budget toward donations of this sort and possibly funding a program. Mike Cooper, President of Friends of the Library, suggested contributing toward the improvements of the building. He hoped there would be funding coming from the Wade Walker Library funds that are not being used. With new CEO of DeKalb entering office and new commissioners, he thought it might be worthwhile to take some time to see how the City would like to contribute to the library. Public comment was opened. Clint Monroe expressed his concerns, suggestions.

Council Member Mailman reported on the volunteer efforts toward the elementary school. He felt that the State and US government senators and representatives need to be informed in order to solicit their involvement.

City Manager Thornton reviewed the amendments to the Budget that was originally presented. A question and answered period followed.

- C. *Resolution 2016-38 – A Resolution to Request the Georgia General Assembly to Annex Property into the City of Stone of Stone Mountain*: City Manager Thornton reported on a meeting with Senator Hansen. The Senator indicated he would support the map generated by his office. The difference in the map generated by his office and the one presented to Council with the report from the Annexation Committee is the Annexation Committee used parcels and the Senator’s office used census blocks, which in some cases divides a parcel and/or roads.

Mr. Gary Peet reported on the changes and how the boundaries will change should Council adopt the Senator’s map. He pointed out that the census block that includes Kroger also encompasses six apartment complexes and because census blocks use geographic landmarks, it cuts one of the apartment complexes in half at Finger Creek.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson directed City Manager Thornton to coordinate a meeting with the Senator’s office to discuss the annexation map.

- D. *Resolution 2016-39 –The Annual Appointment of an Election Superintendent for 2017:* The current city clerk will perform the duties as the Election Superintendent.
- E. *Resolution 2016-40 –Setting the Official Holiday Schedule for 2017:* Mayor Pro Tem Johnson read the holidays into the record.
- F. *Resolution 2016-41 – Appointment Prosecuting Attorney and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney:* Mayor Pro Tem Johnson read the preamble into the record.

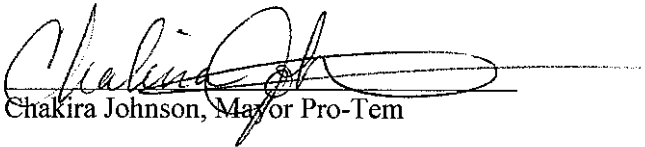
CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: City Manager Thornton distributed the report and all departments have operated within their budget and the 2016 Tax Anticipation Note was paid on November 4, 2016. The Court Department is about 4% over the benchmark. The bond revenues were anticipated higher than the actual revenue received. City Manager Thornton has asked Safe Built and LSI to audit our zoning ordinances. She announced the Clerk/Receptionist position has been filled by Chassity Mitchell.

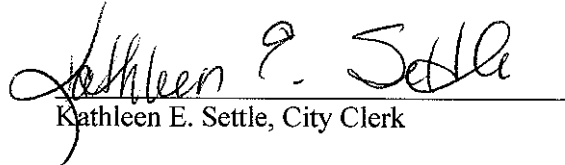
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR: Council Member Redmond wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. Council Member Higgins wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He reported there have been more people joining the pickle ball group. They are now playing three nights a week. Council Member Coletti also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and was thankful for the audience participation. Council Member Mailman wanted everyone to be safe over the holidays. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving and hoped to see everyone at the parade on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Redmond made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.


Chakira Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem


Kathleen E. Settle, City Clerk