

MINUTES OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION  
Monday, October 19, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Patricia Wheeler called the Committee/Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Susan Coletti, Steve Higgins, Chakira Johnson, Richard Mailman, and Andrea Redmond – which constituted a quorum. Council Member Wells was absent.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

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

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adopt the agenda of the day. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. Motion passed 5-0.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Ms. Susan Leisure of the Stone Mountain Business Association addressed Council. Ms. Leisure discussed with Council the need to amend the location for placement of directional signs as previously approved by the Council. City Manager Gary Peet and Public Works Director Jim Tavenner are to meet with Ms. Leisure to discuss alternative placement locations. The item is to be added to the regular session of Council scheduled for November 3, 2015.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Finance – No report.

Planning and Zoning – No report.

Community Affairs – Council Member Coletti reported that there were approximately 30 vendors at the citywide yard sale held last Saturday, October 17, 2015. She also reminded those present that flags are still available for purchase to commemorate the military service of those local persons that have returned home from service.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the DDA report. Ms. McKinley reported that she and two members of the DDA Board attended advanced DDA training and that she also attended a Decide DeKalb Task Force meeting during the month of October. She reported that the grand re-opening of Paws in Paradise will be held on October 22, 2015 Ms. McKinley thanked all of those that supported and were involved in the filming process for Vampire Diaries. Ms. McKinley informed Council that the DDA Designs Committee has been working on a neighborhood improvement plan for the City's gateways. Designs for the gateways have been completed by a design studio out of Athens, Georgia. Ms. McKinley will be emailing copies of the designs to Council, City Manager Gary Peet, and City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton. She asked that Council review the designs and offer any feedback. Upcoming DDA sponsored events are: Continuation of the Farmers Market through November 24; Tunes by the Tracks through October 30; Trunk or Treat – October 27; Cemetery Clean-up – November 14; and Christmas Parade – Friday, November 27.

Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that the community watch group will have a meeting Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at Café Jaya. The tribute for Ms. Nell Wooten and Mr. Coby Rainey will be held Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Rock Gym from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Redmond thanked the Stone Mountain Historic Society, New South Associates, and the Downtown Development Authority for their

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assistance with items for the event. She also thanked Mayor Wheeler and City Manager Gary Peet for the proclamations for the event and for the declaration of October 24<sup>th</sup> as Nell Wooten and Coby Rainey Day.

Public Safety – Council Member Mailman reported that he continually sees the belongings of the residents left outside unattended. He encouraged the citizens to secure their lawn care equipment, their vehicles, and other items to deter theft of those items. Mr. Mailman mentioned that Council Member Wells asked that a sign be placed on VFW near the Sneed sidewalk. Public Works Director Jim Tavenner installed a sign there and it seems as if the placement of the sign has created a safer zone for children to cross the street at that location.

Public Works – No report.

Historic Preservation Commission – HPC Chair Al Capogrossi reported for the commission. During the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 session of HPC no items were considered. Any future potential Certificate of Appropriateness items for discussion will be filed with submission of a COA application. A student in the historic preservation program at Georgia State University met with HPC. HPC discussed a change in its meeting dates. Two alternatives were discussed. The alternatives were to move the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month or to change the meeting location. Mr. Capogrossi that he is concerned with the back and forth travel of groups of children along Ridge Avenue and Central Drive. Ms. Redmond suggested that consideration be given to Wednesday evening church services and events when scheduling meetings on Wednesday.

Visitor Center – Kim Cumbie, VC Manager reported that the Visitor Center had 197 visitors from 23 states and 3 countries during September 2015. Mrs. Cumbie reported that the next AMTA meeting to be held Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day event was held Friday, October 16, 2015; the RVIC conference will be held in March at Lake Lanier Island, she will be at the Tallapoosa Center on May 27, 2016; and the upcoming Color Vibe 2016 event is to be held May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Mrs. Cumbie will update Council of her leave days as the information becomes available.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Code Compliance – Code Compliance Officer Sanja Roseberry reported for Code Compliance. She gave her monthly status report and report of the code compliance related issues to date for the month of October 2015. Officer Roseberry's report included the date of incident, the location of issue, and the action taken for each. She informed Council of the compliance issues on Hamilton Street, Rankin Street, Rockbridge Road, and the Pepperwood and Rockborough communities. She informed Council that the City is moving forward with the demolition of 5429 East Mountain Street. Council Member Coletti reported that there is a large amount of debris on Rockborough Trail.

#### Public Works

Public Works Director Jim Tavenner gave the Public Works Report. Mr. Tavenner reported on community service statistics; LARP/DOT projects and funding for 2016; paving of the Rock Gym parking lot has been completed; a break-in at Medlock Park (the Public Work's Department repaired the damage); the S&ME testing of the wells on East Mountain found no free product (future testing is required then EPD will be petitioned to let the City close the wells); bid notice for the Rockbridge Drainage project will be published October 22, 2015 with the bid opening scheduled on November 20<sup>th</sup> and pre-bid conference on November 10<sup>th</sup>; trash collections year-to-date; additional litter signs have been installed (one is needed on East Mountain Street); two stop signs have been replaced; bid notice for the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project will be published October 22, 2015 with bid conference scheduled on November 10<sup>th</sup>, and bid opening on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Council Member Coletti informed Mr. Tavenner that there are street gutters that need to be cleared.

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Public Safety

Chief Troutman thanked everyone for the calls and acts of kindness extended to him while he was out on medical leave. Mr. Troutman reported on the police department statistics for the month of September 2015 and he also reported on the burglaries occurring in the City during the month of September. There were four burglaries reported for the month. Crime mapping should start soon. Individual police activity reports were provided for all officers. Every officer achieved their required level of activity. Chief Troutman reported that scores for the month were down due to the turnover in officers. Officer Swisher and Detective Norrington were commended for apprehension of persons who had discharged a firearm within the City. Officer Hubbard was commended for locating persons in the City that were wanted for the commission of crimes in DeKalb County. Chief Troutman encouraged citizens to keep their belongings secure to deter theft.

City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton gave the City Clerk's report. Mrs. Thornton reminded those present that general municipal election will be held on November 3, 2015. Sample ballots are available in the Administration Office at City Hall. Ms. Thornton also gave updates to Council on the projects at: 901 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Mountain View; 970 Main Street; 1054 Main Street – Westgate Plaza; and 5444 Rockbridge Road.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Consent Agenda

None.

**Advanced Disposal Rate Increase**

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that the proposed annual rate increase of 1.5% is based upon the consumer price index for urban areas during the period September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015. The rate will become effective January 1, 2016 and applies to commercial sanitation services only. Mr. Peet discussed with Council its recommendation to approve the rate increase. The recommendation was made based on such factors as the Consumer Price Index, fuel adjustment review, and complimentary services as provided by Advanced Disposal.

**Approval of the Employee Medical Benefit Plan – Humana 2000-50-35/60 HMO**

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council of the benefits included in the proposed Humana 2000-50-35/60 HMO medical insurance plan. The proposed plan will become effective December 1, 2015 and the plan expense will be a 2.08% increase over the current plan expense. Mr. Peet also informed Council of the Vitality Wellness program that is associated with the plan and how the program can benefit employees.

**Set the date of the public hearing on the FY2016 Budget**

It was general consensus of Council to set the public hearing on the FY2016 Budget for Monday, November 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinance 2015-13 – Budget for Fiscal Year 2016**

City Manager Gary Peet presented to Council the proposed budget for FY2016, beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016. Mr. Peet also provided supporting details each of the City's eight fund accounts. Budget work session, for Council discussion of the proposed budget, was scheduled for Thursday, October 29,

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2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Resolution 2015-30 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment

City Manager Gary Peet explained the details of the proposed budget amendment.

Resolution 2015-31 – Employee Benefit Plan

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that the proposed resolution will set in place a plan to compensate active employee by an amount equal to any premium discounts earned by an employee participating in the Humana Vitality Wellness program.

Resolution 2015-32 - SunTrust Bank Checking Account – Stormwater Fund 08

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that currently storm water revenues are deposited and disbursements are paid from the general fund. Comingling of the funds is permitted but is not a best practice for management control. The proposed resolution will allow that a separate bank account, requiring two signatures, be established with SunTrust Bank for the Stormwater Utility Fund 08.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – City Manager Gary Peet gave the City Manager’s Report. Mr. Peet reported that 1) the administration is preparing an update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan in cooperation with DeKalb County; 2) no bids were received from the original bid posting of the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project, a second bid notice has been placed; 3) Zayo Group has submitted an application for right of way for cable operations serving the cell tower on Fourth Street; 4) Latham Home Sanitation began yard waste collection for Advanced Disposal effective October 1, 2015; and 5) all documents related to the FY2016 budget proposal will be posted to the City’s website on October 20, 2015.

Mr. Peet also gave the Revenue and Expense Report for the month of September 2015. He informed Council that some errors occurred in the recording of the adjusting entries for FY2014 and those errors resulted in an overstatement of expenses YTD in the reports. Updated reports will be provided once the necessary corrections have been made in the accounting system. Mr. Peet reported on specific revenue items and the associated shortfall estimates. He discussed with Council the General Fund Revenue Analysis report. He also informed Council that the City has received payment of the annual insurance premium tax and that it exceeds last year’s payment by \$21,384.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Wheeler announced the opportunity for Council to attend the Mayor’s Day Conference to be held in January 2016. She encouraged all Members to make their desired class selections, to complete the registration form and to turn it in to the Administration Office. Mayor Pro-tem Johnson encouraged all Members to elect to take the Downtown Development training that will be offered during the conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Coletti. Motion approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 P.M.

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Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

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ChaQuias Miller Thornton, City Clerk