

MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wheeler called the Committee/Work Session to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Council Members Susan Coletti, Steve Higgins, Chakira Johnson, Richard Mailman, Andrea Redmond and Steve Wells which constituted a quorum.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Council Member Higgins gave the invocation and Council Member Wells 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 Susan Coletti. The motion passed 6-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mr. Claus Friese of 6655 James B. Rivers Memorial Drive addressed Council. Mr. Friese informed Council that a mattress has been on the sidewalk of 2nd Street for approximately a month. He expressed his concern that it would take such a long period of time to resolve the matter. Council Member Wells informed Mr. Friese that the matter has been reported to Code Enforcement by email. Code Enforcement Officer Roseberry stated that she is working to resolve the matter. Public Works Director Jim Tavenner was asked to pick-up the item.

Ms. Susan Leisure, owner of AARF Pet Central located at 6570 James B. Rivers Memorial Drive addressed Council. Ms. Leisure informed Council of the speeding traffic on James B. Rivers Memorial Drive. She voiced her concern about the safety of the children that cross the street at Forrest and JBR. Mr. Capogrossi addressed Council and concurred with the report given by Ms. Leisure. Council Member Redmond also informed Council of her concerns about the children crossing the street on Mimosa. Several options to deter speeding and to enhance traffic precautions were discussed. Council Member Coletti inquired about the protocol to install cross walks. City Manager Gary Peet spoke to the matter. The administration will explore options to address the concerns.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Planning and Zoning – Ms. Pam DeLoach reported for the Planning and Zoning Committee. She respectfully asked Mayor and Council that a public hearing be set for December 21, 2015 to receive public input on the Application for Variance submitted for 565 Rockborough Drive.

Community Affairs – Council Member Coletti asked citizens to put up white lights in their front yards for the Christmas holiday season. Ms. Coletti reported that the Downtown Development Authority is selling mailbox decorations. The decorations are on display at Café Jaya. She also reported that the Christmas tree lighting and the parade will be held the day after Thanksgiving with the festivities to begin at 4:00 p.m. and the parade to begin at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Coletti announced that the ART Station’s young advisory group is hosting an “Ugly Sweater” party after the parade. Ms. Susan Leisure announced that the downtown businesses will be holding candlelight shopping from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Thursday in December until Christmas.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – DDA Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the DDA report. Ms. McKinley presented a new report format to Council detailing such things as monthly training participation, program income/expenses, Board meeting notes, Organization notes, the number of

MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Hall
Page 2

downtown events held, the number of persons attending events, the number of volunteer hours, and Promotional Notes (publications and press releases), new business openings, business closings, Economic Restructure notes, private rehabilitation projects, and Design notes. Ms. McKinley announced that the December Board meeting will be held on December 14th, 2015 and that no work session will be held in December 2015. The DDA is planning to hold its annual meeting in February at Stone Mountain Manor. She further reported that the finalized plans for the West Gate project have been received from DeKalb County. Permit has been issued on the project. Ms. McKinley informed Council that both she and City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton have worked diligently to build relationships at the County level for the purpose of completing processes such as permitting in a timely fashion. Mrs. Redmond asked that more detail be given on the DDA about income and expense items and that there be a differentiation made between actual DDA sponsored events and other downtown events. Council Member Higgins asked that Council receive updates on the leasing of the units at the West Gate Plaza.

Visitor Center – Downtown Development Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the VC report. Ms. McKinley reported that VC Manager Kim Cumbie is recuperating well after her surgery. She reported that the Visitor Center had 1019 visitors (800 from the Susan G. Komen 3-Day) from 22 states and 4 countries. She also reported that Color VIBE 2016 is confirmed for May 14.

Finance – No Report.

Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported concerns about the City of Stone Mountain being listed as a City that will receive Syrian refugees. City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that this is the first that the administration has heard of the matter and that the administration will report back after more information is gathered.

Public Safety – Council Member Mailman informed Council that he has also witnessed students of The Champion Theme School crossing Mimosa to get to Weeyum's and he is concerned about their safety. Mr. Mailman asked that Police Chief Troutman will send an officer to speak to the matter. Chief Troutman informed Council that his department has already made communication with the school and with the parents. Mr. Mailman asked that the police department also increase traffic control to deter the speeding on James B. Rivers Memorial Drive.

Public Works – Council Member Wells reported that the Public Works department has been busy putting up Christmas lights. He also reported that the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project and the Rockborough Storm Water Project have been advertised for bid. Mr. Wells further reported that he will host a day of community service at Leila Mason Park on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2015. Council Member Mailman has offered his services and Public Works Director Jim Tavenner was asked if the City could provide some paint to paint the restrooms at the park. The event is expected to be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Historic Preservation Commission – Chair Al Capogrossi reported for the Historic Preservation Commission. He informed Council that the HPC met on November 11th, 2015. One Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for 970 Main Street. He informed Council that the HPC will explore ways to deter “no-shows” for the HPC meetings.

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 November 2015. Officer Roseberry's report included the date of incident, the location of issue, and the action taken for each. She

MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Hall
Page 3

informed Council of the compliance issues regarding boarding homes within the City. Three of the eight homes are scheduled to appear in court December 16th, 2015. Officer Roseberry informed Council that the home at 802 3rd Street has been taped off. It will be the next home to go through the nuisance abatement process. Council Member Johnson inquired about the semi-tractor trailer parking violation in Mountain Village Court. City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that the matter is zoning issue. Zoning regulations prohibit certain commercial vehicles in that district.

Public Works

Jim Tavenner, Director reported that there were 14 community service workers for last month and 4 to date for November. He reported that 2nd Saturday community service work will be stopped until after the first of the year 2016 due to the reduction of persons reporting for community service. The matter is to be discussed with Professional Probation Services. Mr. Tavenner also reported on the following: (1) The 2016 LARP program funds request has been approved in the amount of \$48,991.56; (2) the public works department has cleaned 25 sections of roadway (3) DeKalb County has had problems with their sewers and has had a subcontractor repairing the sewer system, (4) The dates for the Rockborough Drainage Project bid opening and pre-bid conference, (5) Public Works has picked up 5,980 pounds of trash, (6) A “No Litter” sign has been installed on East Mountain Street, (7) Replaced 4 stop signs at Forest Avenue and Central Drive and one at Stonebush Terrace, (8) Have finished hanging all of the Christmas decorations, (9) The dates for the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project bid opening and pre-bid conference. Mr. Tavenner requested that Council place both the Rockborough Drainage Project and East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project bid recommendations on the December 1, 2015 regular session of Council.

Public Safety

Chief Troutman reported that crime mapping is now available for online viewing. He reported on the October 2015 statistics: 401 citations, 58 warnings, and 3 DUI's, 227 calls, 20 arrests, and 300 incident reports. Chief Troutman reported on the burglary occurring on Sheppard Road. The suspect was apprehended by Officer Chico Shea on the day of the offence. Chief Troutman reported on the police activity data for October 2015. He assured those present that although the City is on high alert for terroristic threats because of its close vicinity to Stone Mountain Park, the police department is on watch and is in constant contact with Homeland Security. Council Member Redmond asked if the department will be hiring additional officers. There are three officers in training. Council Member Mailman asked that the new officers be brought in to meet the Mayor and Council. Chief Troutman told Council that he will invite them to the swearing in of new officers and he invited Council to visit the municipal court proceedings.

City Clerk ChaQuias Miller-Thornton reported to Council. Ms. Thornton thanked citizens Pam DeLoach and Claus Friese for serving on the vote review panel during this year's general municipal election. She reported that annual business license renewal notices and alcohol license renewal applications have been mailed to the local license holders. Project updates reported by Ms. Thornton included the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy for The Mountain View Senior Residence at 901 4th Street; the Certificate of Appropriateness approval of the rehabilitation project at 970 Main Street; and building permit issuance for the reconstruction project at 1054 Main Street (West Gate Plaza).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Advanced Disposal Rate Increase

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that in the beginning of the year 2016 the fuel adjustment will offset the proposed rate increase and it appears that the administration will not have to come back to Mayor and Council for a rate increase.

MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Hall
Page 4

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

Appointments by the City Council

- (a) City Attorney – Joe Fowler
- (b) Assistant City Attorney – Solicitor – Larry Steele
- (c) Chief Municipal Court Judge – Hon. Warren Hoffman
- (d) Associate Municipal Court Judge – Hon. Mark Gaffney
- (e) Associate Municipal Court Judge – Hon. LaTisha Dear Jackson
- (f) Legal Organ – The Champion Newspaper

Contract for Services Renewal – City of Stone Mountain and Art Station, Inc.

Ms. Joan Monroe of 5499 Woodsong Trace addressed Council. Ms. Monroe asked that the City conduct an audit of the funds that the City gives to the ART Station to see how those funds funnel through the ART Station program. Council Member Johnson informed Ms. Monroe that the money helps to fund the summer art camp. Ms. Monroe was provided with an activity report for the ART Station. City Manager Gary Peet is to discuss the matter of an audit with the ART Station.

Contract for Services Renewal – City of Stone Mountain and Professional Probation

Council Members Mailman and Redmond would like the administration to check into the services as provided by PPS with regards to community service participants.

Visitor's Center Agreement Renewal – City of Stone Mountain and Stone Mountain

Memorial Association

No discussion.

Lease Agreement – City of Stone Mountain and VFW Park Stone Mountain Community Garden

Mayor Wheeler encouraged everyone to visit the community garden to see how good it looks. Council Member Johnson thanked Public Works for maintenance of the grounds and she thanked Council Member Mailman for the services he provides at the garden.

Renewal Agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and Federal Property Registration Corporation

No discussion.

Appointments by the Mayor

Board of Ethics – Two Members Appointed by the Mayor Two Year Terms – 2016-2017

Mayor Wheeler's appointments to the Board of Ethics will be David Thomas and Barbara Iverson.

Appointments by the City Council

Board of Ethics –One (1) Member Appointed by each Council Member for Two Year Terms – 2016-2017

Council Member Redmond to appoint Diana Hollis

Council Member Higgins to appoint Tracy Cumbie

Council Member Johnson to appoint Vernetta Briley

Council Member Mailman to appoint Jeffrey Carey

Council Member Coletti to appoint Michael Hidalgo

Council Member Wells to appoint Al Capogrossi

MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Hall
Page 5

Renewal of Property & Casualty Insurance (2016 – 2017 Policy Period) – Proposal by Pritchard & Jerden
City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that there is an increase in Workers Compensation coverage and some increases and decreases in other lines of coverage. Further information will be given on these items in discussion of the FY2016 budget amendments.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2015-13 – Budget for Fiscal Year 2016

Council Member Johnson rendered a second read of “AN ORDINANCE TO AMENDED THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2-142, TO PROVIDE FOR AN APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE, A FISCAL YEAR AND A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND FOR ALL OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES...”

City Manager Gary Peet addressed Council. Mr. Peet explained the attachment to the public hearing agenda that provides detail to additional amendments to the FY2016 FY budget as proposed. The proposed budget and all additional amendments will be presented in Exhibit I to be voted on at the December 1, 2015 regular session. Mr. Peet further explained the amended line items.

Resolution 2015-33 – Amendment to 2015 Budget

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that the first payment of the U-Verse franchise tax has been received and the administration requests an amendment to the current year’s budget to recognize the revenue. Mr. Peet also explained the proposed amendments to other line items outlined in the resolution.

Resolution 2015-34 – Annual Appointment of an Election Superintendent for 2016

Approval of the resolution will appoint City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton as the Election Superintendent for 2016.

Resolution 2015-35 – Set Official Holiday Schedule for 2016

No discussion.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT –City Manager Gary Peet gave a Revenue and Expense Summary Report for the month of October 2015. Mr. Peet reported that the administration has done a projection of revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015. He explained such projections for municipal fine revenue and motor vehicle ad valorem and sales tax revenues. A report of projected revenues for the General Fund is attached to the Revenue and Expense Summary Report that was provided to Council. All departments are projected to finish under budget. Mr. Peet also gave explanation of the General Fund revenue budget analysis. He then gave explanation on the projected surplus from the delays in construction for the Rockborough Storm Water Project and the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project. Mr. Peet gave the City Manager’s Report. He reported on the Nuisance Abatement Petition for the property located at 5429 East Mountain Street, leasing for The View as reported by the Housing Authority of DeKalb, the trade in of surplus firearms for \$7,995.00, and the receipt of television cable franchise tax from AT&T Uverse. Mr. Peet requested an executive session to discuss personnel.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to close regular session and to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Seconded by Council Member Coletti.

Motion passed 6-0.

Executive session was held.

MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Hall
Page 6

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn executive session and to reconvene regular session. Seconded by Council Member Coletti.
Motion passed 6-0.
Mayor Wheeler called the work session to order.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to add under New Ordinances and Resolutions, item E. Resolution 2015-36 to the December 1, 2015 regular session agenda. Seconded by Council Member Coletti.
Motion passed 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Wheeler wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Council Member Coletti announced that Joanne Florence passed away and that a memorial service is tentatively scheduled for December 13th, 2015 at the Wells-Brown house.

Council Member Wells thanked everyone for all of the thanks and kindness shown to him on Veteran's Day. He announced that Tim Hoffman is currently deployed to Kuwait and asked those who would to consider sending Mr. Hoffman, or any other serviceman, a note or a care package while they are away on tour of duty.

City Manager Gary Peet asked all present to keep Chief Troutman's father in their prayers. He is believed to have suffered a minor stroke and is in rehabilitation.

ADJOURNMENT - Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Mailman. Motion approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

ChaQuias Miller Thornton, City Clerk