

MINUTES OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wheeler called the Committee/Work Session to order immediately following the special called meeting at 6:02 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 Redmond 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.

Motion approved 6-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ms. Joan Monroe of 5499 Woodsong Trace addressed Council. Ms. Monroe asked that the cancellation of any public meeting be reflected on the events calendar on the City's website.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Planning and Zoning – No report.

Community Affairs – Council Member Coletti reported that Advanced Disposal is expanding services provided to the City to include four quarterly pick-ups of roll off containers instead of the two per year that have been scheduled in previous years. City Manager Gary Peet gave further detail on the matter. Mrs. Coletti also announced that the spring yard sale will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and the fall yard sale will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – DDA Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the DDA report. Ms. McKinley presented a report detailing such things as monthly training participation, program income/expenses, Board meeting notes, Organization notes, the number of 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 informed Council of the 2016 Board Positions which include: Mary Beth Reed, Chair; Tom DeLoach, Vice Chair; Chakira Johnson, Secretary; and Wayne Snead, Treasurer. The DDA annual meeting will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Silver Hill Manor from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Finance – No Report.

Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that she has been in touch with Ms. Prescott of MARTA regarding covered bus stops on West Mountain Street. The next community watch meeting will be held at Ms. Redmond's home on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with topics of the meeting to include community clean-up and yard clean-up for citizens around the area. There will be a "Coffee and Conversation" event held January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Stone Mountain Elementary. Ms. Redmond expressed that she is trying to help to build the relationship between the school and the business association, and that there is a focus on assisting the Hispanic population in becoming more engaged in the school's activities. She announced that senior center type activities will begin March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at Mount Carmel Church, 6015 Old Stone Mountain Road, Room 210. Ms. Redmond made

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comments regarding an incident involving Stone Mountain Police Sergeant Stephen Floyd and how professionally Sergeant Floyd conducted himself during the incident.

Public Safety – No report.

Public Works – Council Member Wells reported that there was a great turn out for the MLK Day community clean-up held at Leila Mason Park on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Mr. Wells thanked those who attended the event and volunteered their time in an effort to clean-up the park. He thanked Council Members Johnson, Higgins, and Mailman for their representation of Council and he also thanked Council Member Mailman for offering some of his employees and supplies to help in the clean-up initiative. He also thanked Sara Abrams for providing a gift card donation and doughnuts. Council Member Johnson added that the public works department does a good job of keeping the park clean and that a majority of the debris was found in the brush and outskirts of the park.

Historic Preservation Commission – No report.

Visitor Center – VC Manager Kim Cumbie reported for the Visitor Center. She reported on the number of visitors for the month of December 2015 and for the 2015 calendar year. She also reported on events that were held in December and those that are scheduled for the 2016 year. Scheduled events are: The first AMTA Meeting – February 8; RVIC Conference – March 28-30; and Color Vibe – May 14. Ms. Cumbie thanked Director Jim Tavenner and the public works department for the maintenance they have completed on the Caboose and the bathrooms.

#### 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 from December 21, 2015 to date. 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 regarding inoperable vehicles. Ms. Roseberry also informed Council that she is working to resolve the issue of limb and trash being dumped at the apartment complex on Sexton Drive.

#### Public Works

Director Jim Tavenner's report included community service detail, 2016 LARP program funding information, drainage project update, the amount of trash collected year to date, information on the replacement of stop signs, and. Mr. Tavenner reported that his department will assess some large trees near the path at McCurdy Park to determine whether they need to be cut down. SM&E is scheduled to complete another test of free product on West Mountain and Main Street in a couple of months. The department is looking to close a ditch at 957 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to get rid of the catch basin. There is an issue with flooding in that area. He further reported that a camera will be run through the storm water pipe at 5075 Leland Drive where there is possible erosion from the retention pond in the property's back yard. Hill Street is flooding from West Mountain and VFW Drive. The answer to the problem may be to extend the catch basin. Mr. Tavenner also reported that review of the City's storm water fund will determine the possibility of having to rebid the Rockborough Drainage Project. He informed Council that the crosswalk sign has been ordered for the crosswalk at Stone Mountain First Baptist Church and a determination will be made regarding the location for speed bumps on James B. Rivers. Repair to the speed table and crosswalks on Main will begin in February or March 2016 when the weather warms up. Advanced Disposal trash pick-up days will be changed and a letter will be sent to City residents affected by the change. Other changes to waste collection will be listed on the mailing.

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Public Safety

Chief Troutman provided Council reports of police activity statistics and individual police officer activity reports for the pay periods ending 11/16/2015 and 12/14/2015. He also informed Council that Officer Walter Hubbard retired 12/31/2015 and the Council will be informed of the details of a retirement celebration. Officer Hubbard will continue to work for the department as a reserve officer. Chief Troutman informed Council that the City did not initiate news media contact regarding the incident that is being reported involving Sergeant Floyd and employees of the DeKalb County Fire Department. Chief Troutman assured Council that Sergeant Floyd responded as he should have during the incident.

City Clerk ChaQuias Miller-Thornton reported to Council. Ms. Thornton reported that the Clerk's office has received letters of interest from all of those current members whose terms are set to expire January 31, 2016. The Mayor's nomination of Historic Preservation Commission members is an item on this evening's agenda. Ms. Thornton also reminded those Council Members who are scheduled to attend the Mayors Day conference that the event is scheduled for Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Those registered attendees that have not received event packets are to contact the Clerk's office.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Consent Agenda

None.

Setting of Public Hearing for Text Amendment to the Appendix A, Zoning

Mayor Wheeler announced that public hearing for public consideration of text amendment to Appendix A, Zoning is scheduled for February 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor's Nomination of Historic Preservation Commission Members

Mayor Wheeler announced that her nominations for Historic Preservation Commission Members, terms to begin February 2, 2016 are Al Capogrossi, Daniel Cook, Theresa Hamby, Ed Hampson, and Jane Rhodes. Council will consider amendment to the Historic Preservation Commission to allow for staggered terms.

**NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Ordinance 2016-04 Amendments to Chapter 3, Alcoholic Beverages

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that because of the text amendment of the zoning ordinance it is not necessary to have a first read of the ordinances related to the new fire safety standards. These ordinances are placed on this evening's agenda for discussion and official first read of each ordinance is to be had on February 15, 2016.

Ordinance 2016-07 Amendments to Chapter 19, Parks & Recreation

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that because of the text amendment of the zoning ordinance it is not necessary to have a first read of the ordinances related to the new fire safety standards. These ordinances are placed on this evening's agenda for discussion and official first read of each ordinance is to be had on February 15, 2016.

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Ordinance 2016-08 Text Amendments to Appendix A, Zoning

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that because of the text amendment of the zoning ordinance it is not necessary to have a first read of the ordinances related to the new fire safety standards. These ordinances are placed on this evening's agenda for discussion and official first read of each ordinance is to be had on February 15, 2016.

Ordinance 2016-09 Amendment to the Historic Preservation Commission for Terms of Office

Council Member Johnson rendered the first read of "AN ORDINANCE BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN TO AMEND CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE II, HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, TO PROVIDE FOR TERMS OF OFFICE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSIONERS; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT –City Manager Gary Peet gave a Revenue and Expense Summary Report for the year ending December 31, 2015. Mr. Peet's report included summaries of the total revenues and expenditures for the General Fund with unaudited and adjusted amounts for accruals and adjusting entries. Mr. Peet explained that the surplus of \$219,023 is due the delay of three major projects. He also reported General Fund revenues by classification with comparisons to the budget as amended and provided some detail on certain line items that are reporting shortfalls in revenue.

City Manager Gary Peet gave the City Manager's Report. Mr. Peet reported that (1) thirty-seven resumes were received for the position of City Clerk and the Mayor will form an ad hoc committee to participate in the interview process, (2) Georgia DOT has re-certified Stone Mountain for the administration of projects receiving state and federal aid, (3) the Courtware Solutions software patch did not correct the error in reports of crime statistics; (4) pre-bid conference for the East Mountain Street Sidewalk project was held on January 19, 2016 and bidding closes on February 4, 2016 at 12:00 PM; and (5) Judge Dear Jackson signed the Order of Findings of Fact for the demolition of the structure located at 5429 East Mountain Street. Mr. Peet then announced the request from administration for an executive session to discuss real estate matters.

Mayor Wheeler announced that executive session would be held after announcements by the Mayor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

Mayor Wheeler again thanked those who participated in the clean-up initiative at Leila Mason Park. Council Member Wells thanked Café Jaya for providing coffee for the event. Mayor Wheeler asked that a notice be sent to the churches in Shermantown notifying them of such events.

Mayor Wheeler also encouraged those members of council that are planning to attend the DeKalb Municipal Association meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to let her know so that she can answer the request to RSVP.

Council Member Higgins announced that Keith Snailer has passed away and asked that everyone would keep Mr. Snailer's family in their prayers.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

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Executive session was held.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn executive session and to reconvene the work session. Seconded by Council Member Mailman. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Wheeler called the work session to order.

Mayor Wheeler announced that there was no action to be taken out of executive session and that general consensus of Council was given in executive session not to pursue the purchase of a piece of real estate.

ADJOURNMENT - Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Mailman. Motion approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

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ChaQuias Miller Thornton, City Clerk