

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION

Monday, July 18, 2016 @ 6:00 pm

City Hall

875 Main Street

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Council Member Redmond gave the invocation. Council Member Wells led the pledge.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY: Council Member Johnson made the motion to adopt the agenda of the day. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti.

Motion approved 6-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Joan Monroe, 5499 Woodsong Trace, reported Stone Mountain Day at Lela Mason Park is August 6. She spoke of the importance of all Council Members attending events in the City. Mayor Wheeler and Council Member Mailman mentioned they were in attendance last year. She hoped more Council Members could attend this year.

Clint Monroe, 5499 Woodsong Trace, requested the City look into technology called Acoustic Gun Fire Detection Systems. He reported on how they have started to streamline the technology. It can detect the difference between gun fire and fire crackers. Mr. Monroe thought this was an efficient way to track gun shots and would give the proper notice to officers during their patrols. He asked this technology be considered for the next budget period.

Council Member Mailman recognized Chief Troutman. Chief Troutman researched the technology and it was cost prohibitive.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. *Finance:* None.

B. *Planning and Zoning:* None.

C. *Community Affairs:* Council Member Coletti reminded everyone that the Yard Sale will take place on October 22, 2016. She asked if Advanced Disposal will be putting out dumpsters this weekend as part of the agreement to do so quarterly. Mr. Tavenner reported the dumpsters will be rolled out for the Community this weekend. Council Member Coletti spoke of the flags flying over City Hall for returned service men. She would like to present a flag for Tim Hoffman next month. The Art Station is planning their "Plein Air Paint Out" for October 1, 2016. Last year, the Art Station partnered with DDA and the City in the amount of \$250 each.

Council Member Higgins asked if the Shredding Company has been contacted for an event. Mr. Peet reported it has been scheduled for the day of the yard sale.

D. *Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority:* Ms. McKinley reported the Farmer's Market continues every Tuesday. The DDA will be having a fundraiser for the SNAP program on August 24th at Sweet Potato Café, A Farm to Table Dinner. Tunes by the Tracks will start again on September 2, 2016. Ms. McKinley was happy to announce the construction fence has been erected at the West Gate Plaza. The demolition permit has been approved and scheduled for the 25th. There was a pre-development meeting last week with the new owners of the Weatherly Building. They have signed a lease with a pizza place. They have at two other pizza restaurants in the area. The owners are looking to move to the Stone Mountain area. The City has met with Mr. Moody regarding the building on Main and Mountain. Despite his best efforts, it looks as if the building may need to be demolished and rebuilt to a similar style in order to be structurally sound.

Ms. McKinley expects a draft of the comp plan update to be delivered to City Hall on August 1 and will be distributed to the Stakeholder Committee. The Committee will have a week to review and then the draft will be forwarded to Council.

She reminded everyone the Back to School Bash this Saturday, July 23, 2016. She encouraged all to join in. Tickets for the Fish Fry will be available at the event for \$10.00. Tickets purchased before the event are \$8.00.

Council Member Wells thanked Ms. McKinley for the positive publicity the City has been receiving.

E. *Community Outreach:* Council Member Redmond addressed Mark Keyton and wanted to make sure he was comfortable after his meeting with the City. Mr. Keyton indicated he was satisfied with the information he received.

Council Member Redmond asked Council to consider budgeting for the removal of the utility poles and complete the sidewalks on the south Main Street before the 2nd Street project begins. She also hoped that there would be an effort to research the cost for consistent Mosquito Control spray in the City. Council Member Redmond displayed the Yard of the Month sign, designed by Mary Swisher. The Medlock Committee is meeting at Café Jaya, July 19th at 7:00 p.m. A cemetery roundtable meeting will be held at the Wells Brown House on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. Community Watch is at the Village Corner on Tuesday, July 26, 2016. She asked everyone to meet the new librarian. He is trying to increase the activities at the library. Council Member Redmond encouraged everyone to participate in the library's activities in order for the County library to remain in the City.

Council Member Wells explained the streetscaping is a long range project. Normally, the match is 80% State or other funding sources and 20% match by the City. He asked if she expected the sidewalk project mentioned to come out of the City budget. Council Member Johnson asked the City Manager to give an update on that project.

City Manager Peet explained the City tabled the project because it became much more than an 80/20 match. The utility relocation costs were approximately one-half million dollars.

F. *Public Safety:* Council Member Mailman thanked Mr. Monroe for the information on the Shot Spotter. He felt the City resources could be used for many more items the Police Department may need such as, tasers, updated bullet proof vests, more officers on patrol and more training for our officers.

Council Member Coletti asked for a ballpark figure on the Shot Spotter technology. Council Member Mailman recognized Chief Troutman. Chief Troutman reported the cost was about \$250,000 and that number did not include the software. Chief Troutman was to distribute the information to the Council Members in their boxes. Council Member Mailman was disappointed some employees have started with the City, been trained, and move on to another job.

- G. *Public Works:* Council Member Wells announced that there will be a clean-up of Medlock Park on August 6 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. On August 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., there will be a dedication for the Lending Tree being placed at Medlock Park.

Council Member Wells clarified that he would love to see the south side streetscaping completed but did feel, the work staff has done and the process that has been put in place for long range projects needs to be respected.

Council Member Mailman questioned the location of the lending tree and felt it might be better utilized closer to a more traveled area. Council Member Johnson reminded them that the Council had already approved the location of the lending tree.

- H. *Historic Preservation Commission:* Mr. Capagrossi thanked Council Member Coletti for attending the meeting. He reported there were two Certificates of Appropriateness to review. Hilda Wells is replacing the upper story front of her building (Wells Cargo). The item was approved. The Commission waited approximately 30 minutes for the owners of the Weatherly Building to arrive. They did not arrive and therefore, their request was denied. He asked City Hall to stress the need to all applicants that they must attend the hearing for their item to be considered.
- I. *Visitor Center:* Ms. Cumbie reported there were 199 visitors in June from 19 states and one country. The Visitor Center dropped off three hundred bags at the campground at Exit 9 and the Confederate Hall desk on July 1. The Visitors Center has decided to embrace the new craze, Pokémon Go. The Visitors Center has set up a few Pokémon spots around the City and they have encouraged the merchants to do the same. Ms. Cumbie sent over one hundred flyers to the campground and since, has noticed people walking through town looking for their characters. She reported she has registered for the Governor's Tourism Conference.

Council Member Wells thanked Kim Cumbie for her efforts at the Visitor Center.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. *Code Compliance Officer:* None.
- B. *Public Works Director:* Public Works Director Jim Tavenner reported community service total of last month was 29. As of July 18, he has had four. He spoke of the area the City will be milling and patching; VFW Drive from Mimosa to W. Mountain and Ridge Avenue from Mimosa to W. Mountain. He reported the City has received \$64,032.52 from the state for road work. Along with the match from the City, it will give Public Works \$83,242.27 for next year's road repair. He will be taking quotes on the roof and decking for the big pavilion at Lela Mason Park. The replacement of the junction box on Rockborough Drive is underway. The digging should begin tomorrow, July 19, 2016. Public Works has picked up 6,110 lbs of trash so far this

year. The fallen trees and limbs on Rockborough Drive, San Miguel and El Prado Court have been picked up.

Council Member Mailman asked how the City could get Public Works more help. Mr. Tavenner reported that eventually, the City may have to pay liability insurance for those performing community service hours. Mr. Peet reported that a number of cities have discontinued community service. Council Member Mailman asked to contact the cities that no longer have the program and to learn the process to end the program. Mr. Peet reported Jan Lewis has researched this before but he would look into it and speak to the Cities directly.

- C. *Chief of Police:* Chief Troutman thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hollis for providing the Police Department with food on the Fourth of July. He also thanked Hilda Friese for her beautiful cake. The timing of the gift was perfect because he had spoken to his department about issues with police all over the nation that day. The officers were touched by the sentiment written on the cake.

He reported on community outreach efforts his staff has been doing in speaking to congregations outside of the City's jurisdiction on the training of the officers, as well as, all that is entailed in policing. Chief Troutman has also been encouraging his officers to go out and introduce themselves to the citizenry.

Council Member Johnson was asked to provide officers at Smoke Rise Baptist Church for a community conversation. Chief Troutman provided Lt. Manning and Detective Norrington. She reported the mood of the crowd was very emotional but the City's officers were able to be calm and factual. Council Member Johnson commended Lt. Manning and Detective Norrington for their professionalism.

Chief Troutman reported he has hired two new officers starting on July 26. He reviewed his report for the month: 242 calls for the month. He distributed two photos of Derrick Willis who was arrested for forgery at Wells Cargo. Mr. Dion White was arrested for burglary located 5347 Ridge Mill Court. He reported on burglaries in the area: 1028 Sheppard Road, 209 S. Rockbridge and 761 San Miguel Drive.

- D. *City Clerk:* Ms. Thornton reported Officer Roseberry has been out on vacation and was pleased to report the Police Department has helped out with code enforcement in her absence. In conjunction with the DDA, the Administration is working on a communication plan in order to get as much information to the Stone Mountain community as possible. Her hope is to make the transition as seamless as possible for Council and the citizenry. Ms. Thornton's plan is for all City employees to work together as a team and continue to support the community. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as City Manager.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Consent Agenda:* None.
- B. *Request to Change Regular Council Meeting Day and/or Time:* Council Member Higgins did not want to change the day of the week since learning that the Business Association meets on the same day. He did want to discuss moving the time up from 7:30 p.m. Council Member Wells was hoping both meetings could be Monday nights because it would assist with his work

schedule. Council Member Johnson suggested 6:30 p.m. for both meetings because of her commute. It was the consensus of Council to put the item changing the time to 6:30 p.m. for Work Sessions and Regular Meetings.

C. *Proposal of the Stone Mountain Village Business Association – Updating Kiosk located on the corner of Main and East Mountain Streets:*

There was not a member of the Business Association to address the item. Council Member Coletti explained the kiosk would not be removed but they would like to have the authority to update the information on the kiosk. They also would like to extend the map to JBR.

D. *East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project – Request for Consideration of Original Streetscape – Plan (Second Street Residents):*

Jim Tavenner presented the item to Council. The section discussed on 2nd Street was from Poole to Manor. There has been a request from the residents on Second Street to keep one way from Poole to Manor on that side. The benefit of changing that area to one way is it provides enough space to continue the sidewalk onto Second Street. Council Member Coletti felt there should be consent of the property owners affected by the change. Council Member Mailman wanted to be assured that whatever was decided provided the most safety for the residents. City Manager Peet took the directive to contact the property owners. He felt the safety concerns should be addressed by the project engineer, Director of Public Works and the Chief of Police. Council Member Johnson asked if there would be the need to have change order, if it would change to the scope of work and how does this affect the agreement with GDOT? Director Tavenner felt the City is still within the guidelines of the GDOT Agreement. He reported there was a meeting with homeowners in the area but would include the merchants at the new meeting. Council Member Johnson suggested having an attendance sheet.

E. *Agreement for Ad Valorem Tax Billing:* City Manager Peet reported this item is a place holder. The agreement has not been finalized by the County as of today.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. *Ordinance 2016-14 Text Amendment to Appendix A Zoning – Accessory Structures:*

Council Member Wells addressed Ordinance 2016-14 and noted his problem with building a garage. His builder told him the boards come in a certain size and they would throw out two feet of it. Council Member Wells is postponing building his garage. Mr. Peet reported that the proposed ordinance would be a text change and would need a public hearing and would need to be heard by Planning and Zoning.

B. *Ordinance 2016-15, Parking in Front Yard of Dwelling Prohibited:* Council Member Coletti needed clarification regarding the side yard. City Manager Peet reported the ordinance only addresses the front yard of a residence. The memo from the City Attorney was reviewed.

C. *Resolution 2016-26, To renew the Service Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County, Georgia:* City Manager Peet explained this was a placeholder. The City is waiting to receive the package back from DeKalb.

D. *Resolution 2016-27 ,FY 2016 Budget Resolution:* Budget Resolution – City Manager Peet explained when the original budget was adopted there was a misunderstanding where the funds for the Tunes by the Tracks were coming from and he had assumed Tunes by the Tracks provided revenue to the DDA and has since learned that it does not. He reduced the DDA Budget by \$4000.

- E. *Resolution 2016-28 - Official Signatures Required for SunTrust Banking Transactions*: Due to the upcoming change in City Managers, ChaQuias Thornton needs to be a signatory on the SunTrust account and Gary Peet needs to be removed from the account.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Peet reviewed his report with the council. The court's final decision regarding the Post Office paying stormwater fees to the County has been finalized. The City has received payment for stormwater fees for the W. Mountain Street Post Office in the amount of \$13,900. He received word on July 15 the School Board is willing to work on a short term agreement with the City regarding Rock Gym. Annexation Task Force has started discussions. He thanked Mayor Pro Tem Johnson for providing the map. If the annexation of the properties happens, it would more than double the tax digest.

Ms. Thornton reviewed the Council's budget report for June 2016. Council thanked her for her very detailed report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR: Mayor Wheeler reported on a meeting held with three dynamic young people about how they would like to assist the City by volunteering to help with the Rock Gym. She hoped to have a meeting with the School Board and have them come out to the gym to meet the people that are willing to help. Mayor Wheeler reported the alumni have also reached out to her indicating their assistance with the project.

Council Member Wells thanked Mr. Peet for his public service as Mayor and City Manager and pulling the City out of serious financial situations. He reminded everyone to vote.

Council Member Mailman thanked Mr. Peet for his devotion to the City. Council Member Mailman also thanked Mr. Peet for his counsel during his tenure as council member with the City.

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion** by Council Member Johnson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coletti.

Motion approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

Kathleen E. Settle, Assistant City Clerk