

MINUTES OF THE
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Monday, February 16, 2015 @7:00 p.m.
City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Patricia Wheeler called the Committee/Work Session to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Susan Coletti, Steve Higgins, Chakira Johnson, Andrea Redmond, and Steve Wells – which constituted a quorum. Council Member Mailman arrived later in the meeting.

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 with the addition of item I. Agreement for Transportation Enhancement Activities between the Department of Transportation State of Georgia and the City of Stone Mountain – Project CSTEE-0009-00(32), P.I. No. 0009032, DeKalb County – East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project under New Business. Seconded by Council Member Susan Coletti.

Motion passed 5-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ms. Betty Pompey of 5254 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain addressed Council. Ms. Pompey wanted to know the status of the business that was operating on Ferndale. City Manager Gary Peet responded that the business has been cited for operating without an Occupation Tax Certificate and for being in violation of the City's Zoning Ordinance.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Planning and Zoning – Chairman Michael Hidalgo informed Council that the Application for Variance to the City's Sign Ordinance, as submitted by Claus and Hilde Friese, for The Village Corner, has been heard and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Hidalgo further reported that it is the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Committee to set the public hearing for public discussion of the matter and for Council to approve the Application for Variance as submitted.

Community Affairs – Council Member Susan Coletti reported that the Spring Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 25th, 2015 and that more information will be given about implementing the yard sale trail during the event. She also reported that there are citizens that reside on Ferndale and Central that would like to initiate a community police group. She is to discuss the matter with Chief Troutman upon obtaining further information from the residents.

Councilman Mailman arrived and entered the meeting.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – Mayor Pro-tem Chakira Johnson gave the DDA report. Ms. Johnson informed Council of Executive Director Mechel McKinley's joint sponsorship proposal for the National Main Street Conference to be held in Atlanta March 30, 2015 through April 2, 2015. She further reported that the DDA monthly meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall.

Finance – Council Member Higgins informed citizens that anyone wanting to receive copies of the City's budget reports can request them from the administration office.

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Public Safety – Council Member Mailman gave his apologies for being late to the meeting. He encouraged everyone to be safe on the road tomorrow during the inclement weather.

Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that approximately 20 people helped with the clean-up of 1006 Ridge Avenue. She thanked Director Jim Tavenner for the dumpster that was provided at the site and she thanked Starr Harris and Scott New for organizing the event. Ms. Redmond reported that the Historical Society event held at the Rock Gym on February 14, 2015 was a success and she thanked Chief Troutman for allowing police to provide security at the event. She also reported that the community watch group will meet on March 4th at 6:30 or 7 P.M. and that Lieutenant Manning will be attending. Location of the meeting is to be announced.

Public Works – Council Member Wells reported that Public Works is prepared for ice threats on the city's streets. He also informed Council that sponsorship is lined up for the next community clean-up projects and any submission of ideas for projects would be greatly appreciated.

Historic Preservation Commission – Mayor Wheeler reported that she has nominated Mr. Scott Newman for an open seat on the Historic Preservation Commission. Confirmation of the nomination is to be added to the March 3, 2015 Regular Session agenda. It was general consensus of Council to re-advertise the remaining seat on the commission.

Visitor Center – Kim Cumbie, Manager reported that the Visitor Center had 107 visitors from 9 states and 3 countries. She informed Council that there are 1,220 registered at present for the 2015 Color Vibe event. Ms. Cumbie also reported that she will be attending the Regional Visitor Information Center conference in Columbus, Georgia next week.

STAFF REPORTS

Code Compliance – City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that Officer Sanja Roseberry began her position as Code Compliance Officer on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 and has already made great strides in performing the duties of the position.

Public Works

Jim Tavenner, Director reported on the following: (1) There were 19 community service workers for last month and 22 to date for February (2) continuing to wait on LARP program funds from the State of Georgia in the amount of \$49,163.79 for the paving of Ridge Avenue from Ridge Forest Drive to Rockbridge Road – total project cost will be \$90,228 (3) street lights on Ferndale Street have been installed (4) the doors at the Rock Gym have been painted (5) and the light pole at Main and W. Mountain has been damaged and will be inoperable for an extended period of time. Mr. Tavenner discussed with Council the CSX Right-of-Entry agreement. City Manager Gary Peet informed Council of the latest information regarding the agreement's liability insurance coverage requirement. Mr. Tavenner also reported on the recycling program container and lid fees as requested by Council. Mr. Gary Peet further explained the impact that the discussed changes in the recycling program would have on the Administration department with regards to billing. Council Member Chakira Johnson asked if a poll can be taken on the City's website to gauge how many citizens would want the discussed recycling options. Mr. Tavenner further discussed with Council the City's Capital Projects including the train depot, Streetscape Phase II and the East Mountain Street project.

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Public Safety

Chief Troutman reported the January 2015 statistics for citations and warnings issued. Mr. Troutman further reported on the burglaries and police activity data for January 2015. There were 6 burglaries reported for the month. He reported on the departments Z scores and gave detail of some of the criminal arrests made in the City, giving information about the suspects and the nature of the criminal activity. Chief Troutman thanked Council Member Wells for his interest in the ride along program and he thanked Ms. Betty Pompey for communications made to the department through the nextdoor.com site. He also reported that the department's officers are preparing for the inclement weather and that the department is on standby for to assist EMS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

None.

Network Copier Maintenance Agreement – City of Stone Mountain and Standard Office Systems
City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that this agreement would provide for increased volume and approximately 40% lower cost.

Maintenance Agreement – City of Stone Mountain and Fulton Communications - Phone System (Mitel 5000), Digital Phones and T1/PRI

Mr. Gary Peet informed Council that several vendors were solicited and none other than Fulton Communications was suitable for presentation. The agreement price is \$968.

Long Term Facility Use Agreement - City of Stone Mountain and Ray of Hope – Use of McCurdy Park for Baseball – Term March 4, 2015 - July 5, 2015 - \$3,200.00

Council Member Coletti asked that the Ray of Hope representatives be reminded to put up the organizations banner as advertisement for the program.

Street Closure for the Granite Grasshopper Festival 5K– April 18, 2015

Council Member Chakira Johnson named the proposed street closings for the Granite Grasshopper event.

Lease Agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and Georgia Municipal Association – Vehicles - \$169,690.05

No discussion.

Lease Agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and Georgia Municipal Association – Vigilant License Plate Reader and Copier - \$17,750.00

Mr. Gary Peet informed Council of the corrected agreement amount.

Set date for Public Hearing – Application for Variance – 6655 James B. Rivers Drive – The Village Corner – Claus and Hilde Friese Owners

It was consensus of Council to set the Public Hearing for March 16th, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

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Agreement for Transportation Enhancement Activities between the Department of Transportation State of Georgia and the City of Stone Mountain – Project CSTEE-0009-00(32), P.I. No. 0009032, DeKalb County – East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project.

Mr. Gary Peet informed Council that the Administration requests a special called session for the consideration of this item. Special Called Session was scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2015-10 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment

Mr. Gary Peet explained the proposed budget amendment.

Resolution 2015-11 – Authorization to Contract for Funding Under the Transportation Equity Act

Item is included with information for item I. Agreement for Transportation Enhancement Activities between the Department of Transportation State of Georgia and the City of Stone Mountain – Project CSTEE-0009-00(32), P.I. No. 0009032, DeKalb County – East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project.

No discussion.

Resolution 2015-12 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment

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No discussion.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT –City Manager Gary Peet gave a Revenue and Expense Summary Report for the month of January 2015. Mr. Peet also gave the City Manager’s Report. He reported that 1) to date no reply has been received from the Department of Community Affairs with regards to the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement and 2) the 30 day trial of a new service from Courtware Solutions which will allow real time access to the Georgia Criminal Information Center database during court has not yet been implemented. Mr. Peet also reported on the City’s capital projects and informed Council that the administrative staff at City Hall may report at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 due to inclement weather.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Wheeler encouraged anyone having complaints or grievances against any of the City’s elected officials to speak with the officials and to feel free to report claims to the Ethics Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Coletti. Motion approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

ChaQuias Miller Thornton, City Clerk