

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Patricia Wheeler called the Committee/Work Session to order at 6:05 p.m., immediately following adjournment of the public hearing. 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

Mayor Patricia Wheeler presented representatives of Red Cross a proclamation from the City of Stone Mountain. Carisa Hettich, Preparedness and Partnership Manager of the American Red Cross of Georgia, addressed Council.

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 passed 6-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Planning and Zoning – None.

Community Affairs – Council Member Susan Coletti reported that the Spring Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and that the yard sale trail will be implemented at a cost of \$5 for city residents. She also reported that ProShred will be available for shredding services during the event and that dumpsters will be placed within the City during the week of the event.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the DDA report. She informed Council of her activity for the month of March 2015. She also informed Council that 1) the Farmers Market will resume on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015; 2) DDA is continuing to work on its 5-year plan; 3) report of trainings she has attended; and she gave details on the BOOST Kick-off event that was held at Village Corner. Council Member Mailman thanked Ms. McKinley for her work done on many City ventures and projects.

Finance – No report.

Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that the community watch group met with Lieutenant Manning in attendance. Pepperwood is starting its own nextdoor.com community watch initiative. Ms. Redmond inquired about a map for the Granite Grasshopper race route. Ms. McKinley will be providing the map as the event approaches.

Public Safety – Council Member Mailman encouraged those motorists traveling through the City to adhere to the speed limits posted throughout the City.

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Public Works – Council Member Wells reported that the McCurdy Park clean-up is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The project will include painting of the fence and the tables at the park. Home Depot has donated some supplies, Café Jaya will provide coffee. Council Member Mailman informed the public that a cross to be placed at Leila Mason Cemetery was donated by an organization after clean-up of the cemetery was done by a volunteer effort headed up by Council Member Wells.

Historic Preservation Commission – HPC chairman Al Capogrossi reported that one COA was heard and approved during the February session of HPC. He also informed Council that the gentleman that is interested in rehabbing the condemned property on East Mountain Street also came to the February HPC meeting. Mr. Capogrossi is asking that the City do what it can to keep the house from being demolished if there is a chance that it can be restored. Mr. Capogrossi was informed of the City's position in the matter and that the home is still on DeKalb County's demolition list. It is the understanding of the City that the County will not go out to bid on the demolition of the property until approval has been given from the State and National divisions of historic preservation. There was even further discussion on the matter. The matter as it stands is to be handled between the buyer and the seller of the property.

Council Member Coletti suggested that Council be informed of the status of the burned out property located on Fourth Street.

Visitor Center – Kim Cumbie, Manager reported that the Visitor Center had 96 visitors from 15 states and 3 countries. She informed Council that there are 2,121 persons registered at present for the 2015 Color Vibe event. Ms. Cumbie also reported that she attended the Regional Visitor Information Center conference in Columbus, Georgia and is studying to test this spring for her national certification. She asked for the consent of Council to hang banners for the Color Vibe event on the Historic Train Depot. She further informed Council that the Visitors Center will begin opening on Sunday afternoons starting April 12, 2015.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Code Compliance – Code Compliance Officer Sanja Roseberry reported for Code Compliance. She informed Council of the situation involving alleged trespassing at 1038 Forrest Avenue. City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that the City has to do its due diligence in the matter before any action is taken to remove any person from the home. The City will have to get written complaint from the owner before any further action can be taken. Ms. Roseberry also reported on the property at 809 Fourth Street. She is working with DeKalb County Code Enforcement in the matter. She further informed Council of a situation involving 3 homes on Rockbridge Road that may be operating as boarding houses.

#### Public Works

Jim Tavenner, Director reported on the following: (1) There were 30 community service workers for last month and 12 to date for March (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) bids have been received for taking down the large tree in the cemetery (4) continuing to work on the parks to prepare them for the spring and summer seasons (5) report on the light pole at Main and W. Mountain. Council Member Coletti voiced her concern about the truck traffic going through the City and the large potholes that are developing as a result of that traffic. Mr. Tavenner requested that after this season, the public works department be given Council's permission to remove the three deteriorating scoreboards from McCurdy Park. Mr. Tavenner is to research the cost to replace the scoreboards. He further reported that a lot of

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vandalism is going at the parks. Mr. Tavenner reported that free product testing has been completed and Well #5 which is on railroad property tested positive for free product. Mr. Tavenner further discussed with Council the City's Capital Projects including the train depot, Streetscape Phase II and the East Mountain Street project. Estimate is being calculated for utility relocation for the East Mountain Street project. Mr. Peet informed Council that the City is expecting relocation costs for Comcast this week, but there will be no relocation cost for AT&T. Council Member Johnson asked Mr. Tavenner to turn the water on at the Community Garden. Council Member Wells asked about the patch at Cloud Street and Sheppard. Director Tavenner responded that the City is awaiting response from DeKalb County. In response to inquiry made by Council Member Wells, Mr. Tavenner discussed with Council the graffiti on some of the City's stop signs.

Public Safety

Chief Troutman reported the February 2015 statistics for citations and warnings issued. Mr. Troutman further reported on the burglaries and police activity data for February 2015. There were 4 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 informed Council that it will be approximately two months before the road analysis for laser usage will be completed. He reported to Council that Sgt. Nunn has submitted his resignation with the term of his employment to end March 23, 2015. He further reported the following that 1) he is researching being able to purchase tasers for the department, 2) mental illness training is coming up in April and 3) the department has received and installed three AED units.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

None.

Lease Agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and Georgia Municipal Association – Vehicles - \$167,799.82

Item was postponed during the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 regular session of Council.

Lease Agreement between the City of Stone Mountain and Georgia Municipal Association – Vigilant License Plate Reader - \$17,683

Item was postponed during the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 regular session of Council.

Deed to Secure Debt – Between Downtown Development Authority of the City of Stone Mountain and the City of Stone Mountain – 5325 Manor Drive

No discussion.

Application for Variance of Sign Ordinance– 6655 James B. Rivers Drive – The Village Corner – Claus and Hilde Friese, Owners

Council Member Wells commented that a proposed revision to the City's current sign ordinance is forthcoming.

Set the Public Hearing for Alcoholic Beverage Privilege Application – Café Jaya, Inc. – 6566 James B. Rivers Memorial Drive – Jeffrey A. Carey and Rory L. Webb, Owners

Public hearing on the matter was set for Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

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It was consensus of Council to add “Hanging of the Banners on Main Street and the Train Depot for the Color Vibe Event” to the items under New Business on the April 7, 2015 regular session agenda.

**NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 2015-13 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment

Mr. Gary Peet explained the proposed budget amendment.

City Manager Gary Peet asked for the consent of Council to add “the Issuance and Sale of a Tax Anticipation Note” to the Agenda for the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 regular session of Council. It was the consensus of Council to add the item to New Business on the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 agenda.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT** –City Manager Gary Peet gave a Revenue and Expense Summary Report for the month of February 2015. He informed Council that City Auditor James Whitaker will begin work on the FY2014 financial audit at City Hall on March 30, 2015. Mr. Peet also gave the City Manager’s Report. He reported that 1) the Department of Community Affairs has approved the revised Service Delivery Strategy Agreement for DeKalb County and DeKalb municipalities 2) the new City website went live on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 3) the Annexation Task Force is continuing to solicit signature on local legislation to authorize referendum for annexation 4) it has been determined by City Attorney Joe Fowler that Solicitor L’Erin Barnes’ partnership in the law firm of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard, & Smith LLP does not warrant discontinuation of her services as solicitor for the City and 5) Administration recommends that the City vacate the Rock Gym due to the general condition of the building (further discussion was had on the matter).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

Mayor Wheeler asked that a date be set for a Saturday after the Easter holiday for the members of Council to meet to discuss the City’s ordinances. Council members were asked to review the code of ordinances in preparation of the meeting. She also reported that she has been contacted about the possibility of a Zaxby’s locating within the City. A petition is circulating for signature of those person’s that would like to see the restaurant locate in the City.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Coletti. Motion approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

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Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

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ChaQuias Miller Thornton, City Clerk