

MINUTES OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION  
Monday, August 17, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Patricia Wheeler called the Committee/Work Session to order at 6:00 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.

Motion passed 6-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Susan Leisure of the Stone Mountain Business Association addressed Council. She informed Council that the kiosk on Main Street is not up to date, and is not inclusive of all of the types of downtown businesses. Ms. Leisure and the Stone Mountain Business Association will present final sign design to the City Council for consideration during the next voting session of Council.

Ms. Leisure also reported on the AARF Pet Central's feral cat program.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Finance – No report.

Planning and Zoning – No report.

Community Affairs – Council Member Coletti reported that the City Wide Yard Sale is to be held Saturday, October 17, 2015.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the DDA report. She informed Council of her activity for the month of August 2015 and asked that Council add to the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 voting meeting agenda, the appointment of Jennifer Galloway to the Downtown Development Authority Board. Mrs. McKinley reported on the proposed implementation of the SeeClickFix program application for the City of Stone Mountain. More information on the dynamics of the program is to follow. She also reported on the monthly activities for the Development Authority's Economic Development, Design, Organization, and Promotions Committees. Upcoming DDA sponsored events are: Continuation of the Farmers Market through November 24; Tunes by the Tracks – September 4 through October 30; Trunk or Treat – October 27; and Christmas Parade – Friday, November 27.

Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that the Village Corner is hosting a 3-day event September 26, October 3, 2015, and October 10, 2015 and would like to permission to display banners promoting the event. This item is to be placed on the September 1, 2015 agenda of the voting session of Council. The Village Corner has asked that the Oktoberfest event be placed on the City's website. Noise permit is also needed

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for the event. Ms. Redmond also reported that a community watch meeting will be held at her home on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. (The event date should be August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015). She reported that 791 Main would like more police patrol behind their building on the weekends. The building owner is to contact the police department. Ms. Redmond further reported that the grass needs to be cut at 801 Main Street. She continued her report by saluting Nell Wooten in celebration of Ms. Wooten's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Ms. Wooten is a former basketball coach of Stone Mountain High School and plans to hold a reunion of the athletes coached under her leadership will be underway soon. Ms. Redmond will be requesting use of the Rock Gym for the event.

Public Safety –No report.

Public Works – Council Member wells reported that he'd spoken with City Manager Gary Peet and City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton regarding issues with posting audio of the City's meetings on the City's website. Ms. Thornton is to report on the issue during her report. Mr. Wells also reported that he has begun inquiry into why DeKalb County water bills have increased and he invited anyone to share with him any anecdotal information they may have on the cause if the increase.

Historic Preservation Commission – No report.

Visitor Center – Kim Cumbie, VC Manager reported that the Visitor Center had 399 visitors from 20 states and 4 countries during July 2015. She reported that Weeyum's Philly Cheese Steaks, Main Street, Stone Mountain, is listed as one of the 100 Plates That Locals Love for the State of Georgia, and that Café Jaya, James B. Rivers Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, has been named Best Coffeehouse in Atlanta by GA VOICE. Mrs. Cumbie further reported on an upcoming safety meeting for VC volunteers and advisory committee members; her upcoming attendance at the Governor's Tourism Conference in Savannah; upcoming visit from Darlis Monroe and staff from the Tallapoosa Visitor Information Center; upcoming Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day event; her upcoming leave time; and ongoing Color Vibe 2016 planning.

#### 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 cases issues to date for the month of August 2015. Officer Roseberry's report included the date of incident, the location of issue, and the action taken for each. She informed Council of the report of logs and trees being dumped in the City cemetery, and of other issues of noncompliance such as the failure to register businesses and trash and debris left on properties after tenant eviction. Ms. Roseberry also informed Council that she will be attending a Drug and Gang Awareness training session.

#### Public Works

Public Works Director Jim Tavenner gave the Public Works Report. Mr. Tavenner reported on community service statistics; LARP/DOT projects and funding for 2016; completion of the East Ponce de Leon paving project – with striping of the street to be done within the next week; getting trashcans for placement in the City's parks and throughout the City; paving of the Rock Gym parking lot – three bids were submitted and DeKalb County School System is to und a portion of the project; the next S&ME testing date for the wells on East Mountain is September 2015; evaluation of the Rockborough drainage project to be done by City engineer Rich Edinger; Georgia Power to set up a time for install of the street light at Main Street and West Mountain Street.

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Public Safety

Chief Troutman reported on the police department statistics for the month of July 2015. He also reported on statistics generated by use of the license reader. Chief Troutman also reported on the burglaries occurring in the City during month of July 2015. There were ten burglaries reported for the month. Individual police activity reports were provided for all officers. Leave time for training, sick leave, etc. is a factor in determining each officer's score. Chief Troutman commented on the success of Stone Mountain Day held at Leila Mason Park. Two officers were hired to work the event. He further reported that the crime mapping program contract has been reviewed by City Attorney Joe Fowler and will be on the agenda of next voting session of Council. Chief Troutman also reported on the issue with children being left at the Stone Mountain library for several hours in the evenings, after school is dismissed. He asked that citizens be encouraged to secure their lawn care equipment and to be sure to activate their property alarm systems.

City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton gave the City Clerk's report. Mrs. Thornton reported that: public hearing on the variance application for 1050 Griffin Street will need to be rescheduled for a time after which the Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed revision of the architectural plans; the 2015 qualifying period for general municipal election will begin on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. and end on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.; and review of the City's cemetery and sign ordinances is being conducted by the administration. Mrs. Thornton also gave updates to Council on the projects at: 901 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Mountain View; 980 Main Street – interior demolition for rehab; 1054 Main Street – Westgate Plaza revised plan submission; 1048 Main Street – process for issuance of Certificate of Occupancy; and 5444 Rockbridge Road. Mrs. Thornton also gave an update on the posting of Council meeting audios to the City's website.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Resurfacing a Portion of the Rock Gym parking Lot – Bid Award – Wildcat Striping and Sealing Co. - \$13,502.00

No discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Consent Agenda

None.

Art Station, Inc. Contract Amendment for Services with The City of Stone Mountain

Amendment addresses the addition of the right to post Art Station events on the City's website events' calendar.

No discussion.

Contract Extension for MARTA Offset Funds

Extending contract through June 30, 2017.

No discussion.

Public Engines, Inc. Terms of Service Agreement

City Manager Gary Peet explained that the terms of the service agreement are such that service order may be considered a binding contract. This agreement is being brought to Council because, only Council has the authority to approve contracts and only the Mayor can sign such contracts as approved by Council. This agreement is for the crime mapping of police stats. There is also an indemnification clause in the contract that, after attorney review, is determined not applicable to the City.

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NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2015-10 – Amendment to Sign Regulations

Council Member Johnson rendered the first read of Ordinance 2015-10.

No discussion

Ordinance 2015-12 – Charter Amendment to Article IV, Judicial Branch, to extend the length of time for municipal sentences

Council Member Johnson rendered the first read of Ordinance 2015-12. City Manager Gary Peet explained to Council that this amendment will increase the limitation of sentencing from 90 days to 180 days. The purpose of the amendment is to enable longer probation sentences for violations of municipal codes.

Resolution 2015-27 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment

City Manager Gary Peet explained the proposed budget amendment that deals with proposed amendments to several revenue and expenditure line items including, but not limited to, Real Property Taxes Current Year, Interfund Transfers, Professional Services, Contingencies, Capital Lease items and interest, Group Health Insurance, and Salaries. A significant factor related to the proposed adjustment for the Real Property Taxes Current Year revenue line item is the appeal of ad valorem tax assessments/bills.

Resolution 2015-28 – Set Fee for Vacant Properties

City Manager Gary Peet explained the proposed fees outlined in the resolution. It was discovered through inquiry of such fees, that the standard for vacant property registry fee is \$100.00. Renewal fee is proposed at \$10.00. Mr. Peet reported that the time frame for classification of a property as “vacant” is 60 days, and that the time beyond those 60 days, in which a property owner is required to register the property as vacant property, will be researched further. Mr. Peet informed Council that commercial properties, with vacant classification, would be subject to the same regulations.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – City Manager Gary Peet gave the City Manager’s Report. He reported on the following: weekly meeting beginning August 18, 2015 has been scheduled to draft a plan for the succession to the office of City Manager by the City Clerk; auction for the 1999 Ford F-150 closes on August 21, 2015; the next step in the abatement of nuisance at 5429 E. Mountain Street is the acquisition of a qualified appraiser to report on the value of the house; comparison of the revenues versus expenditures for police and court services for all cities reporting a 2013 audit on the public access website; an update of Capital Projects for the East Mountain Street Sidewalks project and the LCI Streetscape Phase II project.

Council Member Mailman asked that a meeting be scheduled for him, the chief of police and the city manager to discuss training for the officers before implementation of new personnel policy for the police department. The new policy is to become effective August 25, 2015.

Council Member Wells asked that an update be given on the auction of the confiscated vehicle. Mr. Peet informed Council that an account has been set up with eBay for potential auction of the vehicle. If the reserve price is not attained on eBay, then the vehicle will be auctioned on GovDeals.

Mr. Peet then gave the Revenue and Expense Report. Mr. Peet provided detail on the General Fund Revenue Analysis Report and on the annualized shortfalls for specific revenue items. He reported that the overall revenue shortfall in the general fund is estimated at \$11,968. Administrative budget amendments for the period July 18, 2015 through August 16, 2015 were also provided for Council review.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Wheeler had nothing to announce. Council Member Coletti announced that Lady Mary McConnell passed away today and Mrs. Coletti gave information on tentative funeral arrangements.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Coletti. Motion approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

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Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

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ChaQuias Miller Thornton, City Clerk