

MINUTES OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION  
Monday, September 21, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Patricia Wheeler called the Committee/Work Session to order immediately following the public hearing at 6:09 p.m. Present were Council Members Steve Higgins, Chakira Johnson, Andrea Redmond, and Steve Wells – which constituted a quorum. Council Member Coletti was absent and Council Member Mailman arrived later.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Council Member Higgins gave the invocation and Council Member Wells led the pledge of allegiance.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Wheeler read a letter of commendation regarding Municipal Court employee Lauren Cooper and Police Department employee Detective Manuel Norrington.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adopt the agenda of the day. Seconded by Council Member Redmond

Motion passed 4-0.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Dianna Hollis of 735 Mountain Village Court addressed Council. She requested that proposed ordinances and resolutions be posted on the City's website prior to adoption/approval.

Council Member Mailman arrived.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Finance – Council Member Higgins reported that copies of the most recent revenue and expense reports can be made available to the public upon request.

Planning and Zoning – Report made after Visitor Center report.

Community Affairs – No report.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the DDA report. Ms. McKinley thanked everyone who participated in the cemetery clean-up on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and she informed Council of her administrative activity for the month of September 2015 and of the grand re-opening of Paws in Paradise. Ms. McKinley also reported on the proposed implementation of the SeeClickFix program application for the City of Stone Mountain. A demo presentation was attended by Ms. McKinley and City Manager Gary Peet for a comparable application called Accela. Ms. McKinley reported on the monthly activities for the Development Authority's Economic Development, Design, Organization, and Promotions Committees. She provided Council with preliminary signage specs for a proposal to implement municipal type signage in the city's downtown. Upcoming DDA sponsored events are: Continuation of the Farmers Market through November 24; Tunes by the Tracks through October 30; Trunk or Treat – October 27; Cemetery Clean-up – November 4; and Christmas Parade – Friday, November 27. Ms. McKinley is looking to get community choirs to sing during the Christmas festivities. Council discussed with Ms. McKinley the signage at the corner of East Mountain and Main Streets and the municipal sign proposal. Mr. Mailman thanked the Downtown Development Authority for the positive events that are being implemented in the community. City Manager Gary Peet reported that there is a front page article in the DeKalb Messenger about Tunes by the Tracks.

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Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that reports of the breaking of curfew is being reported near Cloud, Sheppard, and Villa Nueva. Chief Troutman asked that complainants be encouraged to call 911. She also discussed with Council the possibility of covered bus stops on Main Street and on East and West Mountain Streets. Administration will look into the matter. Mr. Al Capogrossi also asked if there could be follow up discussion had with MARTA regarding smaller buses servicing the City of Stone Mountain. Ms. Redmond inquired as to whether the depot can be used to hold senior size dance classes. Further discussion of the matter is to follow.

Public Safety – Council Member Mailman reported that he has received a number of calls for various reasons such as gunshots heard and noise disturbances. He encouraged citizens to call 911 if they should witness suspicious activity or if they should feel threatened in any way.

Public Works – Council Member Wells reported that the cemetery clean-up was a success and he thanked DDA and members of nextdoor.com for their efforts in the matter. The next cemetery clean-up will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. He encouraged citizens to inform him of any ideas they may have with regards to his quarterly clean-up initiative. He also encouraged citizens to contact City Hall if they are aware of issues that need to be attended to by the Public Works department.

Historic Preservation Commission – HPC Chair Al Capogrossi reported for the commission. During the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 session of HPC discussion was had with the contractor for the 1054 Main Street West Gate project. HPC also met with Mr. Dave Moody, owner of 970 Main Street, to discuss a preliminary scope of work for the Main Street building. HPC met with Mary Beth Reed regarding rehabilitation of the Historic Train Depot located at 922 Main Street.

Visitor Center – Kim Cumbie, VC Manager reported that the Visitor Center had 276 visitors from 22 states and 9 countries during August 2015. Mrs. Cumbie reported on the safety meeting held for VC volunteers and advisory committee members; her attendance at the Governor's Tourism Conference in Savannah; visit from Darlis Monroe and staff from the Tallapoosa Visitor Information Center; the next AMTA meeting to be held Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup>, the upcoming Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day event; the upcoming Color Vibe 2016 event to be held May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016; and her upcoming leave time tentatively scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Planning and Zoning – Pam DeLoach reported that the committee is recommending Jelani Linder for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Committee. Mrs. DeLoach is to provide Mr. Linder's resume to the Mayor and Council. The matter is to be considered during the October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 regular session.

#### 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 to date for the month of September 2015. Officer Roseberry's report included the date of incident, the location of issue, and the action taken for each. She informed Council that the person suspected of dumping logs and trees in the City cemetery has been apprehended. Ms. Roseberry also reported on open cases involving code compliance issues at 802 Third Street, 5319 Hamilton Street, 1150 Rankin Street, and other locations. Ms. Redmond congratulated Ms. Roseberry on successfully completing training in the area of Street Gang Identification and Awareness.

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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; paving of the Rock Gym parking lot; the S&ME testing date for the wells on East Mountain to be held before the end of September 2015; trash collections year to date; installation of the barricade at the elementary school; cutback of right-of-ways; installation of the street light at the corner of West Mountain and Main on September 11<sup>th</sup>; and bid submittal deadline for the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Mr. Wells asked if there is a program for painting of the City's crosswalks. Mr. Tavenner informed Council that he places a request with the County to paint those sections that need painting. Council Member Higgins informed Mr. Tavenner of a wire that is hanging down at the corner of Ridge Avenue and Manor. City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that he will give them a time line of the bid and award of the East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project.

Public Safety

Chief Troutman reported on the police department statistics for the month of August 2015. Chief Troutman also reported on the burglaries occurring in the City during month of August 2015. There were eight burglaries reported for the month with four arrests being made and with merchandise being recovered from the burglary occurring at 606 Las Varas Court. Individual police activity reports were provided for all officers. Chief Troutman reported that scores for the evening watch were down because of the retirement of Officer Donna Beck, and resignations of Officer Ricky Hardin and Officer Adam Hawkins. Chief Troutman reported that an agency from Louisiana is wanting to implement the activity plan in their organization. He reported that police department personnel Vickie Tucker is still working on implementation of the crime mapping application. Council Member Wells commented on recent events with police fatalities within DeKalb County. Mr. Wells thanked the Chief and the Stone Mountain Police Department for their service to the community. Mr. Wells also commented on the new evaluation system and media coverage of that system. He thanked the City's staff for working to implement the new plan for the police department.

City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton gave the City Clerk's report. Mrs. Thornton reported that the qualifying period ended on Thursday, September 3, 2015 with persons qualifying for each of the three council member seats. Mrs. Thornton provided Council with a list of qualified candidates, by post. City Clerk Thornton also reported that she attended two training sessions in September. She acquired 16 credit hours for Finance Officer recertification and 6 credit hours for Municipal Clerk recertification. Mrs. Thornton 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; and 5444 Rockbridge Road.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Consent Agenda

None.

City of Stone Mountain FY2015-16 MS4 Annual Report and Dry Weather Screening Proposal – Clark Patterson Lee

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that there were no significant changes to this proposal as compared to previous MS4 proposals submitted by Clark Patterson Lee.

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Local Government Entities Agreement between American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and City of Stone Mountain  
City Manager Gary Peet explained the nature of the agreement.

Application for Variance – 1050 Griffin Street – Connie Jacobs-Walton, owner  
City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that the Planning and Zoning Committee issued recommendation for approval of the variance application in the form of meeting minutes.

Short Term Facility Use Agreement – Rock Gym – October 24, 2015 – Andrea Redmond, Applicant  
Council Member Redmond explained that the event is a tribute to Coach Nell Wooten and that the number of attendees will range between 100 to 200 people.

#### NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2015-29 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment

City Manager Gary Peet explained that an amendment to the initially proposed budget amendment has been provided to Council. Mr. Peet explained that the proposed budget resolution will fund the demolition and disposal of the structure at 5429 East Mountain Street.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Gary Peet gave the City Manager's Report. Mr. Peet requested an executive session be held on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the purposes of discussion the lease of real property and for interview of ChaQuias Thornton for the position of City Manager. He further reported that annual performance appraisals for employees are scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2015; he and Public Works Director Jim Tavenner attended a meeting of the DeKalb Municipal Association to discuss the proposed Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum; and the Housing Authority of DeKalb has asked permission to hang a banner on the fence at McCurdy Park – the item is to be placed on the October 6, 2015 regular session agenda. Mr. Peet also reported that six meetings are to be held in 3 days to allow applicants to apply to get on a waiting list for lease of units at The View Senior Residence Complex. The meetings are scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at City Hall and are to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. The meetings will also include a tour of the facility.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Wheeler reminded everyone of Tunes by the Tracks to be held on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and the Farmers Market on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

Mayor Pro-tem Johnson encouraged those interested in doing so, to attend the remainder of the Historical Society Fundraiser being held this evening until 8:00 p.m. at Wells Cargo.

Council Member Steve Wells encouraged everyone to attend the press conference to be held at the Historic Train Depot at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 22, 2015. He also thanked the Public Works Department for picking up the debris that was gathered during the cemetery clean-up on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Mailman.  
Motion approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.