

MINUTES OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION  
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Patricia Wheeler moved forward into the Committee/Work Session at 6:06 p.m., immediately following the Special Called Session. 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**

Mayor Wheeler afforded Police Chief Troutman an opportunity to award commendations to several of his officers. Those officers present to receive commendations were Officers Bob Hillis, Diane Sinclair, James Westerfield, and Detective Manual Norrington. Those officers receiving commendations that were not present were Officers Adam Hawkins, William Hubbard, Kenneth Nunn, and Lieutenant Sherlene Manning. New hire Mary Joan Ultz was introduced to Council as the most recent addition to the police department.

**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. The motion passed 6-0.

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

Mr. Al Capogrossi of Poplar Springs Road, Stone Mountain, asked if the annexation map that will be submitted to the DeKalb Delegation, will be available for review by the public. City Manager Gary Peet said that he would make every effort to place the map, as proposed, on the City's website. The map is subject to change.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Planning and Zoning – No Report.

Community Affairs – Council Member Susan Coletti reported that the Spring Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – This report was moved to end of the Committee Discussion Items to allow for the person reporting to enter the work session.

Finance – No Report.

Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that citizens have been excited to see City businesses opened later on the weekend. She thanked Public Works Director Jim Tavenner and the Public Works crew for the job they are doing in the historic cemetery. Work request reported were 1) a garbage can put near the southern part of the cemetery, 2) check lighting in the parking lot at Sweet Aromas and The Health Nut, 3) inquiries about the newspaper recycling bins at Ridge and Hamilton that are overflowing. Ms. Redmond also reported on two upcoming events 1) Property tax conversation at Café Jaya – January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 12:30 P.M. and 2) Community watch group gathering at the German bakery – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

Public Safety – Council Member Mailman thanked Police Chief Troutman for his leadership of the City's police department. Mr. Mailman also commended Council Member Steve Wells for heading up the MLK Day of Service. He thanked Café' Jaya and all of the Council Members for their parts played in the event.

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Public Works – No report.

Historic Preservation Commission – HPC Chairman Al Capogrossi thanked the council members for their attendance at the most recent HPC meeting. He also expressed his appreciation for the appointment of the newest HPC member, and for Council's consideration of amending ordinance to allow for an increase in the number of commissioners that can serve on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – DDA Executive Director Mechel McKinley gave the DDA report. Mrs. McKinley reported that the DDA has been working on the following items: (1) DCA monthly report, (2) Social media management, (3) Meeting with committee chairs and committees as needed, (4) Working with business owners as needed, (5) 2015 Planning, (6) Research of previous signage plans. Ms. McKinley also reported that press releases have been issued for the MLK Day of Service and for notification of the Police Department Crime Stats, a façade grant was awarded to Angela Woolford for 907 Main Street for a new awning, and that the website is anticipated to go live by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Visitor Center – Kim Cumbie, Manager reported that the Visitor Center had 82 visitors from 15 states and 1 country. She informed Council that the Caboose is continuing to get facelift – a new awning has been ordered. Ms. Cumbie also reported that Tourism Day will be held at the Capital next week, ATMA begins again on the first Wednesday in February, and the Color Vibe is set to be held May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Code Compliance – City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that he will include the Code Compliance report in his City Manager's report.

#### Public Works

Jim Tavenner, Director reported on the following: (1) There were 22 community service workers for last month and 9 to date for January (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) request for street lights on Ferndale Street has been made to Georgia Power. Mr. Tavenner discussed with Council the CSX Right-of-Entry agreement. Council's primary concern was with Item. 10 of the agreement as it pertains to liability insurance coverage. City Manager Gary Peet is to make clarification of the matter with CSX and to report his findings to Council. Mr. Tavenner also discussed with Council the Leila Mason Cemetery. He informed Council that there is a map of the cemetery, but there is some questions as to whether some of the cemetery area already has graves established. He further discussed with Council the City's Capital Projects including Streetscape Phase II and the East Mountain Street project; and he explained the delay in Dekalb County's repair of its sewer lines and the patching of the repair sites.

#### Public Safety

Chief Troutman reported the December statistics for citations and warnings issued. Mr. Troutman further reported on the burglaries and police activity data for November 2014. There were 5 burglaries reported for the month of December – totaling 6. He reported on the departments Z scores and police activity reports. Chief Troutman also gave detail of some of the criminal arrests made in the City, giving information about the suspects and the nature of the criminal activity.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

None.

CSX Transportation Agreement No. CSX775913 – Right-Of-Entry Access to CSX Transportation, Inc. Property for Certain Environmental Investigatory Work

City Manager Gary Peet is to obtain clarity on the liability insurance coverage requirements.

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

City Manager Gary Peet informed Council of the origin of initial discussion about the deed to secure debt between the DDA and the City. Council Member Johnson, who is also a member of the DDA Board asked that Council consider tabling the matter until DDA could further discuss and possibly come up with alternatives to the agreement during their next work session. Council Member Chakira Johnson made a motion to postpone item C. under New Business, Deed to Secure Debt – Between Downtown Development Authority of the City of Stone Mountain and the City of Stone Mountain – 5325 Manor Drive, until a later date. Seconded by Council Member Mailman. The motion passed 6-0.

Contract Amendment for Recycling Collection and Disposal Service Program – Advanced Disposal Services of Atlanta, LLC

No discussion.

Stone Mountain Historical Society – Short Term Facility Use Agreement – Rock Gym – February 14, 2015

City Manager Gary Peet made mention that he has begun revision of the City's short term facilities agreement which he is intending to submit to Council during the February work session.

Lease Agreement – City of Stone Mountain and VFW Park Stone Mountain Community Garden

Council Member Chakira Johnson informed Council that she met with City Manager Gary Peet and City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton about including the Community Garden as a Parks and Recreation program. It has since been determined that the duties asked to be performed by the City can be included in the lease agreement between the Community Garden and the City. Mr. Gary Peet has volunteered to serve as the Community Garden treasurer. Council Member Mailman expressed his fondness of the program and Mayor Wheeler suggested that the Community Garden pair up with the DDA Director to get information about the Garden relayed through the local newspapers. Council Member Johnson informed Council that there may be a page for the garden program on the City's website.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2015-02 – HPC-To Increase Maximum Number of Commissioners from Five to Seven

Mayor Wheeler is to contact the applicants of the HPC open seat that were not nominated to serve on the commission, to see if they are still interested in serving.

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Resolution 2015-06 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment

Mr. Gary Peet informed Council that the budget amendment includes the replacement of the computer for the Visitor's Center and that the purchase will include the Microsoft Office Software. Council Member Johnson will look into donating a printer to the VC.

Resolution 2015-07 – To Add Commercial Recycling

No discussion.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT –City Manager Gary Peet gave a Revenue and Expense Summary Report for the month of December 2014. Mr. Peet reported that the surplus on December 31, 2014 is estimated at \$176,000 after adjustments for prior years and fund transfers. Mr. Peet gave the City Manager's Report. He reported that 1) the Georgia Department of Community Affairs did not accept the Service Delivery Agreement submitted by DeKalb County, 2)notification has been received from Best Life and Health Insurance Company that there will be no increase in premium for dental coverage – automatic renewal March 1, 2015, 3)Court Services in undertaking at free 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, 4)administration is requesting a one hour delay from 6PM to 7PM for the work session start time on February 16, 2015 to allow for City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton time to return from training, 5)Twelve applicants, of two hundred and two, were evaluated for possible interview for the Code Compliance Officer position, two have been interviewed, 6)the switch from Birch Communications to Comcast has been completed, with one problem remaining involving email, and with telephone service being restored to the VC as soon as remote access is restored, 7)DeKalb County is proposing tax increases totaling 3.26 mills. Mr. Peet also reported on the City's capital projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Wheeler thanked the Council Members for the work and clean-up performed at the cemetery.

Council Member Wells thanked Council, residents, and non-residents for their volunteer efforts during the MLK Day of Service. He encouraged all City residents to register to become a part of nextdoor.com and to get their animals spade and neutered to help control the pet/animal population.

Council Member Johnson also thanked those employees of the City who volunteered their time during the Day of Service efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Mailman. 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