



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
Tuesday, December 18, 2018 @ 6:30 pm
City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:17pm right out of the Special Called Meeting.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Hollis and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by Councilmember Wells.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to adopt the agenda of the day with one addition by unanimous consent as item C under New Ordinances and Resolutions - Resolution 2018-34 to Renew the Service Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County, GA and for Other Purposes, seconded by Councilmember Hollis.

Unanimous consent

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Rory Webb

1130 Ridge Avenue

Business 947 Main Street

He wanted to recognize and welcome the new business owner/resident, Joy Harris, Coze Tea Room.

Joan Monroe

5499 Woodsong Trace

She made complaints against the Code Enforcement division and against the City for hiring staff for jobs that Councilmembers can do.

Christopher Hunt

5456 Peachtree Industrial Blvd

He stated that he believes in Stone Mountain and believes with great leadership the City can progress far. He also stated that the intersection at the 5-way stop needs to be fixed to allow for growth of business and traffic control of streets.

Shontae Lewis

108 Stonecliff Court

She wanted to know about the contract terms between Safebuilt and the City. She stated that she is discouraged and concerned with opening a business in here in the City of Stone Mountain because of so many stop work orders issued and issues with re-inspections by Safebuilt.

Bridget Killion

5100 W. Mountain Street

She is with the Committee to up start the market. She wanted to know what she can do to help the process to start the market.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Planning and Zoning

No Report

B. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson reported that DDA's next meeting is January 14 at 6:30pm.

C. Historic Preservation Commission

Assistant City Clerk, Alicia Daniels, reported that there will be no meeting this Wednesday, December 19 because there is not a quorum.

STAFF REPORTS –

A. Code Compliance Officer – Sgt. Roseberry

Sgt Roseberry and Bob Hillis were absent; therefore, they a verbal report was not given; however, Council was given the written report.

B. Public Works Director – Jim Tavenner

Public Works Director Tavenner gave monthly numbers and report of activity by the Public Works Department. He spoke on the proposal for a four way stop at Ridge and Cloud and our Engineer vendor's estimate to do the traffic analysis which would be \$7700.00. He also spoke on the transition of trash service from Advanced Disposal to DeKalb County and the pick-up of our trash carts by Advanced Disposal. He advised that Train Depot project is on target to have its final walk through and to be completed by year end.

C. Chief of Police – Chief Troutman

Chief of Police Troutman reported on monthly numbers and activity. He passed out a packet to Council regarding the upcoming Public Safety Intercept program for the next year. He asked Council to review and it will be discussed at the next Work Session. City Manager Thornton advised that we can reach out to the City of Lithonia in regard to their Intercept program. Chief Troutman also reported on the new Laser system that will be implemented and its picture taking capabilities

Councilmember Wells asked Chief Troutman about his level of management over Code Enforcement. Chief Troutman advised that they directly report to the City Manager; however, the report to him in regard to police business.

City Manager Thornton then made some clarifications that stop work orders are issued by Code Enforcement and not Safebuilt based on City code. She advised that there are several different parts that regulate a stop work order such as Historic Preservation Commission, Planning and Zoning and possibly because of work being done without a permit. She also advised that code is put into place by elected officials and that district regulations govern use which vary by district. She stated that Administration administers the code and that any City vendor will have to adhere to state and city codes. City Manager Thornton then suggested providing a Government 101 session for interested individuals. Mayor Pro Tem then interjected that maybe we can provide a Government 101 session in February if not March. City Manager Thornton also stressed that we offer complimentary pre-concept meetings for new businesses/owners to offer information to the business owners.

Councilmember Wells stated that there has to be better communication between Code Enforcement and the residents and business owners.

D. Assistant City Clerk – Alicia Daniels

Assistant City Clerk, Alicia Daniels, reported on the Occupational Tax Renewals, New Occupational Tax, Alcohol License renewals and Permits received for the month of November. She elaborated on the meeting held with the owner's representative and possible new owners for 5444 Rockbridge Road and the possible submittal of the barricade plan for the property.

E. Visitor's Center Manager – Kim Cumbie

Visitor's Center Manager, Kim Cumbie, reported on the number of visitors to the center, upcoming filming projects, the farmer's market start date of May 14, 2019, the success of the Christmas parade and her meeting with DeKalb County Board of Health.

City Council and City Manager Thornton presented a gift to Steve Wells for his service with the City as Councilmember as he is stepping down.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Visitor's Center Agreement Renewal – City of Stone Mountain and Stone Mountain Memorial Services

City Manager Thornton advised that she is still waiting on a draft from SMMA to submit their changes to the contract.

B. Ordinance 2018-09 – Amendment to Chapter 4 Animals

There was discussion and questions on this item only.

Citizen Joan Monroe concerns were if an animal control position would be implemented, the use of lime, grazing of animals bring heartworms. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson highlighted definition in code of a dog officer to mean Code Enforcement Officer. City Manager Thornton stated that we will continue to use DeKalb County for Animal Control and enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson had some concerns specifically Section 4-20 Right of Entry and asked where the grazing section was pulled from and Councilmember Hollis advised from four other cities.

Councilmember Mailman asked if we could keep a portion of the ordinance we already have and just add grazing. Councilmember Hollis stated that they were trying to reduce redundancy.

City Manager Thornton and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson agreed that the Council should look at the code in its entirety along with this grazing, so not to cause confliction.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Rezoning Application from Current Zoning R-2 Traditional Residential to Proposed Zoning MR-1 Single Family Attached Townhomes; 6803 JBR Memorial Drive, Parcel #18 126 06 002 – Applicant Christopher Hunt

The applicant, Christopher Hunt made presentation to support his application. The ordinance on the 75 ft buffer was a topic of discussion for both the applicant and Council. The applicant also was upset about the change in zoning district from MR-1 in 2005 to R-2 in 2008 as a result of the change in the zoning map.

B. Letter of Engagement – Audit Services – James L. Whitaker, P. C. – For Year Ended December 31, 2018

City Manager stated that year end is approaching, and the financial audit will be coming up as well, so she presented the letter of interest from James Whitaker in regard to our yearly audit.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance 2018-12 – Amendment to Chapter 24 Solid Waste

City Manager Thornton expressed that our fines for Solid Waste non-compliance will be left in place, but we would like to adopt all other DeKalb County's rules.

B. Resolution 2018-33 – Resolution in Support of DDA Application for Revolving Loan Fund – East Mountain Development Group

City Manager Thornton explained that DCA gives the loan, but DDA will act as a pass through for the loan. She pointed out that there was one loan like this in the past for Victor Economy's parking lot.
No other questions or discussions.

- C. Resolution 2018-34 - Resolution 2018-34 to Renew the Service Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County, GA and for Other Purposes

City Manager Thornton highlighted that City of Stonecrest will be entered into the Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County and there are no changes to the City's summary of services except that now DeKalb County Sanitation is listed as the City's refuse collection and recycling program services.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager reported on some of the SPLOST funds are go towards the improvement of our local fire department. She also advised that the SPLOST meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 and the City's Address will be held on January 31, 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Wheeler spoke on the chili cook off event where money was raised for one of the local citizens and Susan Coletti won the cook off.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Hollis.
Unanimous consent.
Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

Patricia Wheeler, Mayor

Alicia Daniels, Assistant City Clerk