



Mayor and City Council Work Session
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM
City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Minutes

Mayor and Council: Dr. Beverly Jones – Mayor | Post 3 :Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith
Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass | Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos
Post 4: Council Member Gil Freeman | Post 5: Council Member Shawnette Bryant
Post 6: Council Member Teresa Crowe

Staff: Shawn Edmondson - City Manager | Maggie Dimov – Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Jeff Strickland - City Attorney

Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

Determination of Quorum

PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman (Zoom), Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette 14 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

Invocation and Pledge

Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation

Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders

Citizen Comment 1: Erin Parks - In favor of removing confederate symbols in cemetery.

Citizen Comment 2: Zakiyah A. Lewis-Mohammad - Experienced harassment from neighbors related to their funeral home business. Council Member Crowe's husband and the funeral home's staff were involved in an exchange, and everybody guns were drawn. The Police Department was contacted, and a report was filed due to concerns about safety and perceived racial targeting. Another neighbor requested the hearses to be moved, I said no.

Citizen Comment 3: Joan Monroe - Assistant City Manager is not doing the pledge of allegiance to, two forensic audits, long-term facility use, rules of decorum are ludicrous.

Citizen Comment 4: Dave Thomas - Thanked police department during Mardi Gras and thanked Events Coordinator.

Citizen Comment 5: B. Patterson - Cannot hear anything on Zoom; Four council members voted on 2023 budget and no information was provided regarding how to spend city funds; no one knows how much money the city has.

Citizen Comment 6: Cheryl Dudley - Mentioned the resolution of city council. Residents, citizens, and council need more time to speak. Mayors have more time to speak across the state

Citizen Comment 7: Theodosia Compton - Hearing music from the car wash constantly; Does not want the laundromat.

Citizen Comment 8: Marcus Patton - History, heritage, and the past; Patriotism is a part of heritage. Racism has been a problem. In objection to confederacy being honored.

Citizen Comment 9: Andrew Zonneveld - Devastated to hear about Zakiyah neighbor situation. There is no obligation to allow confederate monument. In support of item #11.

Citizen Comment 10: Rhonda Morrison - Opposed the laundromat because there are plenty of laundromats already. loitering at laundromat; recommend other retail shops

Citizen Comment 11: Clifford Jones - Opposed laundromat. Water bill will increase. No one thinks about the residents.

Citizen Comment 12: Ms. Thomas – Was told to shut up by Crowe, Bass, Smith, Marianos. Deleting audio is illegal; Clerk could not find minutes to an Executive Session; 4 to 2 voted to cleanup and pay for confederate cemetery; Laundromat already been approved 4 to 2; Reached out to the auditor on own personal time, included City Clerk and City Manager - 2023 and 2024 audits are behind. Auditor told her he is willing to speak about audit – wanted a townhall; Should be able to talk at the meetings, we want answers.

Citizen Comment 13: Clint Monroe - Mentioned no one would benefit from opting in to HB 581. DeKalb County opted out, only those interested are realtors. Son of Confederates Veterans put up confederate symbols.

Citizen Comment 14: Juliana Pierre - Mentioned she reported during the last meeting on the Stone Mountain Community Garden, not Jackie Marshall.

Citizen Comment 15: Gina Cox - Glad to see speed bump back on agenda. Grandboy almost side swiped. Mardi Gras traffic, need more signs for closure.

Citizen Comment 16: Jelani Linder - Laundromat is a concern for a lot of citizens. No policy on how to grow the city and economic development. Put things on the agenda for the community.

Review of the Journal (City Clerk)

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the March 4, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 4, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

Voted Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant

MOTION PASSED

Reading of Communications

Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

97 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**

98 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

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100 **Voted Yea:** Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro
101 Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council
102 Member: Post 6: Crowe

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104 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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106 **Committee Discussion Items**

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108 Stone Mountain Community Garden - Julian Pierre gave an overview of activities for Stone Mountain
109 Community Garden.

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111 Planning Commission - Andrew Zonneveld stated there were no updates for Planning Commission.

112
113 Historic Preservation Commission - Elaine Vaughn gave an overview HPC and the request for one
114 Certificate of Appropriateness and a new member needs to be sworn in.

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116 Parks and Recreation Committee - Orea Parker gave updates on Parks and Recreation which included
117 requesting the Public Works Director to attend all meetings and recommend recommends having Parks
118 and Recreation Director.

119
120 **Staff Reports**

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122 Public Safety- Police Chief- James Westerfield Jr – Police Chief gave an overview of all police statistics
123 and updates for the Month of February.

124
125 Administration - City Manager, Shawn Edmondson, gave an overview of all staff reports. Assistant City
126 Manager, Maggie Dimov also gave an overview of reports, including traffic calming for Shermantown.

127
128 **ACTION: MOTION TO SET A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING TO FINISH AGENDA ITEMS FROM THE**
129 **MARCH 18, 2025 MEETING**

130 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

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132 **Voted Yea:** Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:
133 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council Member:
134 Post 6: Crowe

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136 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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138 **City Manager's Report**

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140 City Manager, Shawn Edmondson, gave an overview of the handout of the City Manager's report. The
141 City Manager introduced the new Communications Specialist Kimberly Clarke.

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143 **Unfinished Business**

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145 1. Consideration of an action on a request to declare the city is out of covid protocol and to move
146 forward with removal of plexiglass in city council chambers, requested by Council Member Teresa
147 Crowe.

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149 **ACTION: MOTION TO REMOVE PLEXIGLASS FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY THE**
150 **NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

Voted Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant

MOTION PASSED

New Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve Change Order #5: Traffic Calming on 4th Street, requested by Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Maggie Dimov

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #5: TRAFFIC CALMING ON 4TH STREET

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

2. Consideration of an action on a request to allow a long-term facility use agreement at Leila Mason Park with Donald Jones-Buonpensiere from April 20, 2025 - September 14, 2025, requested by City Clerk

Donald Jones-Buonpensiere gave an overview of what his long-term facility use request entails – an adult baseball league.

ACTION: MOTION TO EXTEND THE TIME TO FINISH THE DISCUSSION ON THE LONG TERM FACILITY USE REQUEST

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO ALLOW A LONG-TERM FACILITY USE AGREEMENT AT LEILA MASON PARK WITH DONALD JONES-BUONPENSIERE FROM APRIL 20, 2025 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

Voted Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant

MOTION PASSED

ACTION: MOTION TO DISCUSS THE OUTSIDE COUNSEL AGREEMENT WITH EMILIA WALKER

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

3. Consideration of an action on request to approve an agreement with Emilia Walker for blight property services as needed.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH EMILIA WALKER FOR OUTSIDE COUNSEL SERVICES AS NEEDED

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO SET A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON APRIL 1, 2025 AT 5:30 P.M. TO FINISH THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS FROM THE MARCH 18TH MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:48 P.M.

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

Voted Yea: Council Member Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Bryant, Council Member: Post 6: Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

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Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor

Shavala Ames, City Clerk