Mayor and City Council Regular Session

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:30 PM

City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Minutes

Mayor and Council: Jelani Linder – Mayor | Post 3: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith Post 1: Council Member Anita Bass | Post 2: Council Member Mark Marianos Post 4: Council Member Kay Nunez | Post 5: Council Member Hub Jordan Post 6: Council Member Elaine Vaughn

Staff: Maggie Dimov – City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Nakeya Burton – Deputy City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney

Mission Statement: *The City of Stone Mountain serves our residents, businesses, and visitors by providing an enhanced quality of life and a unique sense of place, guided by trust and integrity*

I. **Call to Order**

Mayor Linder called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

II. **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 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

III. **Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Linder led a 30-second moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. **Citizen Comments/Including comments from public/stakeholders**

Citizen Comment 1: Joan Monroe – Expressed concerns regarding shootings and suspicious activity in City neighborhoods which brings down home values and gives the City a bad reputation. Felt dismissed when attempting to make a police report. Questioned the Police Departments goals and intentions for the City.

Citizen Comment 2: Carl Wright – Expressed concerns regarding vacant buildings downtown and encouraged the governing body to declare them as blight. Spoke regarding the speeding issues and potholes on James B Rivers and suggested implementing speeding monitors.

Citizen Comment 3: C. Monroe – Encouraged the governing body to pay attention to what's taking place at Stone Mountain Park, specifically the Interpretive Center. Spoke regarding the defunding of the Stone Mountain Park Police. Suggested additional cameras be installed to assist the Police Department better investigate crimes within the City. Encouraged the governing body to approach the Budget carefully if resulting in another tax increase.

Citizen Comment 4: Andrea Redmond – Brought attention to October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Handed out the Governor's Proclamation regarding Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Expressed her activism around Domestic Violence and listed some Domestic Violence statistics. Encouraged everyone to bring awareness to the cause and take action by reporting or intervening.

Citizen Comment 5: Cheryl Dudley – Spoke regarding the sales tax and advised that without the Georgia Assembly it cannot be done. Spoke in support of a flock camera to combat the speeding and passing issues. Advised that early voting begins next week and encouraged everyone's participation. Expressed concern regarding the lack of protection for women.

Citizen Comment 6: James Michael Rollins – Suggested the governing body update the Code for Busking to allow artists and musicians to be able to perform in front of vacant buildings as it might lighten up the City.

V. **Review of the Journal (City Clerk)**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve September 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

> **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 9, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**
> Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass
>
> **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn
>
> **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve September 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes

> **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**
> Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez
>
> **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn
>
> **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. **Reading of Communications – None**

VII. **Adoption of The Agenda of The Day**

> **ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**
> Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos
>
> **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

VIII. **Council Policy Discussion Topics**

1. Discussion - Building Facility for the Public Works Department, requested by Mayor Pro Tem Smith

Mayor Pro Tem Smith expressed his mission to acquire a nicer facility that includes all the basic life necessities for the Public Works Department. Public Works Director, Mike Helton, provided feedback regarding the list of needs for a functioning facility.

2. Discussion - Parks Improvements & Maintenance, requested by Council Member Kay Nunez

Council Member Nunez inquired regarding if the Public Works Department has a daily workflow program as well as software to accomplish the workflow, how often they're able to get out into the greenspaces and create a punch list for them, the purpose of locking the restrooms and suggested electronic locks and if they have the proper equipment to maintain. Public Works Director, Mike Helton, provided feedback.

3. Discussion - Direction Regarding Coordinated Code Compliance, Public Safety, Cleanup, and Beautification Efforts Along Memorial Drive, requested by Councilmember Hub Jordan

Council Member Jordan expressed concern regarding the illegal dumping, semi-trucks, drug trafficking and drug use along Memorial Drive. Mentioned the BP Gas Station and Texaco Gas Station being problem areas. Expressed plan to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Dekalb County to come up with solutions to tackle the issues that are outside of the City's limits but still affect the citizens. Police Chief, James R. Westerfield Jr., provided feedback.

4. Discussion - Direction Regarding Lawn on Main Operating Hours, requested by Councilmember Hub Jordan

Council Member Jordan expressed his desire to open the Lawn on Main from 7am to Dusk for seven days a week. Advised that doing so will help Tourism. The governing body expressed support but voiced concerns regarding updating the Ordinance, safety, trash control, establishing clear rules, ensuring the Police and Public Works Departments are onboard as well as compensation for employees who will have to work overtime. Police Chief, James R. Westerfield Jr., Public Works Director, Mike Helton, and City Attorney, Angela Couch, provided feedback.

5. Discussion: Local Food System Plan Program, requested by City Manager Maggie Dimov

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an overview of the email received from Kwabena Nkromo, Community Food System Planner for the Atlanta Food and Farm PBC regarding the City's consideration to apply for the Local Food System Planning Program. The governing body expressed support for the initiative.

IX. **Unfinished Business – None**

X. **New Business**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to reappoint Carl Wright to the DDA

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CARL WRIGHT TO THE DDA
Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint Johnathan Hartnett to the DDA

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN HARTNETT TO THE DDA
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Consideration of an action on a request to reappoint Sara Hage to the DDA

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF SARA HAGE TO THE DDA
Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint Robert Witherspoon to the DDA as an Ad Hoc Member

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT WITHERSPOON TO THE DDA AS AN AD HOC MEMBER
Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

Voting Nay: Mayor Pro Tem Smith

MOTION PASSED

6. Consideration of an action on a request to increase Hotel/Motel Taxes from 5% to 8%

The City Manager gave an overview and outline of hotel motel tax increases. It was the consensus of Mayor and Council to increase the Hotel/Motel Taxes.

XI. **New Ordinances and Resolutions**

1. Resolution 2026-21 - LWCF Grant Acceptance (VFW Park)

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-21 LWCF GRANT ACCEPTANCE
Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

XII. **Remarks of Privilege**

1. Mayor Pro Tem Smith mentioned the parking issue which is causing blockage and posing a safety hazard on James B Rivers when parents are picking up their children from the Elementary School. Council Member Jordan reiterated the concern regarding the parking issue on James B River and suggested parking signs be put in place for safety.

XIII. **Announcements by the Mayor**

1. Mayor Jelani Linder made an announcement regarding the Faith and Blue Community Garden Event at VFW Park to be held on Saturday, October 10th at 10:00am and encouraged everyone's participation. Also congratulated Dekalb County's new Superintendent Dr. Sauce who was sworn in on Monday, October 5th.

XIV. **Adjournment**

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:33 P.M.
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member Post 6: Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

Jelani Linder, Mayor

Shavala Ames, City Clerk