



# Mayor and City Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:30 PM

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

## Minutes

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

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5 **Staff: Maggie Dimov – City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Angela Couch - City**  
6 **Attorney | City Clerk – Shavala Ames**

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

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11 **Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

### 12 **Determination of Quorum**

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14 PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro  
15 Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine  
16 Vaughn

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18 PRESENT VIA PHONE: Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan

### 19 **I. Public Hearings**

#### 20 **1. Public Hearing #3 on Millage Rate**

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23 City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided a general overview of the Millage Rate Scenarios.

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25 *Mayor Linder opened the public hearing.*

### 26 **Public Hearing comments**

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29 **Public Comment 1: Eileen Smith** – Expressed that the Millage Rate was planned back in October when  
30 the current budget was created. Gave an overview of past tax receipts. Expressed the reasoning why the  
31 City is facing a Millage Rate increase. Feels that no effort has been made to revise the budget or prevent  
32 the increase. Hopes City Council Members vote to do the right thing.

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36 **Public Comment 2: Denise Phillips** – Expressed that the governing body is being asked to make a big  
37 decision and feels that City Council Members haven't been provided the information to make that  
38 decision. Feels that the previous financials are not adding up. Inquired how citizens are to believe and  
39 accept the increase if they cannot receive valid financials. Hopes City Council Members consider the  
40 hard time people are having, the information they've been given and haven't been given and why the City  
41 was overbudget last year.

44 **Public Comment 3: Gina Cox** – Congratulated the New York Knicks on their championship win and  
45 highlighted Jalen Brunson for being a standup player and detailed the sacrifice he made to help his team.  
46 Expressed that everyone has a part to play. Feels that if the Millage Rate is increased, staff should  
47 consider where and how their salaries should be adjusted. Urged the governing body to advise the  
48 citizens regarding any information they're missing in reference to their budget suggestions.  
49

50 **Public Comment 4: Linda Jackson** – Expressed her understanding regarding the need to raise the  
51 Millage Rate due to decreasing revenue and housing values. Expressed the strain that property tax  
52 increases cause.  
53

54 **Public Comment 5: Beverly Howard Patterson** – Inquired how the City will make the money with the  
55 proposed Millage Rate Increase, if none was made with the previous Millage Rate. Expressed that the  
56 City went overbudget and feels that the citizens aren't being provided good financial reports. Expressed  
57 that there is a serious problem within the City and that everyone's taxes are increasing. Feels that elders  
58 and younger people need to be considered and expressed that the money and power need to be fixed.  
59 Expressed feelings of wanting to move out of the City due to the unaffordability. Urged the governing  
60 body to do better with the budget and to devise a new plan.  
61

62 **Public Comment 6: Ms. Thomas** – Did not provide address. Comment not a part of record.  
63

64 *Mayor Linder closed the public hearing.*  
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66 II. **Adjournment** – 6:48 P.M.  
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68 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:48 P.M.**

69 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Anita  
70 Bass  
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72 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor  
73 Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub  
74 Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn  
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76 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**  
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80 III. **Call to Order**

81 Mayor Linder called the meeting to order at 6:48 P.M.  
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83 IV. **Determination of Quorum**

84 PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro  
85 Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine  
86 Vaughn  
87

88 PRESENT VIA PHONE: Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan  
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90 V. **Invocation and Pledge**

91 Mayor Linder led a 30-second moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance  
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93 VI. **Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders**  
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95 **Citizen Comment 1: Beverly Patterson** – Expressed the need for a better financial report and that  
96 the citizens must know what's going on in the City. Feels that although comments are being  
97 expressed, nothing is being done. Inquired what City Staff are doing behind the scenes. Mentioned  
98 how the two million dollars from SPLOST funds haven't been seen in any reports and inquired when  
99 the 2025 audit report is due.  
100

101 **Citizen Comment 2: Ginger Criswell** – Expressed how JBR is a major entry way to the biggest  
102 tourist attraction in Georgia. Suggested possibilities to receive funding assistance from senators to  
103 redo the entire JBR intersection. Described the visibility of drug dealing, prostitution and random  
104 carts that can be seen from Memorial Drive. Feels unsafe to go to the BP gas station. Urged the  
105 governing body to go see it for themselves and advised the Council Members to work with Dekalb  
106 County to annex the street to take control of it.  
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110 **VII. Review of the Journal (City Clerk)**  
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- 112 1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve May 28, 2026, Meeting Minutes, requested by  
113 City Clerk Shavala Ames Goal - Governance  
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115 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 28, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

116 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2, Mark  
117 Marianos  
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119 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,  
120 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post  
121 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn  
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123 **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**  
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- 125 2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve June 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes, requested by City  
126 Clerk Shavala Ames Goal – Governance  
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128 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 2, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

129 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay  
130 Nunez  
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132 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,  
133 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5  
134 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn  
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136 **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**  
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- 138 3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve June 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes, requested by City  
139 Clerk Shavala Ames Goal – Governance  
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141 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 4, 2026, MEETING MINUTES**

142 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2, Mark  
143 Marianos  
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145 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,  
146 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post  
147 6 Elaine Vaughn  
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149 **Abstained:** Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez  
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151 **MOTION CARRIED**  
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- 153 4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve June 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes, requested by City  
154 Clerk Shavala Ames Goal – Governance

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**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 8, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

**Voting Yea:** 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

**Abstained:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass

**MOTION CARRIED**

VIII. **Reading of Communications – None**

IX. **Adoption of The Agenda of The Day**

**ACTION: MOTION TO ADPOT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY TO ADD THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF THE HVAC SYSTEM AT THE DEPOT UNDER NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1**

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

**Voting Yea:** 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)**

X. **Committee Reports**

1. Stone Mountain Community Garden – Columbus Brown gave an overview as outlined in the agenda packet.

City Council Members applauded Columbus Brown for conducting a great brunch event and thanked him for his continuous hard work.

2. Planning Commission – Report Submitted as Written (No Verbal Updates)
3. Historic Preservation Commission - Report Submitted as Written (No Verbal Updates)

XI. **Staff Reports**

1. Public Safety - Police Chief James Westerfield – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet.

City Council Member Bass thanked the Public Safety department for all that they do. Council Member Nunez inquired about JBR mentioned by Ms. Criswell and Chief Westerfield advised that it is outside of the City’s jurisdiction. Council Member Jordan stated that the street is 10 feet outside of the City and therefore is very close.

XII. **City Manager’s Report**

1. Operations Report – City Manager Maggie Dimov – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet.

209 The governing body inquired regarding the Hearthstone drain, SeeClickFix, the JBR sinkhole and  
210 requested a grant update in the next report. Public Works was highlighted as noted in the Public Works  
211 report.

212  
213 2. April 2026 Financials Presentation – Michelle Uran, Finance Consultant – reviewed report as outlined  
214 in the meeting packet.

215  
216 City Council members requested reports and a brief update of the audit. Inquired what other items  
217 department heads are identifying and what the best practices are for other cities regarding budget  
218 reporting. Suggested a finance class for the public and cutting public events like crabapple. Applauded  
219 Michelle Uran for doing a great job.

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221 **XIII. Council Policy Discussion Topics - None**

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223 **XII. Unfinished Business – None**

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226 **XIV. New Business**

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228 1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve Emergency Repair of HVAC System at Historic  
229 Stone Mountain Depot to utilize GEFA Funding

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231 Public Works Director, Mike Helton, provided an overview regarding the need to prepare the Depot  
232 for the Museum.

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234 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF HVAC SYSTEM AT THE HISTORIC**  
235 **STONE MOUNTAIN DEPOT TO UTILIZE GEFA FUNDING**

236 **Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Anita**  
237 **Bass**

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

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243 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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246 **XV. New Ordinances and Resolutions**

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248 1. Ordinance 2026-11 - 5406 E. Mountain Street – Sign Variance

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250 **ACTION: MOTION TO DENY ORDINANCE 2026-11 – 5406 E. Mountain Street – Sign Variance**

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

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

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258 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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261 2. Ordinance 2026-12 – Purchasing

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**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-12 - PURCHASING**

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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

**MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

3. Ordinance 2026-13 Millage Rate Adoption

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, gave an overview of PH? for Millage Rate, provided additional suggestions on the budget and gave areas of potential cuts.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE MILLAGE RATE ADOPTION AT 16.75%**

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, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

**Voting No:** Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan

**MOTION CARRIED**

4. Resolution 2026-11– City Banking Account for Confiscated Funds

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-11 – CITY BANKING ACCOUNT FOR CONFISCATED FUNDS**

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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

**MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

XVI. **Remarks of Privilege** – Council Member Nunez highlighted the Stone Mountain Day Fish Fry on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

XVII. **Announcements by The Mayor** – Mayor Linder highlighted the City’s upcoming Juneteenth and Tunes by the Tracks events and advised Council and the public that it is okay to disagree.

XVIII. **Executive Session to Discuss Personnel, Legal, Cyber Security and/or Real Estate (if needed)**

**ACTION: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:37 P.M. TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE AND LITIGATION**

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

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

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323 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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325 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY**  
326 **COUNCIL MEETING AT 9:07P.M. - (2) ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

327 Motion made Mayor Pro Tem: Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

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

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333 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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335 **XIX. Adjournment**

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337 **ACTION: MOTION TO RESUME MEETING AT 9:08 P.M.**

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

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

344  
345 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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348 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 9:08 P.M.**

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

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

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356 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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**Jelani Linder, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_ **City Clerk, Shavala Ames**