



Mayor and City Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, August 18, 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 | Angela Couch - City Attorney | City Clerk – Shavala Ames

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 6:31 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: Elisabeth Richmond – Praised the Fitness Court but mentioned that there is no available trash can which causes numerous items to be discarded nearby as well as no usable restrooms. Hopeful for sunshade at the park.

Citizen Comment 2: Marcus Patton – Expressed that the plans for building a hotel on the Lawn is a bad idea as there is no market need, are other places to visit with better amenities, and feels it will create direct competition with Stone Mountain Park when it should be collaborative. Also feels that the City doesn't utilize its assets and needs to leverage them.

Citizen Comment 3: Joyce Thomas – Mentioned volunteer work with Atlanta Animal Rescue Friends (AARF). Thanked Council Member Nunez for highlighting the upcoming BINGO Fundraiser on August 23rd at Village Corner. Advised that AARF provides many services such as providing pet food for owners who can't cover the costs, adoptions, and surgeries. Expressed that AARF and Village Corner are mainstays in the community and how the BINGO Fundraiser supports businesses like theirs and all others.

Citizen Comment 4: C. Monroe – Expressed tenure as a resident and how Stone Mountain is a great City and has great potential. Feels the City should focus on the matters that provide a good return on investment. Expressed that the best purchase the City has made is buying the Lawn on Main and it should be utilized in the best interest of the City and not for private interest. Does not feel there's a market for a boutique hotel on the Lawn. Feels there has been difficulty justifying bond issues and spending public money.

Citizen Comment 5: Dave Thomas – Expressed support for the Entertainment District and the need for Second Street up to JBR being included and hopes that the glass container prohibition stays in the Ordinance.

Citizen Comment 6: Tyrell Golden – Expressed desire for a partnership with the City as the Dekalb County November Elections are upcoming. Mentioned Dekalb County's Register and Ready Event where residents can verify their voter registrations, learn about their voting options and meet the Voting and Election Officials of Dekalb County. Invited the City to the event.

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

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve August 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames **Goal - Governance**

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 3, 2026, MEETING MINUTES WITH THE AMENDED CHANGE TO REMOVE MAYOR PRO TEM RYAN SMITH AS PRESENT UNDER DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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 approve August 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames **Goal - Governance**

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 4, 2026, MEETING MINUTES WITH THE AMENDED CHANGE TO REPLACE THE WORDS PAUSE AND PLAY EVENT WITH PAWS AND PRAYER EVENT UNDER LINE 176

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)

VI. **Reading of Communications – None**

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

ACTION: MOTION TO ADPOT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Smith: 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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

VIII. Committee Reports

1. Stone Mountain Community Garden – Columbus Brown reviewed SMCG report as outlined in the agenda packet.

The governing body inquired regarding food distribution and volunteers to build the shed, if there's space to grow, where the SMCG event information is posted, and how willing and what capabilities the SMCG would have if asked to care for other areas in the City. The governing body also thanked Colombus Brown for his report, work and dedication.

2. Historic Preservation Committee – Thatcher Hart reviewed HPC report as outlined in the packet.

Council Member Hub Jordan inquired regarding his experience in HPC and if there are any changes he'd make in comparison to the processes working for his previous municipality.

IX. Staff Reports

1. Public Safety - Police Chief James Westerfield – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet, provided an update on the missing persons report and thanked Detective Amy Hall for her tireless efforts to help find the missing person and also recognized the promotion for Major Benjamin Small to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith recognized the Chief's Corner Facebook post and suggested that it be posted on the City's website as well as everyone does not check social media. Council Member Nunez expressed concern regarding individuals popping wheelies on motorbikes that took place on Friday evening. Council Member Hub Jordan inquired if the Police Department is fully staffed currently, asked for them to investigate escalated Noise Ordinances and if overtime reimbursement has been received yet.

2. Financials Update – Michelle Uran – Financial Consultant – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet.

Council Members inquired regarding when the 2025 Audit will be completed, the status of GA Fund I, the implementation of the 2024 Audit policies and procedures, clarification regarding Budget to Actuals, expenditures for City Council and requested a line-item detail of the FY 2026 expenditures.

X. City Manager's Report

1. Operations Report – City Manager Maggie Dimov – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet and announced Officer Harris as the Employee of the Month.

The governing body inquired regarding the Engineering Report for VFW Park, the JLL feasibility study, and the top priorities for the new Senior Planner and where the cow will be going. Also

recommended the Tourism Manager request ideas from citizens regarding how to promote Tourism in the City and thanked the City Manager for choosing a great staff.

2. Public Works Update – Mike Helton – Director – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet.

The governing body inquired regarding the Bridge on Sheppard Rd, asked for clarity regarding JBR repairs, City restroom closures, the number of trees that will be removed at the Cemetery, and the status to minimize the gaps between the streets and drains. Also thanked Public Works for their continuous hard work.

3. Welcome Center and Museum Update – Mary Beth Reed – reviewed report as outlined in the meeting packet.

The governing body provided suggestions on how to obtain volunteers and implementing a retail area and raised concerns regarding parking availability for the Center. Inquired regarding what the opening hours and days will be and how volunteers can volunteer. Expressed excitement for the opening of the Center and thanked Mary Beth Reed for her hard work.

Council Member Marianos left at 8:16pm.

Council Member Marianos returned at 8:20pm.

XI. Council Policy Discussion Topics - None

XII. Unfinished Business – None

XIII. New Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the appointment of a City Solicitor

Clerk of Court, Kristie Tucker, provided an overview regarding the need to appoint a City Solicitor

The governing body asked for R. Andres Marierose's background.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPOINT R. ANDRES MARIEROSE AS THE CITY SOLICITOR

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)

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the appointment of Ethics Board Members

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an overview regarding the need to appoint Ethics Board Members

ACTION: MOTION TO APPOINT ETHICS BOARD MEMBERS

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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

3. Consideration of an action on a request to designate the Caboose as the official Dekalb County Adopt a Book Box

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an overview regarding the need for the approval to designate the Caboose as the official Dekalb County Adopt a Book Box

The governing body inquired regarding the capacity of the Caboose, suggested more programming and placing a sign outside that reads "The Reading Railroad". Concerns were raised regarding the safety risks and failure risks as the Library is across the street from the Caboose and asked for clarity regarding where the reading will take place.

ACTION: MOTION TO DESIGNATE THE CABOOSE AS THE OFFICIAL DEKALB COUNTY ADOPT A BOOK BOX

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)

XIV. New Ordinances and Resolutions

1. Ordinance 2026-15 Entertainment District – First Read Only – No Action Taken

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an overview regarding the Ordinance.

Council Member Hub Jordan suggested placing the district map on the logo that will be placed on the plastic cup which will contain alcoholic beverages.

2. Resolution 2026-16 - Entertainment District Guidelines & Map. - No Action Taken

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an overview regarding the Resolution.

The governing body suggested including Gilly's in the district map and expressed how it's unrealistic to believe that restaurants will have the maps posted in their establishments and that it would be too many signs in the area.

3. Resolution 2026-18 Cemetery Moratorium Extension

City Clerk, Shavala Ames, provided an overview regarding the Resolution.

The governing body inquired what happened since the suggestion was made in December 2025 and the costs.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-18 CEMETERY MORATORIUM EXTENSION

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)

4. Resolution 2026-19 Mid-Year Budget Amendment - Visitor Center

Finance Director, Michelle Uran, provided an overview regarding the Resolution.

The governing body asked for clarity regarding the decreases in the events.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-19 VISITOR CENTER MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT

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)

5. Resolution 2026-20 Mid-Year Budget Amendment - General Fund

Finance Director, Michelle Uran, provided an overview regarding the Resolution.

The governing body asked for clarity regarding the decrease in revenue and brought awareness to the fact that the Budget to Actual percentages are different than what's on the form.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-20 GENERAL FUND MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, 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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

XV. Remarks of Privilege

Council Member Bass invited everyone to the City Ambassador Cleanup on August 22nd from 9:00am-12:00pm. Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith spoke regarding the lack of a building for the Public Works Department. Council Member Nunez thanked Tourism Manager, Elle Walker, for hosting a Meet and Greet Event at The Mayan Grill and encouraged resident participation and engagement in events and shopping at the local businesses, reannounced the AARF BINGO Event to be held on August 23rd, at 3:00pm, at the German Bakery and also encouraged residents to use SeeClickFix in lieu of posting on social media regarding City issues and concerns.

XVI. Announcements by The Mayor - None

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

ACTION: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:17 P.M. TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE

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)

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 9:58 P.M. - (1) ITEM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, 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)

XVIII. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 9:59 P.M.

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)

Jelani Linder, Mayor

City Clerk, Shavala Ames