



Mayor and City Council Regular Session Minutes

Tuesday, May 06, 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 -
DDA/Economic Development Director | Shavala Ames City Clerk | Jeff Strickland - City Attorney**

I. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:37 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 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

III. Invocation and Pledge

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

IV. Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders

Citizen Comment 1: Kay Nunez - Complimented the flow of the DDA Meeting; Great ambassadors to the city - AARF and Village Forward; Do not support defacing of the City Cemetery; Emphasized how beautiful the city is.

Citizen Comment 2: Joan Monroe - Explained how she reported the issues of the bathroom; VFW Park not been repaired so why is contractor paid, records hidden and wants an audit - not handicap accessible, decay on toilet seats; McCurdy Park loose tiles on gym and restrooms flood; Water fountain leaking at Leila Mason; Recommendations brought forward are denied; Citizens are lied to and swindled.

Citizen Comment 3: Dave Thomas – Recognized DDA for commissioning MTAP project completed and Council Members; Deterioration of Main St. and downtown; MTAP have been daunting to fix issues.

Citizen Comment 4: B. Patterson – Expressed when citizen's comment nothing is done in the 72 hours; There is a section where citizen comments should go and be updated – The City is not following their own rules; Incident at the last meeting was terrible; Speak into mic, the system is jacked up; Council needs to work as a team and communicate.

Citizen Comment 5: Cheryl Dudley - The trip to Italy provided valuable insight into ideas and practices that could benefit the City; There may be disagreements regarding certain aspects of the cemetery, do not agree with destruction.

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

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve City Council Minutes for March 18, 2025, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 18, 2025, CITY COUNCIL 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 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve City Council Special Called Minutes for April 1, 2025, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 1, 2025, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

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 3 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4: Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5: Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve City Council Regular Minutes for April 1, 2025, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 1, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

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 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

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

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE DAY WITH ADDITIONS:
RESOLUTION 2025-12: MILLAGE RATE DETERMINATION, AND RESOLUTION 2025-14:
BANKING ACCOUNT**

Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Marianos

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

Voting No: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

VIII. City Manager's Report

City Manager, Shawn Edmondson, gave an overview of the handout of the City Manager's report. Imani Graves, Police Records, was announced as the April Employee of the Month.

IX. Council Policy Discussion Topics

X. Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve an Ordinance Revision Task Force, requested by Council Member Anita Bass

Council Member Bass highlighted the outdated nature of the City's ordinances and shared research she had conducted on the matter. She noted that the University of Georgia's Continuing Education program offers an opportunity through which students undertake projects focused on updating municipal ordinances, at no cost to participating cities. Council Member Bass presented this initiative to the Council for consideration and to seek further input on whether to pursue the program. There was a general consensus among Council members to proceed with additional research into the feasibility and benefits of the proposed partnership.

2. Consideration of an action on request to approve to purchase items for the concert series, requested by Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director Maggie Dimov

City Manager Edmondson outlined the advantages of purchasing and owning the equipment rather than continuing to rent it, emphasizing the long-term cost savings and convenience. Council members raised questions and expressed concerns regarding the implications of ownership, particularly related to storage logistics and associated expenses. It was confirmed that the acquired equipment will be made available for use as part of facility rentals upon request.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE ITEMS FOR THE CONCERT SERIES

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 6 Mark Marianos, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting No: Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3: Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

XI. New Business

- 146
147 1. Consideration of an action on a request to accept bid proposal from A&S Paving for 2025 SPLOST
148 II in the amount of \$753,247.50, requested by City Manager Shawn Edmondson
149

150 City Manager Edmondson provided additional details regarding the previously discussed bid
151 process, noting that seven initial bidders were evaluated and narrowed down to three finalists, with
152 A&S Paving ultimately selected for the project. Council members acknowledged A&S Paving's past
153 work, specifically highlighting the company's efforts to correct previous paving issues on Main
154 Street.
155

156 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE BID PROPOSAL FROM A&S PAVING FOR 2025 SPLOST**
157 **II IN THE AMOUNT OF \$753,247.50**

158 Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
159 Mark Marianos
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161 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
162 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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164 **Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant
165

166 **MOTION PASSED**
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- 168 2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the Public Hearing Dates for the Millage Rate,
169 requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames
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171 City Clerk Shavala Ames presented the proposed Millage Rate Public Hearing dates on behalf of
172 the Finance team to be scheduled May 20, 2025 June 3, 2025, and June 17, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.
173

174 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC HEARING DATES FOR THE MILLAGE**
175 **RATE**

176 Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos; Seconded by Council Member: Post 1
177 Anita Bass
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179 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
180 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:
181 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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183 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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185 XII. **New Ordinances and Resolutions**

- 186 1. Ordinance No. 2025-02 - Council's Interference with Administration
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188 Attorney Strickland explained the ordinance and how it has been in previous meetings, but this will
189 be the first read of the ordinance, and it will come back at another for a second read.
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191 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02**

192 Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Seconded by Council Member: Post
193 Mark Marianos
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195 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
196 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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198 **Voting Nay:** Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant
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MOTION PASSED

Ordinance No. 2025-03: Ordinance to Establish Regulations Governing Special Events and Permits, requested by Assistant City Manager & DDA Director Maggie Dimov
City Manager Edmondson explained that this was the ordinance's first reading and that it would be presented again for a second reading at a future meeting.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 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 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

3. Resolution No. 2025-10: Resolution to Set Permit Fees for Special Events, requested by Assistant City Manager & DDA Director Maggie Dimov

City Manager Edmondson provided an overview of the proposed resolution, outlining its anticipated benefits to the City. He noted that the resolution will be brought forward for formal consideration following the approval of the Special Events Ordinance.

4. Resolution No. 2025-13: Open Container for City Events

City Manager Edmondson explained that the adoption of this resolution would provide coverage and clear guidelines for City-sponsored events.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-13

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded 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 Gil Freeman, Council Member Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

5. Resolution 2025-12: Millage Rate

City Manager Edmondson explained that the resolution needs to be approved as soon as possible in order to meet the May 12, 2025, deadline for submission to DeKalb County. The purpose of the resolution is to notify the County of the City's proposed millage rate; however, this does not represent the final rate to be adopted by the City. Additionally, the upcoming public hearing will provide an opportunity for discussion on the research conducted regarding the impacts of inflation.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12

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

Voting Yea: Council Member Anita Bass, Council Member Mark Marianos Mayor Pro Tem
Ryan Smith, Council Member Gil Freeman, Council Member Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member Shawnette Bryant, Council Member Gil Freeman

MOTION PASSED

6. Resolution 2025-14: Bank Account

City Manager Edmondson explained resolution being proposed.

Members of the governing body raised the issue of the allegation of the Mayor removing signatures from the City's bank account. In response, the Mayor explained that she had been contacted by Truist Bank regarding former employees who still had access to the account, prompting her to take action. It was stated the Mayor did not have the authority to make such changes unilaterally.

City Manager Edmondson clarified that upon assuming the role of Interim City Manager, his first priority was to revoke all access to the City's financial accounts held by the former City Manager. He further explained the bank's procedure for updating signature cards, noting that the updated documents were sent to the Mayor, who reviewed and approved them. He also confirmed the existence of supporting email correspondence documenting this process.

City Manager Edmondson was repeatedly asked to clarify how the removal of signatures impacted payroll, given that signatories were not required to transfer payroll funds. He confirmed that the changes primarily affected insurance-related transactions connected to payroll.

Mayor Jones clarified that she did not personally remove anyone from the City's bank accounts. It was emphasized that maintaining checks and balances is essential, and that no elected official should independently conduct business directly with the City's bank. City Attorney Strickland confirmed that such actions are not appropriate and should not occur.

City Manager Edmondson clarified that he has never been listed on the signature card. As the discussion continued, the Mayor characterized the matter as a "witch hunt." Despite ongoing dialogue among the governing body, no consensus was reached regarding the merits or faults of the situation.

The Mayor stated she had been informed that the City Manager planned to contact the media regarding the banking accounts. The City Manager denied this allegation.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE MAYOR FROM ANY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES PENDING FURTHER INQUIRY

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 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-14 BANKING ACCOUNTS

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 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

XIII. Remarks of Privilege

1. Discussion: DDA Discussion, requested by Council Member Gil Freeman

Council Member Gil Freeman mentioned expectations of the DDA, glad the city is making changes, including the transparency.

2. Discussion: 1-hour parking or (2) signs for 30-minutes, requested by Council Member Teresa Crowe

Council Member Crowe suggested that implementing time-limited parking signage, such as 30-minute or 1-hour limits, could serve as a helpful measure to support local businesses. Chief Westerfield noted that effective enforcement would require a formal ordinance or resolution to allow for citations of violations. It was recommended that the community be surveyed to gather input on the proposal. Attorney Strickland added that, if the initiative moves forward, the City could direct the Public Works Department to install the appropriate signage. It was further suggested that staff conduct additional research on the matter and bring it back for future discussion.

3. Discussion: Decorum, requested by Council Member Shawnette Bryant

Council Member Bryant expressed that extending meetings beyond the established 10:00 P.M. adjournment time is neither fair nor consistent. Adhering to the agreed-upon rules is essential, and those rules should not be altered to accommodate specific agenda items or benefit any individual elected official

XIV. Announcements by The Mayor

Mayor Jones announced the Health Fair happening Saturday, May 10th from 10 AM – 2 PM.

Council Member Freeman noted a design day at Medlock Park for the Kaboom playground build.

XV. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel, Legal, Cyber Security and/or Real Estate (if needed) – NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVI. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 10:01 P.M.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 3 Shawnette Bryant

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 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

City Clerk, Shavala Ames