



## Special Called Meeting

February 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM

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

## Minutes

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

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6 **Staff: Shawn Edmondson - City Manager | Shavala Ames - City Clerk**

### 7 **Call to Order**

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9 Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

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11 PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro  
12 Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Post 6 Teresa Crowe

13  
14 ABSENT: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman

### 15 16 1. Public Hearing #2 - HB 581 Homestead Tax Exemption Opt-Out Consideration

17  
18 Mayor Jones gave an introduction of House Bill 581 and the floating homestead exemption.

19  
20 City Manager Edmondson affirmed that the document that was provided is insight compiled for the  
21 governing body and also gave instruction on how the public hearing would flow.

22  
23 Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

24  
25 Eileen Smith – Stated elderly citizens will be affected with tax increases and also mentioned that  
26 59.81 percent of the residents voted for HB 581. She also indicated that opting in would not affect  
27 renters. The way investment properties and commercial properties are taxed will remain the same.  
28 The only people who will be affected are those property homeowners who have a homestead  
29 exemption.

30  
31 Elaine Brown – Stated that she is a homeowner and last year she was granted to get her property  
32 tax frozen. She asked if the city opts out, what does it do to homeowners.

33  
34 Theresa Thomas – Explained it is a tough decision. Asked the question of whether the decision  
35 made by the city will get overridden by the county. Requested administration to walk through the  
36 information handout provided and do not want to lose her exemption that she has currently.

37  
38 Joan Monroe – Stated that the decision is a catch 22. The city does not have enough business to  
39 cover sales tax. The council is notorious for raising the millage rate. Against opting in because it  
40 does not protect homeowners.

42 Darla Nunez – Stated that she read the bill and understands the confusion. For opting in because it  
43 would freeze the amount of inflation, and it will affect the senior community.

44  
45 Clint Monroe – Stated Dekalb County decided today to opt out. Everything below state level wants  
46 to be able to customize the needs of their local government. No one's home exemption will be  
47 affected if we opt out. One size does not fit all.

48  
49 Theresa Thomas – Stated that the appeal process does work on tax appraisals. Asked do you want  
50 the option to decide your fate or do we want the state to do it for us. Look out for seniors and people  
51 who are vested in there homes.

52  
53 Public Hearing closed.

54  
55 City Manager reiterated some highlights of potential pros and cons of opting out of HB 581 as  
56 outlined: Opting In - home owner relief and predictability, community goodwill, eligibility of new  
57 local option sales tax (FLOST), reduced property tax revenue growth, budgetary constraints; Opting  
58 Out - preserves revenue growth potential, maintains local control over tax policy, avoids complex  
59 administration, negative perception from residents and no access to FLOST. The City Manager also  
60 mentioned there is another opportunity to have comments at the third public hearing on February  
61 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

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63 **Adjournment**

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65 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:11 P.M.**

66 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

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68 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:  
69 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

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71 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor

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City Clerk, Shavala Ames