Special Called Joint City Council and DDA Meeting
July 28, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.
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**
5
6 **DDA Members Present: Carl Wright, Denise Phillips, Robert Witherspoon, Thom Deloach, Sarah**
7 **Hage, Anita Bass, DDA Attorney Kyle Williams**
8
9 **Staff: Maggie Dimov – Interim City Manager | Shavala Ames - City Clerk**
10
11 I. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.
12
13 **Determination of Quorum**
14 PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor
15 Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman (was absent at the start of
16 the meeting, later arrived at 6:59 P.M.), Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council
17 Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones
18
19 II. Adoption of the Agenda of the Day
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21 <u>**ACTION:**</u> **MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**
22 Motion made by Denise Phillips, Seconded by Carl Wright
23
24 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
25
26 III. New Business
27
28 **1. City of Stone Mountain Lawn Project/DDA MTap Study/LCI Trail Study**
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30 DDA Member Carl Wright requested an update on the Lawn Project from Interim City Manager Maggie
31 Dimov. The City is currently collecting feedback from the Table Talks Survey regarding the conceptual
32 lawn designs. The survey will remain open through the end of the month. Once all responses have
33 been received and reviewed, the feedback will help inform the next steps in the project.
34
35 MTap – Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov provided a brief overview of the MTAP Study. Denise
36 Phillips emphasized that the core purpose of the MTAP Study is to revitalize and breathe new life into
37 Main Street.
38
39 LCI Trail Study – Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov provided an update on the LCI Trail Study
40 conducted by POND, noting that the full study has been posted on the City's website. The next phase
41 will involve coordination with the City Engineer to move the project forward.

42 Both members of both the DDA and City Council shared their insights, comments, and concerns
43 regarding the projects, with discussions focusing on revenue generation, the revitalization of Main
44 Street, and funding strategies.
45
46 **2. City of Stone Mountain – Main Street Corridor**
47
48 A discussion was held regarding the possibility of requiring unlicensed businesses to carry insurance.
49 Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov will consult with the City Attorney to determine whether such a
50 regulation can be incorporated into the City's Code of Ordinances.
51
52 *[Council Member Freeman entered at 6:59 p.m.]*
53
54 Discussion was held regarding the grant currently under review by Senator Ossoff's office. Both the
55 DDA and City Council agreed that alternative funding options must be explored in the event the grant is
56 not awarded. Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov recommended that, at minimum, the City Council
57 finalize the design of the lawn project to ensure momentum and help prioritize future initiatives.
58
59 Council Member Freeman brought up Champion Middle School, noting that a roundabout is being
60 considered for the area and emphasized that this project should be prioritized.
61
62 Denise Phillips provided an overview of the estimated cost for conducting another MTAP Study. Mayor
63 Jones recommended that the City focus on completing current projects before launching new ones.
64
65 The DDA Attorney clarified that a formal vote is not required at this stage to proceed with consideration
66 of another MTAP Study.
67
68 There was also discussion surrounding the GMC Building in relation to the lawn and parking. It was
69 confirmed that no final decisions have been made regarding the GMC Building. The greater priority is
70 determining the future use of the lawn property.
71
72 **IV.   Executive Session - None**
73
74 **V.   Adjournment**
75
76   <u>**ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:33 P.M.**</u>
77   Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by DDA Member: Robert
78   Witherspoon
79
80   **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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82
83 _____   _____
84 **Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor**   **City Clerk, Shavala Ames**