



Mayor and Council Retreat
January 16, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.
6920 Main Street, Lithonia, Georgia 30058

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 – Interim City Manager | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney

I. Call to Order

ACTION: MOTION TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:09 P.M.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem 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)

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: Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

1. Retreat Discussion

Warren Hutmacher of Sumter Consulting introduced Jeff Drobney, who served as the facilitator for the retreat. Mr. Drobney opened the session by inviting all elected officials, staff members, and guests/residents in attendance to provide brief introductions and share their roles or interests related to the City.

Mayor Linder offered special appreciation to the City of Lithonia for making their facilities available on short notice and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants.

Mr. Drobney led the group through a series of structured exercises and facilitated open discussions focused on identifying key issues facing the City. These discussions highlighted a range of concerns, as well as both strengths and challenges impacting the City as a whole. Participants were encouraged to share perspectives and engage in dialogue regarding current conditions and future opportunities.

As part of the retreat activities, Mr. Drobney conducted exercises designed to help council members better understand one another's priorities, leadership styles, and expectations. Following these exercises, Mr. Drobney reviewed a presentation and facilitated discussion among the elected officials, who were provided the opportunity to offer feedback and share input on the possible development of a mission statement for the City. The proposed mission statement for the City of Stone Mountain is: 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.

Based on the progress made during the retreat, it was agreed that a Part II retreat will be necessary to continue the work initiated, including further discussion of a vision statement and the identification of strategic goals to guide the City moving forward.

III. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:12 P.M.

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan

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)



Jelani Linder, Mayor

City Clerk, Shavala Ames