Special Called Meeting – 2026 Budget Workshop

October 14, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.
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 | 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 6:30pm.

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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn, Mayor Jelani Linder

III. **Adoption of the Agenda of The Day**

> **ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**
> 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, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn
>
> **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

IV. **New Business**

1. **2026 Budget Workshop**

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, provided an outline of how leadership came up with the structure and process for the Budget Workshop.

The governing body and leadership first discussed revenue and expenses. The governing body inquired regarding the tax digest being in the negative, 2024 funds, the status of GA Fund 1, insurance, city

elections revenue, the vacant property registry, health benefits as well as blight taxes. The City Attorney, Angela Couch, and Finance Consultant, Michelle Uran, provided feedback.

During the second round of discussions, the governing body and leadership went department by department to discuss individual budget requests. The governing body inquired regarding the amount of staff that's with Sumter Consulting, employee retirement, contracts, tourism, and training for the Planning and Historic Preservation Committees. The governing body expressed that they would like to keep the essentials and digital in reference to contract services. The City Manager, Maggie Dimov and Finance Consultant, Michelle Uran, provided feedback.

The City Manager, Maggie Dimov, discussed recommendations which included increasing the millage rate next year, relying on reserve funds, using half the mill to balance the budget, reviewing the budget in January or February and amending it if needed. Further recommendations included reducing meetings, trainings, buildings, supplies, professional services, contract services, legal services, code revisions, communications, park sign improvements, technical services, other purchase services, uniforms, vehicles, building improvements and public works equipment. The governing body expressed support for the cuts recommended but does not want cuts to the Public Works and Public Safety Departments and inquired regarding Crabapple. The governing body suggested delaying approval of the budget until December.

In conclusion, the governing body decided that a Special Called Meeting regarding the budget is not necessary. City Staff will email out a reduction list based on what was discussed, with the priority focused on balancing the budget and if needed, can be amended.

V. **Executive Session to Discuss Personnel, Legal, Cyber Security and/or Real Estate (if needed) – None**

VI. **Adjournment**

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:03 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, Post 5 Hub Jordan, Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

Jelani Linder, Mayor

City Clerk, Shavala Ames