



Mayor and City Council Work Session

Tuesday, July 15, 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/Economic
Development Director/DDA | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney**

Public Hearing was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro
Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa
Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

ABSENT: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman

I. Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing on 6804 JBR Memorial Drive on proposed zoning from R-2 Home Occupation/Tax
Office to R-2 Single Family Vacation Home Facility, requested by City Planner Tamaya Huff

City Manager Shawn Edmondson provided a general overview of the proposed zoning as outlined in
the provided city council packet.

City Attorney Angela Couch reviewed the guidelines of the public hearing.

Public Hearing Comments

In Favor

Public Comment 1: Elisabeth Richmond – the process is very time consuming and expensive – in
support of zoning change when doing things right and legally.

Public Comment 2: Robby Terry Washington – discussed that she has many businesses already in
the City and does everything to stay legal and in compliance.

Opposed

No comments received.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE A SPECIAL USE PERMIT WITH THE CONDITIONS SET
FORTH FOR 6804 JBR MEMORIAL TO ALLOW R2 SINGLE FAMILY VACATION HOME
FACILITY**

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 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

II. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:46 P.M.

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

III. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:46 P.M.

IV. 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 (absent at the beginning of the meeting, later arrived at the beginning of Executive Session), Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

V. Invocation and Pledge

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

VI. Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders

Citizen Comment 1: Cheryl Dudley – reviewed provisions of the state constitution regarding removing public offices; discussed elections, spending money and limitations to home rule.

Citizen Comment 2: Orea Parker – enough is enough – grew up in the city and experienced injustice and racism; members of council silence people who speak up – there's hate and a lack of knowledge; people voted for elected officials – taking away rights to participate; community need to rise up; reap what you sow.

Citizen Comment 3: Elisabeth Richmond – discussed the Mayor's Caribbean podcast referencing how Sherman Town was founded by slaves; Mayor stated who does not live in the city should not be allowed to speak at city council meetings.

VII. Review of the Journal (City Clerk)

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve July 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 1, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, 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 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve July 7, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 7, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING 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: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Reading of Communications

IX. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA OF THE DAY – WITH MOVING EXECUTIVE SESSION TO THE TOP OF THE AGENDA AND ADDING A PERSONNEL ITEM

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

X. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel, Legal, Cyber Security and/or Real Estate (if needed)

ACTION: MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:01 P.M. TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, 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 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 8:31 PM

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

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 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT WITH THE CITY OF MILTON

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

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

XI. Committee Discussion Items

1. Stone Mountain Community Garden

Columbus Brown gave details and updates on SMCG as outlined in the report provided. Briefly mentioned that he was informed that bathroom updates are underway and will help tremendously.

2. Planning Commission – No updates

3. Historic Preservation Commission

Katherine Meers – overview given on (3) cases that were approved unanimously at the last meeting.

4. Parks and Recreation Committee

Reverend Orea Parker – reviewed that discussions were had over a year ago regarding various recommendations to the parks and projects; authoritative government towards the park and recs. Committee; concerned about many deficiencies in projects, audits, council and bylaws.

Mayor Jones suggested scheduling a meeting with Interim City Manager.

XII. Staff Reports

1. Public Safety- Police Chief- James Westerfield Jr.

Police Chief Westerfield gave an overview of activity statistics and crime statistics from January 2025 to April 2025, provided in the agenda packet.

XII. City Manager's Report

1. Interim City Manager – Maggie Dimov

Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov reviewed the Operations Report as outlined highlighting key accomplishments and updates.

Stormwater Administrator Mike Vasquez came forward to discuss stormwater within the City. City Clerk Shavala Ames reviewed the Administrative Stats as outlined in the council packet.

XIII. Council Policy Discussion Topics

XIV. Unfinished Business

- 218 1. Consideration of an action on a request to allocate funds for the Back to School Bash in
219 Rockborough, requested by Council Member Shawnette Bryant
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221 **ACTION: MOTION TO REALLOCATE \$1500 FOR THE BACK TO SCHOOL BASH IN**
222 **ROCKBOROUGH**

223 Motion made by Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Seconded by Council Member:
224 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant
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226 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant
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228 **Voting Nay:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
229 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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231 **MOTION FAILED**
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233 **ACTION: MOTION TO MOVE RESOLUTION 2025-19 DEKALB COUNTY ELECTIONS AND**
234 **RESOLUTION 2025-20 BANKING RESOLUTION TO THE TOP OF THE AGENDA**

235 Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1
236 Anita Bass
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238 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
239 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
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241 **Voting Nay:** Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant
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243 **MOTION PASSED**
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245 **XVI. New Ordinances and Resolutions**
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- 247 1. Resolution No. 2025-19 – Dekalb County to conduct the City of Stone Mountain 2025 General
248 Municipal Election
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250 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-19 DEKALB COUNTY TO CONDUCT**
251 **THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN 2025 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

252 Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass
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254 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
255 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:
256 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Anita Bass
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258 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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- 260 2. Resolution No. 2025-20 – Banking Resolution to add Interim City Manager
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262 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-20 BANKING RESOLUTION TO ADD**
263 **INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

264 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
265 Mark Marianos
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267 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
268 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:
269 Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Anita Bass
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271 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
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273 **XV. New Business**
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1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the bylaws for the Parks and Recreation Committee, requested by Mayor Beverly Jones

ACTION: MOTION TO DENY THE BYLAWS AS WRITTEN AND FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT BYLAWS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE ORDINANCE

Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, 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 6 Teresa Crowe

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

MOTION PASSED

XX. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING 10:00 P.M.

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

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 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor

Shavala Ames, City Clerk