



Mayor and City Council Work Session
February 4, 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**

5
6 **Staff: Shawn Edmondson - City Manager | Maggie Dimov - Assistant City Manager | Shavala**
7 **Ames - City Clerk | Jeff Strickland - City Attorney**

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9 **Call to Order**

10 Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M.

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12 **Determination of Quorum**

13 PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro
14 Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette
15 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

16
17 **Invocation and Pledge**

18 Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Invocation.

19
20 **Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders**

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22 **Citizen Comment 1: Joyce Thomas** – Discussed growth in the City of Stone Mountain and the notice
23 of slow deterioration on Main Street. Would like for the Lawn on Main to be how it was in the past very
24 alive and thriving. There needs to be something done about the empty buildings on Main Street.

25
26 **Citizen Comment 2: Dave Thomas** – Gave compliments to Councilmember Marianos attire. Is in
27 approval of the Mardi Gras event. The Lawn on Main is just sitting there. There were table talks –
28 motivated people to come to Stone Mountain. Need signs on the streets to advertise the city.

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30 **Citizen Comment 3: Susan Taylor** – Spoke about green space and emphasized the space needs to
31 be utilized.

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33 **Citizen Comment 4: Denise Phillips** – Gave overview of DDA Board members. The DDA was not
34 approached about the Lawn on Main. No other events have been brought to DDA.

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36 **Citizen Comment 5: Carl Wright** – Spoke about JBR traffic. The potholes are getting worse. Is in
37 support of mixed use development. Need to get vacant buildings taken care of. Caboose is falling apart.

38
39 **Citizen Comment 6: Andrew Zonneveld** – voiced concerns of 978 Main Street. Rejects the Stone
40 Mountain Cemetery as a tourist attraction. Mentioned John B. Gordon. Wants to remove the racist
41 monument.

43 **Citizen Comment 7 : Waini Buggs** – Concerns regarding the 911 calls and the amount of time it took
44 to give information to the operator. Too many break-ins are occurring and there are still problems in
45 Garden Walk.

46
47 **Citizen Comment 8: Susan Leisure** – Brought up the parking lot not having a business license or sign
48 permit. Businesses have gone down 30% and customers are being charged. Urged the city to take
49 action.

50
51 **Citizen Comment 9: Clint Monroe** – Gave compliment to Councilmember Marianos on his attire.
52 Spoke on concerns of the millage rate of 16 mill. February 12th a property tax appraisal appeal seminar
53 will be held from 6-8 p.m.

54
55 **Review of the Journal**

- 56 1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the January 28, 2025, City Council Meeting
57 Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames.

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59
60 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 28, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**
61 **AS PRESENTED**

62 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos.

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64 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:
65 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

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67 **Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

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69 **MOTION PASSED**

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71 **Reading of Communications**

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73 **Adoption of The Agenda of The Day**

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76 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE DAY WITH MOVING**
77 **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS BEFORE NEW BUSINESS**

78 Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
79 Marianos

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81 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:
82 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

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84 **Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

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86 **MOTION PASSED**

87
88 Mayor Jones requested to move Item # 16 Hiring an Assistant City Attorney at the beginning of
89 the New Business Discussion

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91 **City Manager Report**

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93 City Manager Shawn Edmondson recognized Wayne Lewis as the January 2025 Employee of the
94 Month and city employees as Rising Stars which included: Lt. Aponte, Sgt. Cooper, Officer Voyd,
95 Officer Hendley, OIC Shedeke, Officer Whitehead, Officer Wilson, Officer Harvey, Officer Janir, Officer

96 Overton, Officer Jacks, Sgt. Jones, Sgt. Hilton, Eric Dickerson, Wayne Lewis, Dontavious Callaway,
97 Jason Jones, Dequarius Poe and Antwon Williams.

98
99 City Manager Shawn Edmondson reviewed the biweekly report of the City Manager's Office.

100
101 **New Ordinances and Resolutions**

- 102
103 1. Consideration of an action on a request to adopt resolution 2025-04 supporting the City of Stone
104 Mountain's grant match for the 2025 Historic Preservation Fund CLG Survey and Planning Grant,
105 presented by DDA/Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager Maggie Dimov

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107 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-04 SUPPORTING THE CITY OF STONE**
108 **MOUNTAIN'S GRANT MATCH FOR THE 2025 HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND CLG**
109 **SURVEY AND PLANNING GRANT**

110 Motion made by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos.

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112 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:
113 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant, Council
114 Member: Post 6 Crowe

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116 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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118 2. Consideration of an action on a request to adopt Resolution 2025-05 to supersede resolution 2024-
119 14 regarding the enforcement of adherence to rules of decorum and ensuring equitable and
120 effective meeting management, presented by City Attorney Jeff Strickland

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122 The governing body, in collaboration with City Attorney Strickland, reviewed and discussed the
123 proposed ordinance. After thorough deliberation, it was agreed to bring the ordinance back with
124 revisions for further input from all governing body members at the next meeting. City Attorney
125 Strickland will gather the feedback from the governing body and draft a revised version of the
126 ordinance for consideration.

127
128 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE QUALIFYING FEES FOR THE 2025 CITY OF STONE**
129 **MOUNTAIN MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

130 Motion made by Council Member: Post 4 Freeman: , Seconded by Council Member: Post 5
131 Bryant.

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133 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:
134 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant, Council
135 Member: Post 6 Crowe

136
137 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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140 **New Business**

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142 1. Discussion: Hiring Assistant City Attorney (Moved to the beginning of New Business)

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144 Emilia Ashby, representing Fincher Denmark Attorneys LLC, provided a comprehensive overview
145 of the services she is able to offer. She gave an in-depth explanation of the various legal services
146 available, with particular focus on her expertise in handling blighted property matters. Emilia
147 discussed the complexities surrounding blighted properties, including legal procedures, potential
148 solutions, and the strategic approaches she employs to address such issues effectively.

- 150 2. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint Katherine Meers to the Historical Preservation
151 Committee Appointment, presented by DDA/Economic Development Director/Assistant City
152 Manager Maggie Dimov
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154 Katherine Meers was invited to provide a summary of her background and interest to join the HPC
155 Board. The governing body gave feedback regarding her experience and qualifications.
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157 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KATHERINE MEERS TO THE**
158 **HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS**

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160 Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6
161 Crowe
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163 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:
164 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant
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166 **Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Freeman
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168 **MOTION PASSED**
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- 171 3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve a Special Events Permit for the Mardi Gras
172 celebration to be held on March 1, 2025, presented by City Manager Shawn Edmondson
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174 Mardi Gras organizer Carmen Maestra gave an overview of the proposed Mardi Gras event. The
175 governing body expressed their concerns regarding horses on the lawn. It was determined that the
176 event could take place with no pony rides allowed and horses would be a part of the parade only.
177 The resolution for the Mardi Gras event will be ratified at the next council meeting of Mayor and
178 Council. It was also noted the event would include street closures.
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180 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT FOR THE MARDI GRAS**
181 **CELEBRATION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 1, 2025**
182

183 Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1
184 Bass
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186 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem:
187 Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant
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189 **Voting No:** Council Member: Post 4 Freeman
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- 192 4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the Laserfiche Record Management software,
193 presented by City Clerk Shavala Ames
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195 City Clerk Ames presented the proposed software to the governing body for approval, outlining its
196 necessity and benefits. She explained that the primary objective is to implement the software and
197 digitize all city records into the Laserfiche system, enhancing overall efficiency and streamlining
198 record management for the city.
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200 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE LASERFICHE RECORD MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**
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202 Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2
203 Marianos.

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Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

5. Discussion: Any appointment requiring council approval for removal should be under contract, requested by Council Member Mark Marianos.

Council Member Marianos stated this item is for staff protection and will bring back at the next meeting with suggestions.

6. Discussion: Update on the progress of Warnall street name change to John C. Terrell St. requested by Council Member Mark Marianos.

City Manager Shawn Edmondson updated the governing body, informing them that the Planning team has been tasked with researching the renaming and will present their findings for the council's consideration and approval.

[Due to the adoption of Resolution 2024-14, the meeting will end at 10:00 p.m. and any remaining items will be moved to the next available meeting]

Adjournment

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

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor

City Clerk, Shavala Ames