



Mayor and City Council Regular Session
Tuesday, March 04, 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
DDA/Economic Development Director | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Jeff Strickland - City Attorney

Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 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 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:
Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

I. Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing: Special use permit to allow for a granite fabrication shop at 973 Sheppard Road (Parcel ID: 18 074 02 052).

City Planner Elizabeth Mitchum gave an overview of the project. It was the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny approval.

Partner of the applicant, Megan Benardize, translated Cesar Hernandez. Ms. Benardize noted the building was being leased for 4 months and explained further dust won't cause problems.

Opposed

Public Comment 1: Joan Monroe - explained how building is across from homes and granite dust is toxic and harmful

Public Comment2: Grace Kelley: - explained the emissions issues, the wait of granite trucks coming in and out, and how it doesn't need to be near homes

Public Comment 3: Ms.Thomas - explained how it is a toxic process, causes health risk, and waste coming from product

Public Comment4: Vanessa Wallace - explained how residents and the park are across the street and agreed with others with opposing

No comments received in favor of the project.

2. Public Hearing: Special use permit to allow for a self-service laundromat at 5444 Rockbridge Road (Parcel ID: 18 037 12 007).

Applicant, Daljeet Singh, gave details of the 10,000 sq. ft shopping center where a proposed laundromat is being anticipated; also explained how it suits and benefits the area.

In Favor

Public Comment 1: Gail Graham - explained how no other laundromat is close by

Public Comment 2: Grace Kelley: explained it's useful to the city and a gateway; also how there's no other business in plaza and no harm to community

Public Comment 3: Name inaudible - explained how it's useful to community and greeting other businesses to shopping center

Opposed

Public Comment 4: Sharon Frierson - explained because it's a gateway doesn't think it's a good look and doesn't bring quality business

Public Comment 5: Ms. Thomas - doesn't think it's a good look because people hang out at laundromats and need security; sewer problems need to be addressed and what it's doing to infrastructure

3. Public Hearing: Rezoning request from Village Center Mixed-Use (VCM) to Traditional Residential (R-2) at 1031 Ridge Avenue (Parcel ID: 18 089 02 004).

The applicant, Grace Kelley, addressed the rezoning issue, advocating for the area to be designated as residential rather than Village Center Mixed-Use.

In Favor

Public Comment 1: Joan Monroe - explained how it's always been a home and shouldn't be mixed use

Public Comment 2: Ms. Thomas - should not have happened and needs to be fixed

Public Comment 3: Clint Monroe - should be removed and original zoning was an error

II. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem motioned to adjourn, Councilman Freeman seconded; Motion was approved with a unanimous vote and adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

III. Call to Order – 7:01 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, 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: Grace Kelley - commended Mardi Gras and to use events like this for revenue; should use lawn for events to not have so much road closure; DOA and Zoning meeting should not be on same night.

Citizen Comment 2: Cheryl Dudley - commended Mardi Gras and more events like this can bring revenue and community; use lawn to not charge for parking; take confederate symbols out of cemetery.

Citizen Comment 3: Carl Wright - parade came out well and many people at businesses; potholes still on James B. Rivers; Kaboom at McCurdy Park; trashcans not by playground.

Citizen Comment 4: Joan Monroe - festival was great; Council doesn't listen to people but Mayor can talk whenever while citizens are shorted; mentioned Women's Hist and Black History; talked about parking; missing 300k; DDA member wanted credit for business; doubled staff inabilities of manager and Chief isn't doing his job; do your job no matter how long it takes.

Citizen Comment 5: Waini Buggs- sidewalks at Mountain View still needed; potholes at Sheppard Road and not included in budget; senior citizens don't know who to talk to and need help with houses.

Citizen Comment 6: Clint Monroe- Mardi Gras was a great success; issue inviting confederate groups and gave info on history; suggested to rescind 2002 resolution previously passed.

Citizen Comment 7: Christopher Hunt - trying to get MLK on Stone Mountain; state legislation changed flag of GA; Confederate flag - let's get past this war.

Citizen Comment 8: Sylvia – came forward to speak about 5563 Memorial Drive, but it is not in the city limits of Stone Mountain.

Citizen Comment 9: Jelani Linder - Mardi Gras was a great event; business owners gave great feedback and thanked all involved.

Review of the Journal (City Clerk)

1. Request Minutes from City Council Special Called Meeting February 8th, 2025 be approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 3 Smith

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

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Request Minutes from City Council Special Called Meeting February 13th, 2025 AT 10:00 AM be approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025 (10:00 A.M) SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED

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

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 6 Crowe

Voting No: Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION PASSED

3. Minutes from City Council Special Called Meeting February 13th, 2025 AT 6:30 PM be approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025 (6:30 P.M.) SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 1 Bass

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

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

MOTION PASSED

4. Request Minutes from City Council Workshop Meeting February 18th, 2025 be approved. **(City Clerk Shavala Ames)**

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED

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

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

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Reading of Communications

IX. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

City Clerk Shavala Ames requested to remove Item 7 Benefits Resolution, and Item 8, A&S Paving Project from the agenda.

ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE DAY AS AMENDED

208 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith moved to approve to adopt the Agenda of the Day with the
209 request to remove Item 7, Benefits Resolution, and Item 8, A&S Paving Project, seconded
210 by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos
211

212 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos,
213 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council
214 Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe
215

216 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
217

218 **X. City Manager's Report**
219

220 **1. City Manager - Shawn Edmondson**
221

222 City Manager Edmondson gave an overview of the report provided to Mayor and Council.
223

224 **2. February Employee of the Month – Ms. Carolyn Jewell was announced as the**
225 **employee of the month.**
226

227 **XI. Council Policy Discussion Topics**
228

229 **XII. Unfinished Business**
230

231 **XIII. New Business**
232

233 **1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve special use permit to allow for a**
234 **granite fabrication shop at 973 Sheppard Road (Parcel ID: 18 074 02 052), requested**
235 **by City Planner Richard Edwards**
236

237 **ACTION: MOTION TO DENY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR GRANITE**
238 **FABRICATION SHOP AT 973 SHEPPARD ROAD**

239 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 2
240 Marianos
241

242 **Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor
243 Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5
244 Bryant, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe
245

246 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**
247

248 **2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve special use permit to allow for a**
249 **self-service laundromat at 5444 Rockbridge Rd (Parcel ID: 18 037 12 007), requested**
250 **by City Planner Richard Edwards**
251

252 Mr. Singh stepped forward to advocate for the laundromat project, emphasizing the
253 significant financial investment involved and his desire to safeguard it. Members of the
254 Mayor and Council discussed the potential advantages and drawbacks of the project,
255 including concerns about loitering, and another laundromat being in close proximity. To
256 address security, it was recommended that cameras be installed, and that the operating
257 hours be limited to no later than 10:00 p.m.
258

259 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR SELF-**
260 **SERVICE LAUNDROMAT AT 5444 ROCKBRIDGE ROAD CLOSING NO LATER**
261 **THAN 10 P.M.**
262

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

Voting Yea: Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

Voting No: Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION PASSED

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve rezoning request from Village Center Mixed-Use (VCM) to Traditional Residential (R-2) at 1031 Ridge Avenue (Parcel ID: 18 089 02 004), requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ZONING REQUEST FROM VILLAGE CENTER MIXED-USE (VCM) TO TRADITIONAL RESIDENTIAL (R-2) AT 1031 RIDGE AVENUE

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

Voting Yea: Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

Voting No: Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION PASSED

4. Consideration of an action on a request of consideration of Theresa Thomas for appointment to the Planning Commission, requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

City Attorney provided an overview of the committees and outlined the policy regarding family members serving on City of Stone Mountain committees.

Theresa Thomas came forward and gave an overview of her background and experience as it relates to the Planning Commission.

ACTION: MOTION OF CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT THERESA THOMAS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

Voting Yea: Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

Voting No: Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION FAILED

5. Consideration of an action on a request of consideration of Clint Monroe for appointment to the Planning Commission, requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

Clint Monroe came forward and gave an overview of his background and experience as it relates to the Planning Commission.

ACTION: MOTION OF CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT CLINT MONROE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND

6. Consideration of an action on a request of approval of Communication Specialist Position - request by City Manager Shawn Edmondson

City Manager Edmondson described the duties of the Communications Specialist as outlined in the job description and how it will be budgeted. Funds that were initially budgeted for the contracted firm will be allocated for the Communications Specialist position if approved.

Council members shared their perspectives on the proposed addition of a Communications Specialist, expressing concerns about insufficient funds to hire a qualified candidate and the lack of events to justify the position. The City Manager also emphasized that hiring a Communications Specialist directly would ultimately save the city money.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST OF COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST POSITION

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

Voting Yea: Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

Voting No: Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION PASSED

9. Consideration of an action on a request for an extension of the zoning entitlements at 6803 James B River Memorial Drive (Parcel ID: 18 126 06 002), requested by City Planner Richard Edwards

City Planner Elizabeth Mitchum provided an overview of the proposed extension. City Attorney Strickland reviewed the statutory restrictions and recommended against a long-term extension. Mr. Hunt then addressed the council, discussing efforts to collaborate with DeKalb County Water to advance the project.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF ZONING ENTITLEMENTS AT 6803 JAMES B RIVER MEMORIAL DRIVE WITH THE PROVISIO TO STRIKE CONDITION #18

Motion made by Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 1 Bass

Voting Yea: Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

Voting No: Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant

373 **MOTION PASSED**

- 374
- 375 10. Consideration of an action on a request to update the Historic Design Guidelines to
- 376 include guidelines on the installation of solar panel, requested by City Planner Richard
- 377 Edwards
- 378

379 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO UPDATE THE HISTORIC DESIGN**

380 **GUIDELINES TO INCLUDE GUIDELINES ON THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR**

381 **PANEL**

382 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 2

383 Marianos

384

385 **Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor

386 Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5

387 Bryant, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

388

389

390 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

391

- 392 11. Consideration of an action on a request to approve Kaboom! agreement, requested by
- 393 Council Member Gil Freeman
- 394

395 Councilmember Freeman provided an overview of the Kaboom! Project, emphasizing the

396 urgency of approving the item in a timely manner. Members of the Mayor and Council

397 engaged in a discussion about the project's timeline and the necessity of incorporating a

398 playground cover.

399

400 **ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE KABOOM! AGREEMENT**

401 Motion made by Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Seconded by Councilmember: Post

402 5 Bryant

403

404 **Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman,

405 Councilmember: Post 5 Bryant, Mayor Jones

406

407 **Voting No:** Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith,

408 Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

409

410 **MOTION PASSED**

411

412 **[Due to the adoption of Resolution 2024-14, the meeting will end at 10:00 p.m. and any**

413 **remaining items will be moved to the next available meeting]**

414

415 **Adjournment**

416

417 **ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING at 10:03 P.M.**

418

419 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3, Seconded by Councilmember: Post 2

420 Marianos

421

422 **Voting Yea:** Councilmember: Post 1 Bass, Councilmember: Post 2 Marianos, Mayor

423 Pro Tem: Post 3 Smith, Councilmember: Post 4 Freeman, Councilmember: Post 5

424 Bryant, Councilmember: Post 6 Crowe

425

426 **MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

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Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor



City Clerk, Shavala Ames

