



Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM

City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Agenda

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 | Jeff Strickland, Angela Couch - City Attorney

Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

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

ACTION: MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:37 P.M.

Motion made by Council Member: Post 6 Crowe, 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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO MOVE TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:30 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)

New Business

1. City Attorney Contract

ACTION: MOTION TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT WITH JERRAD AND DAVIS AS THE ATTORNEY OF THE CITY

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: 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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voting No: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman

MOTION PASSED

ACTION: MOTION TO HIRE CAROTHERS AND MITCHELL, LLC AND ASSIGN ANGELA COUCH AS CITY ATTORNEY

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3, 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 5 Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Crowe

Voting No: Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman

MOTION PASSED

2. Consideration of an action on a request to draft a resolution regarding elected officials direct communication and interaction with City's banking institution without authorization from City Administration.

City Attorney Angela Couch provided a detailed explanation of the proposed resolution, which outlines formal procedures and clarifies the distribution of authority over the city's bank accounts. She noted that the resolution aims to establish a clear system of checks and balances to prevent any single individual from having unilateral control over municipal funds. If adopted, the resolution will be presented to the city's banking institution as a formal directive to help resolve the current governance concerns surrounding the accounts.

Members of the governing body held an in-depth discussion about the resolution's purpose and implications. It was stated a cyber security risk prompted the updating of the banking accounts. There was a consensus on the importance of transparency and accountability in financial management. It was also emphasized that the involvement of city administration in executing these procedures would not undermine or interfere with the legal authority of elected officials. The resolution is intended to reinforce collaborative oversight while respecting the distinct roles and responsibilities within city leadership. Additionally, disappointment was expressed with the Truist Bank.

City Attorney Couch did state that she did not write the proposed resolution but did have a brief opportunity to review. Additionally, discussion was held regarding checks and balance, ACH transactions and a two-step signature process is in the Stone Mountain Finance Policy. Additional dialogue took place regarding the statement that Truist Bank cyber security reached out due to previous employees still being listed on the City bank accounts and the language on Truist Bank resolutions allows the Mayor authority to make changes.

ACTION: MOTION ON A REQUEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-15 CITY BANK ACCOUNTS

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 3 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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION PASSED

3. Consideration of an action on a request to review and reaffirm the defined scope of the Mayor's authority as outlined in the City Charter and applicable ordinances and resolutions.

City Manager Edmondson read Section 2.32 Powers and Duties of the Mayor and was discussed. The governing body had an opportunity to elaborate on the powers and duties of the Mayor. No action took place from the discussion.

4. Consideration of an action on a request to authorize an independent investigation of the financial allegations involving the Mayor, in the interest of transparency and public trust.

It was recommended that Mr. Jack Wilson be thoroughly vetted for consideration as an investigator, particularly in light of recent concerns regarding internal vulnerabilities and the need for a credible, experienced professional to support any forthcoming inquiries. As part of the discussion, potential cybersecurity risks were highlighted.

Additionally, the group reviewed alleged concerns raised by the bank regarding outdated account access. Specifically, the bank has requested that individuals no longer employed by the City be formally removed from all municipal financial accounts. This sparked a broader conversation about the importance of implementing a more secure and efficient system for managing account access.

It was also noted that specific financial records related to the City's operations have been formally requested. Discussion was held suggesting the audit should be included in the investigation and the scope should be broadened to review any inconsistencies or potential fraud, and to offer transparency.

ACTION: MOTION TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF INVESTIGATOR SERVICES TO INCLUDE OTHER AREAS NOT JUST THE MAYOR

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

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

MOTION FAILED

ACTION: MOTION TO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE FINANCIAL ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING THE MAYOR

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Marianos, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem: 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 Nay: Council Member: Post 4 Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Bryant

MOTION PASSED

5. Discussion: Alternative Investigative Services

City Attorney Couch took this opportunity to introduce herself formally to the community as the new City Attorney. It was mentioned that alternative investigative services will be researched and brought back to the governing body for further consideration.

Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 9:10 P.M.

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

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



Shavala Ames, City Clerk