Mayor and City Council Regular Session

Tuesday, October 06, 2026 at 6:30 PM
City Hall, 875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Agenda

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/Economic Development Director/DDA | Shavala Ames - City Clerk/Human Resources | Angela Couch - City Attorney

City of Stone Mountain, GA Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/CityofStoneMtn/
Link to join Webinar: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82303400686

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**
II. **Determination of Quorum**
III. **Invocation and Pledge**
IV. **Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders (3 minutes per comment)**

Comments from the Public

The public comments are reserved exclusively for comments from the public and not for immediate reply. The purpose of public comment is to allow the public to voice city related requests, concerns or opinions only during the public comment portion of the City Council meeting. I. The Mayor and City Council reserves the right to extend or limit the length of public comments based on: (1) the issue under discussion; (2) the number of items on the agenda; and (3) the extent to which the speaker remains constructive in their comments and questions. II. The public may not directly confront the public speaker but must direct all comments and questions to the Mayor and City Council. III. Public harassment of or confrontation with a public speaker will not be tolerated. Members of the public violating tenets two or three will be asked to sit down or leave the premises.

The City appreciates your input and wants to hear from you. If you have a complaint or concerns about a particular person associated with the City, please contact the City Manager's office. Your public comments during a Council meeting may not be directed at or to any particular City representative, including but not limited to the Mayor, City Council members, or a member of City staff. If your presentation includes such comments, the City reserves the right to stop your presentation. During your public comment, if you use obscenities or vulgar or abusive language, yell, or point fingers, the City reserves the right to stop your presentation. During your public comment, if you physically approach any City representative or your presentation rises to the level of disorderly conduct, your public comment will be stopped.

V. **Review of the Journal (City Clerk)**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve September 9, 2026, meeting minutes, requested by the City Clerk Shavala Ames. **Goal - Governance**
2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve September 15, 2026, meeting minutes, requested by the City Clerk Shavala Ames. **Goal – Governance**

VI. **Reading of Communications**

VII. **Adoption of The Agenda of The Day**

VIII. **Council Policy Discussion Topics**

1. Discussion: Building Facility for the Public Works Department, requested by Mayor Pro Tem Smith
2. Discussion: Parks Improvements & Maintenance, requested by Council Member Kay Nunez
3. Discussion: Direction Regarding Coordinated Code Compliance, Public Safety, Cleanup, and Beautification Efforts Along Memorial Drive, requested by Councilmember Hub Jordan
4. Discussion: Direction Regarding Lawn on Main Operating Hours, requested by Councilmember Hub Jordan
5. Discussion: Local Food System Plan Program, requested by City Manager Maggie Dimov

IX. **Unfinished Business**

X. **New Business**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint DDA Members, requested by Community Development Director Thatcher Hart. **Goal - Governance and Economic Development**
2. Consideration of an action on a request to increase Hotel/Motel Taxes to 8%, requested by City Manager Maggie Dimov. **Goal: Governance and Economic Development**

XI. **New Ordinances and Resolutions**

1. Resolution 2026-21 - LWCF Grant Acceptance (VFW Park), requested by City Manager Maggie Dimov. **Goal - Quality of Life, Governance**

XII. **Remarks of Privilege**

XIII. **Announcements by The Mayor**

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

1. Personnel

XV. **Adjournment**

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

REVIEW OF JOURNAL

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
		Department:	City Clerk
Goal:	Governance	**Presenter:**	Shavala Ames
Agenda Title:	**Consideration of an action on a request to approve September 9, 2026, meeting minutes.**		
Audio/Visual Presentation:	Yes/No/NA		

Workplan Goal Details:
Governance - Focus on streamlining legislative processes to ensure timely, accurate, and transparent dissemination of information to the City Council, staff, and the public, reinforcing the foundation of local governance.
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):
(O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1) requires public agencies to maintain written meeting minutes and make them available for public inspection after approval.

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
Staff recommends the following: **"Approve Meeting Minutes as required"**

Department Head Approval:	**Shavala Ames**
City Manager Approval:	**Miglena Dimov**

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
1. September 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

Special Called Meeting – 2026 Comprehensive Plan

September 9, 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 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

ABSENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass

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

Mayor Pro Tem Smith motioned to allow public comments to be added to the agenda.

> **ACTION: MOTION TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENTS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA**
> Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos
>
> **Voting Yea:** 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. **Citizen Comments**

Public Comment 1: Michael Rollins – Addressed scoffing overheard at the last City Council Meeting when someone brought up the potential hotel on the green space. Expressed that the pitched ideas given by the finalist companies mentioned a hotel and that the Mayor had an opinion piece regarding a Study for the area to be mixed use and why the hotel is a great idea. Encouraged transparency if the hotel is what's being pushed.

Public Comment 2: Dave Thomas – Expressed that the Comprehensive Plan is very overwhelming. Spoke on the section that speaks to adding more restaurants in the Commercial Area. Does not feel that the City has the customer base to support more restaurants. Expressed support for the development of new businesses but advised that certain areas should be targeted.

Public Comment 3: Kwabena Nkromo – Spoke regarding the Non-Profit Organization Food Well Alliance working with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and how it has opened its 2026 Local Food System Planning Cycle. Reviewed the application details and advised the deadlines associated with the grant. Encouraged the City to designate an employee to conduct an internal review to determine whether the City should compete for the funding.

V. Unfinished Business

1. 2026 Comprehensive Plan

Community Development Director Thatcher Hart came forward and presented the latest version of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan, including an overview of the Land Use Map and Character Area Map. City Attorney Angela Couch advised the governing body that the purpose of the Special Called Meeting was to review the proposed Comprehensive Plan in its entirety and provide any necessary comments, recommendations, and revisions for consideration and incorporation into the plan. She further noted that the City is operating within a strict timeline established by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, requiring the recommended revisions to be forwarded to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for final updates.

The governing body reached a consensus to remove the Land Use Map from the Comprehensive Plan and proceed with the Character Area Map.

Members of the governing body provided input, suggestions, and revisions for each Character Area, including Historic Core, Commercial, Cul de Sac Residential, Park Edge, Shermantown, Traditional Residential, Five Points, Gateway, and Stone Mountain Memorial Association.

No changes were proposed to the Stone Mountain Memorial Association Character Area. The governing body also agreed to remove Gateway as a designated Character Area from the map and instead include language in the Comprehensive Plan expressing the desire to develop gateway points throughout the City.

Staff was directed to compile the recommended revisions and forward them to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for incorporation into the draft 2026 Comprehensive Plan. The revised draft is expected to be presented to the Mayor and Council at the September 15, 2026, meeting for consideration of forwarding the plan to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) as part of the process to finalize the Comprehensive Plan.

VI. Adjournment

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:13 P.M.
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: 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**

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

REVIEW OF JOURNAL

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
		Department:	City Clerk
Goal:	Governance	**Presenter:**	Shavala Ames
Agenda Title:	**Consideration of an action on a request to approve September 15, 2026, meeting minutes.**		
Audio/Visual Presentation:	Yes/No/NA		

Workplan Goal Details:
Governance - Focus on streamlining legislative processes to ensure timely, accurate, and transparent dissemination of information to the City Council, staff, and the public, reinforcing the foundation of local governance.
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):
(O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1) requires public agencies to maintain written meeting minutes and make them available for public inspection after approval.

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
Staff recommends the following: **"Approve Meeting Minutes as required"**

Department Head Approval:	**Shavala Ames**
City Manager Approval:	**Miglena Dimov**

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
1. September 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

Mayor and City Council Regular Session

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:30 PM
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 | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney

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*

Public Hearing was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor – Jelani Linder, 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, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

ABSENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass

I. **Public Hearing**

1. Public Hearing on Entertainment District Text Amendment – Public Hearing #2

Mayor Jelani Linder provided a general overview of the Public Hearing as outlined in the provided city council packet.

Mayor Linder opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing comments

IN FAVOR

Public Comment 1: Dave Thomas – Expressed that he likes the concept and that the designated area will make the City a more attractive place to live and visit.

Public Comment 2: Denise Phillips – Praised the governing body for bringing the concept forward and feels that it will be beneficial for businesses.

Public Comment 3: Cordero Vigil – Expressed that the Entertainment District is a great idea. Feels that it will bring a lot of opportunities and move the City forward.

Public Comment 4: Michael Rollins – Expressed that the Entertainment District is a great idea and that the design of the cups will be helpful. Inquired regarding the handling of trash.

OPPOSED – None

Mayor Linder closed the public hearing.

II. **Adjournment** – 6:35 P.M.

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:35 P.M.
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

Voting Yea: 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, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

III. **Call to Order**

Mayor Linder called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

IV. **Determination of Quorum**

PRESENT: 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, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

ABSENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass

V. **Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Linder led a 30-second moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

VI. **Citizen Comments/Including comments from public/stakeholders**

Citizen Comment 1: Sharon Frierson – Addressed the memo sent via email to the Mayor regarding stormwater issues. Requested the City to clear the ditch behind the townhomes on Oak Ridge Drive as water comes from four different directions into residents cul de sacs. Mentioned that 806 Ridge Avenue will go on Dekalb County's Courthouse steps on October 6th for possible repurchase by the City. Spoke regarding the City's emergency preparedness for storms and power outages. Provided suggestions regarding Stormwater supplies like lightbulbs that don't have to be charged as well as "Double Doodie" bags that are used when camping. Made everyone aware of a new narcotic called "Feel Free" and the negative effects of it.

Citizen Comment 2: Joyce Thomas – Yielded her time to Sharon Frierson.

Citizen Comment 3: Dave Thomas – Thanked the governing body for the Special Called Meeting regarding the 2026 Comprehensive Plan. Mentioned the arguments overheard against the building of a possible hotel on the Lawn is that the current Evergreen Rooms can't sell so why would more capacity be built. Advised that he'd rather see a hotel in the Village because of the walking distance.

Citizen Comment 4: Denise Phillips – Expressed disappointment and confusion with the JLL Report. Does not remember the governing body approving a single focus study and inquired who made it single focused. Mentioned the lack of occupancy estimates, city revenue estimates and infrastructure impact. Agrees that the City needs revenue generating on the Lawn but feels for the money spent, the City should be presented with options and more useful information. Would like to see a 3D rendering to have a better idea of the space on the Lawn.

Citizen Comment 5: James M. Rollins – Expressed that the agenda had no staff recommendations attached. Inquired whether the governing body would state if rezoning of the Lawn is being contemplated. Advised that the Greenspace Ordinance states that zoning is permanent.

Citizen Comment 6: Cordero Vigil – Expressed that he does not agree with a hotel being built on the Lawn unless the City owns 50% of the profits. Feels that there are plenty of areas on Main Street that can serve as a hotel space.

VII. **Review of the Journal (City Clerk)**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve September 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, MEETING MINUTES
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

Voting Yea: 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, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. **Reading of Communications – None**

IX. **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 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez, Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

X. **Committee Discussion Items**

1. Downtown Development Authority

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, reviewed the report as outlined in the agenda packet.

Council Member Jordan inquired regarding who would present the DDA Report going forward. City Manager, Maggie Dimov, confirmed that Community Development Director, Thatcher Hart, would be presenting going forward.

XI. **Staff Reports**

1. Operations Report – City Manager – Maggie Dimov

City Manager, Maggie Dimov, reviewed the report as outlined in the agenda packet.

2. Public Works Report – Public Works Director – Mike Helton

Public Works Director, Mike Helton, reviewed the report as outlined in the agenda packet.

Stormwater Administrator, Nicole Wright, gave an update on Stormwater projects and initiatives related to Stormwater Awareness Week

The governing body thanked the Public Works Staff for their hard work and advised that they are looking forward to the forthcoming educational tips. Inquired how residents can assist the staff to do their jobs better, the status of the ballfield at Leila Mason Park as well as the Medlock Park grant. Additionally inquired whether the grant will allow the purchase of equipment for the park and possible others, the staffs awareness regarding 806 Ridge Avenue and whether any further street paving is anticipated this year. Also expressed that our parking lot is not believed to be in ADA compliance and recommended federal grants.

3. Stone Mountain Community Garden – Chair – Columbus Brown

Chair, Columbus Brown, reviewed the SMCG report.

4. Public Safety – Police Chief – James Westerfield Jr.

Police Chief, James Westerfield Jr., reviewed the report as outlined in the agenda packet.

The governing body inquired regarding whether the new Code Enforcement Software was going well or if there were any issues as well as the estimated time of arrival, and if the Police Department has a surplus of vehicles. Also asked for clarity regarding the issues inside the park.

Police Chief, James Westerfield Jr., recognized Major Shirlene Parks for 25 years of service to the City of Stone Mountain.

5. Budget to Actuals – Finance Consultant – Michelle Uran

Finance Consultant, Michelle Uran, reviewed the report as outlined in the agenda packet.

The governing body inquired regarding what could be paid out of the parks account and the status of the funds, how much interest has been made from SPLOST I, SPLOST II, Small City IGA and GA Fund I accounts, whether the issue with Truist Bank has been resolved and why the City is still in partnership with them. Also asked for clarity regarding income and allocations and professional services expenses.

XII. **Council Policy Discussion Topics - None**

XIII. **Unfinished Business**

1. Discussion Item: JLL Feasibility Report Update

JLL Representatives appeared virtually and reviewed the report as outlined in the agenda packet.

The governing body inquired regarding whether there are other businesses in mind that will provide income for the City, how people would be able to enter the facility, the DDA's involvement in the project, how many phases are anticipated, if the geotechnical report was done on the entire lawn or on the building space only and where the report data can be found. Also asked about the discussion that took place during their meeting with Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain Inn, the timeline for a feasibility study, risks and mitigation, the strengths and weaknesses of the development site and if there are any credible financial expectations currently. Requested

renderings, clarity regarding what the space will be used for and inquired if a retail component would create competition for the businesses on Main Street as well as the projected revenue.

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the transmittal of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update to the Department of Community Affairs with the update to strike 1½ to 2 stories from the Historic Core

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE 2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WITH THE UPDATE TO STRIKE 1½ TO 2 STORIES FROM THE HISTORIC CORE
Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

Voting Yea: 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)

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve City staff to draft a Resolution for a 3-hour parking limit from the Mountain to Mimosa

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE CITY STAFF TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION FOR A 3-HOUR PARKING LIMIT FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO MIMOSA
Motion made by Council Member: Post 5 Hub Jordan, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: 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)

XIV. **New Business**

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve Business License and Community Development Software with GovWell

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE BUSINESS LICENSE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOFTWARE WITH GOVWELL
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smth, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

Voting Yea: 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)

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve City issued bank credit cards with Bank of America

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE CITY ISSUED BANK CREDIT CARDS WITH BANK OF AMERICA

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

Voting Yea: 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)

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve CivicPlus Migration Agreement

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE CIVICPLUS MIGRATION AGREEMENT
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: 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)

XIII. New Ordinances and Resolutions

1. Ordinance 2026-15 - Entertainment District (SECOND READ)

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-15 ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: 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)

2. Resolution 2026-16 – Entertainment District Guidelines and Map

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-16 ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT GUIDELINES AND MAP
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: 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)

XIV. Remarks of Privilege

1. Mayor Pro Tem Smith reiterated his appreciation for the comments regarding improvements for the Public Works Department. Council Member Jordan asked City Staff to review the Lawn on Main concept and all the remaining documents regarding JLL's studies as he cannot find them on the City's website.

XV. **Announcements by the Mayor**

1. Mayor Linder thanked everyone for their hard work.

XVI. **Executive Session**

ACTION: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:27 P.M. TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: 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, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 10:19 P.M. - (2) ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
Motion made Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Kay Nunez

Voting Yea: 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, and Council Member: Post 6 Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

XVII. **Adjournment**

ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING 10:20 P.M.
Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

Voting Yea: 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, and Council Member Post 6: Elaine Vaughn

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

_____ _____

Jelani Linder, Mayor **Shavala Ames, City Clerk**

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
Goal:	Governance, Quality of Life	**Requested by:**	Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith
Agenda Title:	**Discussion: Building Facility for the Public Works Department, requested by Mayor Pro Tem Smith**		

Workplan Goal Details:

Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):

The City's Public Works operations require facilities that adequately support daily operations, equipment, vehicle storage, materials storage, employee work areas, and other departmental functions. Staff is bringing this matter forward to provide Mayor and Council an opportunity to discuss the current Public Works facilities, identify operational and facility needs, and consider potential options for addressing those needs.

Potential options may include relocation to a new or different site, construction of a new facility, or other alternatives that may better support departmental operations.

Staff Recommendations (Motion):

Staff recommends that Mayor and Council discuss the City's Public Works facility needs and provide direction regarding potential options and next steps for addressing the Department's current and long-term facility requirements.

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:

No Supporting Documentation

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
Goal:	Quality of Life	**Requested by:**	Councilmember kay Nunez
Agenda Title:	**Discussion – Park Improvements and Maintenance**		

Workplan Goal Details:
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
N/A

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
No Supporting Documentation

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
Goal:	Quality of Life, Public Safety	**Requested by:**	Councilmember Hub Jordan
Agenda Title:	**Discussion: Direction Regarding Coordinated Code Compliance, Public Safety, Cleanup, and Beautification Efforts Along Memorial Drive, requested by Councilmember Hub Jordan**		

Workplan Goal Details:
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):
To review the proposal prepared by Chief Westerfield regarding conditions along the Memorial Drive corridor, including 6201 and 6319 Memorial Drive and surrounding areas, and provide direction regarding potential coordination with DeKalb County on code compliance, sanitation, beautification, homeless outreach, and public safety. The discussion may also include exploring potential intergovernmental agreements, memoranda of understanding, cross-designation, or other legally permissible mechanisms to address enforcement needs in areas immediately adjacent to the City.

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
Staff recommends for Mayor and Council discuss and offer direction regarding the proposal and next steps for communication and coordination with DeKalb County.

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
IGA Enforcement Proposal DRAFT

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

SUMMARY REPORT AND PROPOSAL

Memorial Drive Code Compliance, Beautification, Homeless Outreach, and Intergovernmental Enforcement Initiative

City of Stone Mountain Goverment
Date of Site Observation: August 11, 2026
Subject: Code Violations and Quality-of-Life Conditions Along Memorial Drive and Adjacent Areas

Purpose

This report documents significant code compliance, property maintenance, sanitation, illegal dumping, graffiti, environmental, and quality-of-life concerns observed at and around two commercial properties located along Memorial Drive:

- **6319 Memorial Drive – BP Gas Station**
- **6201 Memorial Drive – Texaco Gas Station**

The documented conditions are not confined to the immediate fronts of the commercial properties. Violations and deteriorating conditions were observed from the Memorial Drive frontage of the locations, along and around the properties, extending toward the rear of the properties, and into the adjoining wood line.

This report identifies known City of Stone Mountain Code violations at the two properties and also documents conditions extending into areas where DeKalb County ordinances and jurisdiction may apply.

The report further requests DeKalb County's assistance with cleanup and beautification and proposes the development of an intergovernmental enforcement partnership allowing appropriately authorized City of Stone Mountain personnel to assist with enforcement of applicable DeKalb County laws and ordinances in areas immediately adjacent to the incorporated City.

I. CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN CODE VIOLATIONS / DEKALB COUNTY ORDINANCES

The following violations have been observed at the identified locations.

6319 Memorial Drive – BP Gas Station

Property Owner:
SHAHAN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC
2534 Skyland Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30319

6201 Memorial Drive – Texaco Gas Station

Property Owner:
INDERSATWANT LLC
6201 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

Observed City Code Violations

Sec. 5-267 – Exterior Property Requirements

Conditions were observed that are inconsistent with requirements that exterior premises be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition.

The property contains various conditions potentially falling within additional requirements of this section, including accumulated debris and deteriorated exterior conditions. A complete inspection should be conducted to document each individual violation.

Sec. 5-272 – Rubbish and Garbage Requirements

Accumulations of garbage, rubbish, discarded containers, cardboard, miscellaneous debris, and other waste materials were observed.

The conditions are inconsistent with requirements that exterior property and premises remain free from the accumulation of rubbish and garbage.

Sec. 5-274 – Weeds and Grass

Vegetation, weeds, and overgrowth were observed in areas of the property and toward the adjoining wood line.

The vegetation contributes to concealment of accumulated garbage and debris and creates areas where additional dumping and accumulation can occur without being readily visible from Memorial Drive.

Sec. 13-66 – Inoperable Motor Vehicle

Conditions were observed involving an inoperable, scrapped, dismantled, or partially dismantled motor vehicle or vehicle-related property that may constitute a public nuisance under this section.

The condition should be documented during formal code enforcement inspection and addressed in accordance with the applicable notice and enforcement procedures.

Potentially Applicable DeKalb County Ordinances

DeKalb County Code, Chapter 18 – Property Maintenance

DeKalb County's property-maintenance provisions establish minimum standards intended to protect public health, safety, property values, and the aesthetic condition of the community. The County expressly recognizes that improperly maintained property can become a threat to public safety, negatively affect property values, and create an aesthetic nuisance.

Section 18-38 – Weeds, Junk, Etc., Prohibited

This section is particularly relevant to the photographed conditions. It requires property to be kept free of weeds and underbrush creating health, fire, unsafe, or unsanitary conditions, as well as trash and garbage. It also addresses the open storage of household appliances, building materials, building trash, and similar discarded items. Owners and tenants of property abutting streets, sidewalks, lanes, and parking areas are also required to maintain applicable areas free of garbage and trash.

The documented accumulation of mattresses, containers, cardboard, fencing, household refuse, discarded materials, and trash within the affected areas warrants review under these provisions.

Section 18-7 – Scope and Application / Property Maintenance

County standards further address the accumulation of used or damaged lumber, junk, trash, debris, scrap material, cans, bottles, tires, boxes, containers, discarded or unusable furniture, household fixtures, and similar materials. The ordinance also addresses vegetation that creates unsafe conditions or harbors vermin or insects.

Section 18-37 – Sanitation

The County Code requires applicable premises to be maintained in clean and sanitary condition and requires garbage and organic waste to be disposed of in an appropriate manner so as not to provide food or harborage for rodents and insects.

Section 25-157 – Deposit of Objectionable Wastes

DeKalb County additionally prohibits the unsanitary placement, deposit, or permitted deposit of garbage or other objectionable waste on public or private property within the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners.

II. EXTENT OF OBSERVED CONDITIONS

Of particular concern is that these conditions do not stop at the storefronts or individual commercial lots.

During the site assessment, violations and quality-of-life concerns were observed from the Memorial Drive frontage through the properties and continuing toward the rear and into the adjoining wooded areas.

Photographic documentation shows substantial quantities of:

- Plastic bottles and beverage containers;
- Food containers and other household garbage;
- Cardboard and paper waste;
- Discarded mattresses;
- Damaged fencing and wire material;
- Lumber and miscellaneous construction-type debris;
- Clothing and personal belongings;
- Garbage bags;
- Graffiti on exterior masonry;
- Overgrown vegetation;
- Bulky discarded items; and
- General litter and debris distributed throughout the wooded area.

The volume and distribution of the material indicate that the issue is substantially greater than routine litter. Portions of the wood line contain extensive concentrations of refuse and discarded materials, creating what appears to be an ongoing illegal-dumping, sanitation, and property-maintenance problem.

III. POTENTIAL DEKALB COUNTY CODE CONCERNS

While the City violations identified above apply to the respective properties within the City's jurisdiction, conditions extending beyond those properties should be evaluated by DeKalb County for potential County violations.

Potentially applicable provisions include DeKalb County's property-maintenance requirements concerning the accumulation of trash, garbage, debris, junk, discarded furniture, building materials, and other refuse; sanitation requirements; vegetation creating unsafe or unsanitary conditions; and provisions prohibiting the improper deposit of objectionable waste.

The city requests that DeKalb County Code Compliance conduct an independent inspection and determine all County ordinance violations applicable to the adjoining areas.

This distinction is important: the City Code violations identified in this report should not be construed as the complete list of violations existing throughout the area. County inspectors should independently identify and document County violations within their jurisdiction.

IV. HOMELESSNESS AND ENCAMPMENT CONCERNS

There is also a substantial homeless presence within the wooded areas behind these locations.

Evidence observed throughout the area indicates portions of the wood line are being used for habitation or encampment. The presence of mattresses, personal belongings, food containers, clothing, garbage, and other materials is consistent with repeated or extended occupancy.

This creates a complex quality-of-life issue requiring both compassion and accountability.

Homelessness itself should not be treated as a crime. The preferred response should include outreach and opportunities to connect individuals with shelter, behavioral-health services, substance-use treatment, veterans' services, food assistance, transportation, and other available resources.

At the same time, the City and County have a responsibility to address specific unlawful conduct and unsafe conditions, including illegal dumping, excessive accumulation of garbage, trespassing where applicable, fire hazards, environmental contamination, destruction of property, and other conduct affecting public health and safety.

For that reason, any coordinated operation should include appropriate homeless-outreach and social-service partners in addition to police, code compliance, sanitation, and public works personnel.

V. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AND BEAUTIFICATION

The City of Stone Mountain respectfully requests DeKalb County's assistance in developing a **coordinated cleanup and beautification operation** for the Memorial Drive corridor surrounding 6319 and 6201 Memorial Drive and the adjoining areas.

The City requests assistance with:

1. Establishing the exact City/County jurisdictional boundaries and affected parcels.
2. Identifying property ownership for the wooded and adjoining areas.
3. Conducting a joint City-County code compliance assessment.
4. Identifying and documenting all applicable DeKalb County violations.
5. Removing accumulated trash, mattresses, discarded furniture, fencing, containers, and other illegally dumped materials.
6. Addressing excessive vegetation and environmental hazards where legally authorized.
7. Removing or abating graffiti.
8. Evaluating the locations for fire, sanitation, rodent, environmental, and other public-health hazards.
9. Coordinating outreach to the homeless population occupying or frequenting the wooded areas.
10. Establishing measures to discourage future dumping and reestablishment of the current conditions.
11. Developing a longer-term beautification strategy for this portion of the Memorial Drive corridor.

A one-time cleanup will improve the immediate appearance of the area, but without continued enforcement and maintenance, there is a significant likelihood that the conditions will return.

VI. PROPOSAL FOR CITY-COUNTY ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

The conditions documented at these locations demonstrate a jurisdictional challenge frequently encountered by municipalities located immediately adjacent to unincorporated areas.

From the public's perspective, there is no visible jurisdictional line separating the City of Stone Mountain from DeKalb County. Conditions immediately outside the incorporated boundary are

nevertheless associated with the Stone Mountain community and directly affect our residents, businesses, visitors, property values, public safety, and economic-development efforts.

Accordingly, I propose that the city seek authorization to enter discussions with DeKalb County regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, cross-designation, or other legally permissible enforcement mechanism allowing designated City of Stone Mountain personnel to assist DeKalb County with enforcement of specified County ordinances within clearly defined areas immediately surrounding the incorporated City.

This proposal is not intended to presume that City personnel currently possess independent authority to enforce DeKalb County ordinances outside the municipal limits. Any expansion or delegation of enforcement authority must first be reviewed and approved by the appropriate City and County legal counsel and governing authorities.

If authorized, an agreement could specifically establish:

- The geographic area in which City personnel could exercise delegated authority;
- The County ordinances subject to enforcement;
- Which City personnel would be authorized to act;
- Required County training or certification;
- Procedures for warnings, notices, citations, and case documentation;
- Court jurisdiction and prosecution procedures;
- Coordination with DeKalb County Code Compliance and Police;
- Evidence and records-management responsibilities;
- Liability and indemnification provisions;
- Supervisory and reporting requirements; and
- Procedures for resolving jurisdictional questions.

The objective would be **supplemental enforcement and partnership—not replacement of County services.**

VII. REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION

I respectfully request authorization for the City of Stone Mountain Police Department and appropriate City staff to initiate discussions with DeKalb County regarding:

First, an immediate joint inspection and cleanup of the affected Memorial Drive locations and adjoining wooded areas.

Second, a coordinated outreach effort addressing the homeless population within the wood line and connecting individuals with available services.

Third, a joint beautification initiative addressing the visible conditions along this important corridor.

Fourth, development of an intergovernmental enforcement agreement or other legally authorized mechanism permitting designated City personnel to assist with enforcement of specified DeKalb County ordinances in defined areas immediately adjacent to the city.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that this initiative be approached as a comprehensive **Quality-of-Life Partnership** consisting of five coordinated components:

Code Compliance + Cleanup + Beautification + Outreach + Enforcement

The photographs accompanying this report demonstrate that these conditions have progressed beyond isolated litter or routine property-maintenance concerns. The accumulation of garbage, discarded mattresses, debris, graffiti, overgrowth, and evidence of habitation throughout the wood line requires a coordinated response.

The City of Stone Mountain has a vested interest in ensuring that the gateways into our community reflect the standards we are working to maintain throughout the city. Likewise, DeKalb County has an interest in ensuring that unincorporated areas adjoining its municipalities remain safe, sanitary, and properly maintained.

Our jurisdictional boundaries should not become barriers to cooperation.

A coordinated City-County initiative provides an opportunity to clean the area, assist individuals in need, hold responsible property owners and violators accountable, beautify the Memorial Drive corridor, and establish a sustainable enforcement strategy designed to prevent these conditions from returning.

Submitted for consideration and authorization.

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
Goal:	Quality of Life, Public Safety	**Requested by:**	Councilmember Hub Jordan
Agenda Title:	**Discussion: Direction Regarding Lawn on Main Operating Hours**		

Workplan Goal Details:
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):
Discussion regarding establishing regular public access hours for the Lawn on Main, with the park open from dawn to dusk.

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
To discuss establishing dawn-to-dusk public access hours for the Lawn on Main and address any operational, maintenance, safety, or signage considerations associated with the proposed hours.

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
No Supporting Documentation

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
Goal:	Quality of Life	**Requested by:**	City Manager Maggie Dimov
Agenda Title:	**Discussion: Local Food System Plan Program, requested by City Manager Maggie Dimov**		

Workplan Goal Details:
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
To offer discuss and provide direction on a Local Food System Plan Program for the City of Stone Mountain

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
Email Correspondence – Deadline Approaching

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

From: Kwabena Nkromo
To: Mayor Jelani Linder; Ryan Smith; Anita Bass; Mark Marianos; Kay Nunĕz; Hub Jordan; Elaine Vaughn
Cc: Miglena Dimov; Tamaya Huff; Shavala Ames
Subject: "EXTERNAL"TIME-SENSITIVE: Stone Mountain Local Food System Plan Opportunity | Nov. 13 Deadline
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 3:31:33 PM
Attachments: image.png
Stone_Mountain_Local_Food_System_Plan_Opportunity_Brief by AF2GA_September_9_2026.pdf
Local-Food-System-Planning-Application-Guide_2026.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor, Council Members and City Staff,

I am writing to put a time-sensitive planning opportunity before the City as it continues work on the 2026 Comprehensive Plan.

Food Well Alliance, in partnership with the Atlanta Regional Commission, is accepting applications for its 2026 Local Food System Planning program. I have attached the complete Program Application Guide along with a one-page AF2GA briefing outlining the opportunity and its potential relevance to Stone Mountain.

At this stage, I am **not asking the City to commit to an application**. I am asking that the appropriate City staff member be designated to conduct a rapid internal review and determine whether Stone Mountain should compete before the **November 13 application deadline**.

My firm Atlanta Food & Farm PBC (**AF2GA**) is prepared to assist with the community-partner side of that review and, if the City chooses to proceed, with development of a competitive joint application.

I will also be attending this evening's Comprehensive Plan workshop and would welcome guidance on the appropriate staff pathway for follow-up.

Respectfully,

Cubby

--

Kwabena "Cubby" Nkromo
Community Food System Planner (CFSP)
Atlanta Food & Farm PBC | AF2GA

O 404.721.3992 | [redacted]
E kwabena@AF2GA.farm
W AF2GA.farm | **Facebook**


NAF2
NORTH AMERICA
FOOD & FARM PBC
BUILDING THE NEXT FOOD SYSTEM
ATLANTA
GEORGIA

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Date:	10/06/2026	**City Council Meeting Date:**	October 06, 2026
Goal:	DDA Appointment of Members	**Presenter:**	Thatcher Hart, Community Development Director
Agenda Title:	**Discussion/Action Item: Reappointment of Downtown Development Authority Board Members**		

Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):

The terms of the following Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board members expired on May 3, 2026:

Carl Wright
Robert Witherspoon
Sarah Hage

The DDA Board has recommended the reappointment of these members to the Downtown Development Authority.

The proposed new terms will expire on May 3, 2030.

Staff Recommendations (Motion):

Mayor and Council are requested to consider the reappointment of:
1. **Carl Wright**
2. **Robert Witherspoon**
3. **Sarah Hage**

to the Downtown Development Authority for terms expiring May 3, 2030, and take appropriate action.

Mayor's Signature Required:	NO	NO

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Budget Amendment	City Manager's Initials
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Date:	10/06/2026	**City Council Meeting Date:**	October 06, 2026
Goal:	Local Government	**Presenter:**	CM Ryan Smith
Agenda Title:	**Discussion/Action Item: Council to consider an increase of the Hotel/Motel Tax from 5% to 8%**		

Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):
The current Hotel/Motel tax rate for the City of Stone Mountain is 5%

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
Mayor and Council are requested to consider an increase from 5% to 8% /or no increase of the Hotel/Motel Tax for the City of Stone Mountain

Mayor's Signature Required:	NO	NO

Budgeted Yes/No	**Fund Name & Code**	**Current Balance**	**Requested Budget Amendment**	**City Manager's Initials**
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD

MEMORANDUM

To: Miglena Dimov

From: Cullen B. Threlkeld

Re: 8% Hotel-Motel Tax

Date: September 13, 2026

Question:

If the City chooses to increase the Hotel-Motel Excise Tax from 5% to 8%, what procedure would the City need to follow?

Analysis:

The City currently levies a 5% tax and contracts with the DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. ("the Bureau") to expend the required statutory amounts.[1] For the City to levy an 8% tax, it must be authorized by a Local Act of the General Assembly. O.C.G.A. § 48-13-51(b). The specific procedure is as follows:

Step 1: The City must adopt a resolution specifying (a) the intended tax rate of 8%; (b) identifying the tourism product development purposes it will benefit[2]; and (c) identifying the anticipated allocation of the proceeds

Step 2: The City must arrange for a Local Act to be introduced in the General Assembly.

Step 3: Before the introduction of the Local Act, the City must run a legal ad at least 60 days before the first day of the session or during the session. The ad cannot run in the same calendar week the Local Act is introduced.

Step 4: The Local Act must contain the required language from O.C.G.A. § 48-13-51(b)(5).

Step 5: After the effective date of the Local Act, the City must terminate the 5% levy and institute the 8% levy via Ordinance.

Step 6: The effective date of the 8% rate can be no sooner than the first day of the second month following the effective date of the Ordinance.

Step 7: The City may continue expending the proceeds of the tax through its existing contract, but before the next fiscal year, the City must adopt a budget plan for the

[1] For a 5% rate, Georgia law requires the contracting private non-profit to expend amounts equal to at least the amount of money that would be collected under a 3% rate. O.C.G.A. § 48-13-51(a)(3).

[2] These specified purposes can simply be the list of purposes outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-13-50.2(6).

expenditure of the anticipated funds and that plan must include a budget plan from the contracting party (here, the Bureau).

The City of Stonecrest passed an 8% rate in 2019, and its resolution, Local Act, and ordinance provides an example of the timeline for this process.[3] Stonecrest passed its resolution on February 25, 2019. The Local Act was introduced on March 4, 2019. The Local Act was passed and finally signed by the Governor on April 30, 2019. Stonecrest passed their new Ordinance on July 22, 2019.

Conclusion:

The City must wait until closer to the start of the next legislative session before passing an authorizing resolution and running a legal ad for the anticipated Local Act. In the meantime, the City should arrange for a member of the House to introduce the Local Act. The City should also contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel to get a form legal ad (the Office has a preferred legal ad for Local Acts). The City may also wish to discuss the budget plan for an 8% rate with the Bureau. That budget plan would be needed for the subsequent fiscal year.

[3] A copy of the Local Act and the relevant ordinance provisions is attached as Exhibit A as an example.

Exhibit “A”

House Bill 563 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Carter of the 92nd, Jones of the 91st, Bennett of the 94th, Kendrick of the 93rd, Stephenson of the 90th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To authorize the governing authority of the City of Stonecrest to levy an excise tax pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A.; to provide procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Pursuant to the authority of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A., the governing authority of the City of Stonecrest is authorized to levy an excise tax at a rate not to exceed 8 percent of the charge for the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly or periodically furnished for value.

SECTION 2.

The enactment of this Act is subsequent to the adoption of a resolution by the governing authority of the City of Stonecrest on February 25, 2019, which specifies the subsequent tax rate, identifies the projects or tourism product development purposes, and specifies the allocation of proceeds.

SECTION 3.

In accordance with the terms of such resolution adopted by the mayor and council of the City of Stonecrest:

(1) In each fiscal year during which a tax is collected pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A., an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the total amount of taxes collected that exceeds the amount of taxes

that would be collected at the rate of 5 percent shall be expended for promoting tourism, conventions, and trade shows by the destination marketing organization designated by the City of Stonecrest; and

(2) The remaining amount of taxes collected that exceeds the amount of taxes that would be collected at the rate of 5 percent which is not otherwise expended under paragraph (1) of this section shall be expended for tourism product development.

SECTION 4.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
From:	City Manager	**Department:**	Administration
Goal:	Governance, Economic Development	**Presenter:**	Maggie Dimov, City Manager
Agenda Title:	Resolution 2026-21 - LWCF Grant Acceptance (VFW Park), requested by City Manager Maggie Dimov. Goal - Quality of Life, Governance		

Workplan Goal Details:
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):

Staff Recommendations (Motion):
Staff recommends the following: Approval of the Resolution.

City Manager Approval:	**Miglena Dimov**

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
1. Proposed Resolution

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
N/A				

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DEKALB

RESOLUTION 2026-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA, REGARDING THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) GRANT

WHEREAS, at the regular meeting of City of Stone Mountain in Dekalb County, Georgia, held on October 6, 2026, a motion was made and duly seconded that the City of Stone Mountain agrees to submit a Pre-application for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The City of Stone Mountain further agrees that in the event the City of Stone Mountain's pre-application is recommended for funding by the Department of Natural Resources, the City of Stone Mountain certifies and assures that it has the ability and intention to finance their 50 percent of the total project cost and will move forward with due diligence to prepare, or have prepared, appropriate documentation required for a formal LWCF application.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia, that the City authorizes the submission of an LWCF pre-application for VFW Park and authorizes the appropriate City officials to execute and submit documents necessary to pursue the grant opportunity.

SO RESOLVED this 6th day of October, 2026.

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORIGA

_____
Jelani Linder, Mayor

_____
Shavala Ames, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Angela C. Couch, City Attorney

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

		City Council Meeting Date:	October 6, 2026
Goal:	Governance	**Requested by:**	City Attorney
Agenda Title:	**Executive Session: Personnel, Real Estate, and/or Litigation**		

Workplan Goal Details:
Agenda Item Description (Background/History/Details):

Staff Recommendations (Motion):

Mayor's Signature Required:	YES	NO

List Attachments:
No Supporting Documentation

Financial Information (MUST BE COMPLETE & PRE-APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER)

Budgeted Yes/No	Fund Name & Code	Current Balance	Requested Allocation	City Manager's Initials
No	N/A	N/A	N/A	MD