Mayor and City Council Regular Session



Tuesday, September 02, 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: Maggie Dimov - Interim City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | 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

- 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 August 19, 2025 City Council Minutes

VI. Reading of Communications - From Truist Attorney Jena Bost and DDA Attorney Kyle Wiliams to City Attorney Couch

VII. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

VIII. City Manager's Report

1. Operations Report - Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov

IX. Council Policy Discussion Topics

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

- Consideration of an action on a request to appoint a hearing panel and a city attorney for the case regarding the removal of Mayor Beverly Jones
- Consideration of an action on a request to approve the Lawn concept design, presented by Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov
- 3. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint Denise Phillips to the Ethics Board, requested by Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith
- 4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve a Forensic Audit, requested by Mayor Beverly Jones
- 5. Consideration of an action on a request to approve an emergency purchase of Axon body cameras, requested by Chief James Westerfield

XII. New Ordinances and Resolutions

- 1. Ordinance 2025-06 Amend Employee Personnel Policies Ordinance
- Resolution 2025-24 Authorize Interim City Manager to Execute Enterprise Fleet Management Agreements

XIII. Remarks of Privilege

XIV. Announcements by The Mayor

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

1. Litigation, Personnel

XVI. Adjournment

File Attachments for Item:

1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve August 19, 2025 City Council Minutes

Mayor and City Council Work Session

Tuesday, August 19, 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: Maggie Dimov – Interim City Manager/Economic Development Director/DDA | Shavala Ames - City Clerk | Angela Couch - City Attorney

Call to Order

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Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

II. Determination of Quorum

PRESENT: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman (absent at the beginning of the meeting, later arrived at the beginning of Executive Session), Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe, Mayor Beverly Jones

III. Invocation and Pledge

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

IV. Citizen Comments – Including comments from public/stakeholders

Citizen Comment 1: Dave Thomas – discussed disappointment in the investigation – removable does not seem justifiable, maybe consider a censure instead; Mayor should own up and make a public apology; mentioned an ethics claim.

Citizen Comment 2: Carl Wright - investigation shed a light on the Mayor - many inconsistencies and many different statements.

Citizen Comment 3: Joyce Thomas – rise up, it is time to use your outside voice; with the circumstances surrounding the Mayor's banking improprieties, it is time to speak up; Mayor's comment said it was not her intention to defraud and she was looking out for the safety of the city's accounts; even if it was a mistake, the Mayor offered no apology; there are claims of a hunt against; the Mayor's intention is not an excuse; when the bank made contact, did the Mayor contact City Attorney or other council; if old names were on the account for years, why was it all of a sudden an emergency; the Mayor's role requires her to be better; many unanswered questions and glossed over comments.

Citizen Comment 4: Mark Keaton - discussed restrooms next to city hall with a few people, over the last 9 months - talked with previous City Manager and Police Chief, the bushes create a hiding spot – people hanging out all times of night; lack of maintenance; restrooms need to be closed at dusk as noticed.

Citizen Comment 5: Cheryl Dudley – so called investigation – a real investigation is not done by an attorney with no government experience; more so a case of public opinion in a news magazine before a person has due process; there was no malfeasance or malpractice done; someone needs to investigate the City – money is missing, \$800,000 on bathrooms for work that was not done; need to investigate the council members as a whole; the investigation is on time with the elections.

Citizen Comment 6: Joan Monroe – who chose to run the political witch hunt; four to two to takeover and supply the media with lies; four to two means no truth or representation of the citizens - fear or wish to overthrow; a cover up of misappropriated funds; where is the \$800,000; ARPA funds are gone; finance person testified money was mishandled – that's crime; cavalier attitude towards money, safety, and quality of life; write and pass unconstitutional rules for political gain; a statement by county officials for an emergency situation was ignored; there are no crime reports; Interim City Manager spends money for jobs the City Manager is supposed to be doing; hired an advisor who had an illegal real estate deal; investigator appears to be a real estate attorney; good old boy advisor spent time in prison; fraud and lies in the same ball park; where is our money; there was no forensic audit; lie about decent people; felons should not be advisors in the city; diversion for greedy influencers; want real estate developers, crooks, and felons to run.

Citizen Comment 7: Ms. Thomas – pledge of allegiance equal justice for all - no; he without sin cast the first stone John 8:7; discussed the story of a woman who died by jumping in the river to save her child; council is supposed to protect residents; the mayor protects as a City; bank accounts – nobody said a word for nine months; Mayor put the City first; City Council Bass, Smith, Crowe voted the City Manager as interim and final – did he ever say anything; incompetence of previous City Manager Edmondson; who is responsible for keys and bank when employees leave; why four council members keep rewriting the laws; who swore the statements of the investigator; was told by City Management to have a sworn oath for an ethics complaint through email; citizens paid an auditor to do investigation with no sworn oaths; citizens got a copy of the investigation from the media; Mayor Pro Tem influenced the outcome of the investigation.

Citizen Comment 8: Sherrica Freeman – mentioned of being a local activist; came today for truth telling; because this is a shadow council, this is a sundown town; the members of this community have had an infiltrated city council; unelected members making lots of opinions – shaping opinions; real estate investors that have something to gain – conflicts of interest; there has been a minority of racists running Stone Mountain for a long time – time is up; sat for 20 years with a Mayor who did nothing; she was a white woman and everyone was satisfied – nobody complained; the moment Dr. Beverly Jones was elected, it is a problem; police was flying down the street for voter suppression; this has been a witch hunt; what the council wants to happen is that the whole council is white; people are upset that a black woman is the Mayor of Stone Mountain; this is a kangaroo court – somebody investigating that knows nothing about what to do; what are the credentials of the investigator; city charter needs to be fixed; just make it up as you go; going to end up with serious problems; looks like a circus; white supremacy is over; mostly are politically motivated; real estate deals are going to fail.

Citizen Comment 9: Vanessa Walls – was not going to speak but it is saddening as a city – there is so much division taking place; with this investigation, the Mayor violated the city charter; moments like this can create division in the community - with division no one is a winner; it is not about tearing anyone down; when the charter is violated, trust is broken; without trust we cannot move forward together; we can confront the truth with accountability; the community deserves leaders who follow the rules; need to start the healing process; talked about in cities all over; put personalities and differences aside and do what is best for the city.

Citizen Comment 10: C Monroe – incomplete report delivered by so called investigation proves and confirms nothing – rushed judgement; the four who voted for the investigation have something to gain to remove the elected Mayor; wait until November to let the people decide the Mayor; auditor stated no fraud detected – worse there are not looking fraud; fraud investigation has been ignored by the phony four elected to council; witch hunt is designed to smear the Mayor – that brings us all down to the same low bar; confirmation bias is what some people are suffering from

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on council; wasting money on a smear campaign against the Mayor; if we don't start healing and come to an agreement, the city will be in the paper for years; you got to prove a case and this case is not provable - no cause of action; city's restrooms are still not open - they are locked.

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Citizen Comment 11: Reverend Orea Parker – enough is enough – what are we to gain; why is money being spent pursuing the issue with the Mayor; should be focused on more pressing matters such as infrastructure and water issues; should focus on the contracts and the restrooms; yet talks are happening for money that was not taken; where is transparency; what about having an audit to investigate everything; hate does not profit; someone has more power than you do. reap what you sow; time for the citizens to speak up; leaders have self-interest; develop is great and needs to be properly done.

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V. Review of the Journal (City Clerk)

118 119 Consideration of an action on a request to approve August 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes, requested by City Clerk Shavala Ames

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ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 5, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

122 123 124 Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

125 126 **Voting Yea:** Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

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

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VI. Reading of Communications

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VII. Adoption of The Agenda of The Day

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE 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 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

VIII. Committee Discussion Items

147 148 149 1. Stone Mountain Community Garden

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Columbus Brown gave details and updates on SMCG as outlined in the report provided. Mayor Jones inquired about food banks.

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2. Planning Commission - No updates Historic Preservation Commission

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Theresa Hamby – overview given on current cases. Mentioned Planning Manager Tamaya Huff has been helping out tremendously.

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3. Parks and Recreation Committee – No updates

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IX. Staff Reports

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

Police Chief Westerfield led a moment of silence in honor of fallen Officer David Rose and Detective Larry. Following the tribute, Chief Westerfield presented an overview of recent activity and crime statistics, as outlined in the agenda packet. During the report, Council Member Bryant inquired about active shooter preparedness, to which Chief Westerfield provided a brief overview of escape plans and active shooter protocols.

X. City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager – Maggie Dimov

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

Members of the governing body raised questions regarding the \$800,000 spent on restrooms, the paving of a cul-de-sac as part of the current paving project, parking at the Methodist Church, lighting on Main Street, and the contracts and invoices related to the restroom project. Interim City Manager Dimov provided feedback.

Investigation Update – Banking Allegations Against Mayor Jones – City Attorney Angela Couch

City Attorney Couch reported that the investigation findings had been provided, outlining the current status of the matter.

Members of the governing body engaged in a robust discussion, expressing concern and disappointment with the investigation. Consideration was also given to why not involve the GBI. Mayor Jones noted that the position authorizes a single signer and remarked on the unfortunate division within the city.

ACTION: MOTION TO INITIATE THE REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS OF MAYOR JONES FOR VIOLATION PURSUANT OF CITY CHARTER SECTION 2.32(6), SECTION 3.13, AND SECTION 2.29, VIOLATION OF OATH OF OFFICE, AND VIOLATION OF STATE LAW REGARDING THE DDA ACCOUNTS

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

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

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

MOTION PASSED

- **XI. Council Policy Discussion Topics**
- XII. Unfinished Business
- XIII. New Business
- 1. Consideration of an action on a request to approve an agreement with Sumter Consulting

It was recommended that a 30-day clause be included in the agreement. An inquiry was also made regarding the candidate designated to assist with the city's financial matters, specifically whether that individual would be virtual or in office.

<u>ACTION</u>: MOTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH SUMTER CONSULTING FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

Motion made by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Seconded by Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman

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

Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman was not present for the vote

MOTION PASSED

Consideration of an action on a request to approve a Subrecipient Agreement with Dekalb County for VFW Park improvements

<u>ACTION</u>: MOTION TO APPROVE A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH DEKALB COUNTY FOR VFW PARK IMPROVEMENTS

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

Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 6 Teresa Crowe

Voting Nay: Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith, Council Member Shawnette Bryant

MOTION PASSED

3. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the issuance of the proposed subpoena to Truist Bank for the provision of specified records as outlined

<u>ACTION</u>: MOTION TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROPOSED SUBPOENA TO TRUIST BANK FOR THE PROVISION OF SPECIFIED RECORDS AS OUTLINED

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

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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

4. Consideration of an action on a request to rename Mackin Street to William Woodson Morris Street

<u>ACTION</u>: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RENAMING OF MACKIN STREET TO WILLIAM WOODSON MORRIS STREET

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

5. Consideration of an action on a request to reallocate grant funds for Stone Mountain Elementary School's reading program

Mayor Jones expressed concern that all grant funds allocated to Stone Mountain Elementary Schodmay not have been utilized. Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov will review the funding and provide additional information. Mayor Jones recommended tabling the item until further details are available.

NO ACTION TAKEN

XIV. New Ordinances and Resolutions

1. Resolution 2025-3: Employee Benefits – Dental Insurance Revision

City Clerk Shavala Ames reviewed the resolution and reported that the current dental provider may be going out of network, making it difficult for employees to access local dental services. Given that the City already works with Cigna for healthcare, it was recommended that Cigna also provide dental coverage for City of Stone Mountain employees.

<u>ACTION</u>: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-23 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – DENTAL INSURANCE REVISION

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

XV. Executive Session

<u>ACTION:</u> MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:31 P.M. TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

Motion made by Council Member: Post 1 Anita Bass, Seconded by Council Member: Post 2 Mark Marianos

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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

<u>ACTION:</u> MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 10:08 PM

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

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

MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO RESPOND TO POTENTIAL LITIGATION THAT A PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER WILL NOT BE PROVIDED

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

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

Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor	Shavala Ames, City Clerk		
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MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)			
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	Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, Council Member: Post 4 Gil Freeman, Council Member:		
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XVI. Adjournment			
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Voting Nay: Council Member: Post 4	Gil Freeman, Council Member: Post 5 Shawnette Bryar		
	MOTION PASSED XVI. Adjournment ACTION: MOTION TO ADJOURN TH Motion made by Council Member: Pos Shawnette Bryant Voting Yea: Council Member: Post 1 Mayor Pro Tem: Post 3 Ryan Smith, C Post 5 Shawnette Bryant, Council Mer MOTION PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY)		

File Attachments for Item:

1. Operations Report - Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov





Operations Report

Presented by: Interim City Manager, Maggie Dimov **Time Period:** August 18th-September 2nd, 2025

The City Manager's Operations Report offers a comprehensive overview of key activities, upcoming projects, and community events that are helping to shape the future of Stone Mountain. The report highlights interdepartmental collaboration, ongoing infrastructure improvements, and strategic initiatives designed to enhance connectivity and strengthen community engagement. The information below reflects current operations and project updates across the City of Stone Mountain.

City Personnel

Employee Recognition Report / Scholarship Award

Ms. Shavala Ames, City Clerk for the City of Stone Mountain, has been awarded the Bill Cain Scholarship to attend the upcoming Georgia Clerks Education Institute 2025 Fall Conference in Athens, Georgia. Details:

The Georgia Municipal Clerk's Association (GMCA) has recognized Mrs. Ames's dedication to professional growth and public service by selecting her for this competitive scholarship. The award will support her attendance at the Fall Conference, an event known for its high-quality training and networking opportunities aimed at enhancing municipal governance through clerk educated

City Clerk

Department Head: Shavala Ames, City Clerk

JustFOIA

- (18) various requests completed (7) for the City Clerk's Office
- \$15.00 collected in ORR Revenue through online portal

Occupation Taxes/Alcohol Licenses

- (8) Business License renewals executed
- (2) code violations warnings requested delinquent excise tax reporting

Elections

• (11) candidates qualified during qualifying week

Code Enforcement

Department Head: T.D. Johnson, Code Enforcement Officer

- Code Issues addressed: 13 (Grass and weeds; junk vehicles; prohibited signage; building permit matters; prohibited tree removal and others).
- W/N Issued: 11 / Compliance Met: 7 (Grass and weeds; junk vehicles, open storage/debris; miscellaneous).
- Court Date: Aug 28, 2025; Total Court Cases Scheduled: 27

Public Works

Department Head: Johnathen Egglestone

- Plumbing at Public Parks: The plumbing at Medlock needs to be correctedthere is an issue with the lines that were installed when the renovation was completed.
- Mowing/Trimming: The generator at City Hall has been successfully
 installed. A planned power shut-off is scheduled for August 20th to conduct
 testing and ensure the generator is fully operational. This test has been
 coordinated and communicated with Georgia Power to minimize any
 disruptions and ensure a smooth process.
- Enterprise Vehicles: A conversation was held with Enterprise regarding the delivery timeline for the new vehicles. The Dump Truck (750) chassis and the flatbed are expected to arrive by October, or possibly earlier. The vehicles scheduled for disposal will be cleaned and prepared for transfer once a firm date for the new vehicle arrival is confirmed. Additionally, all tools and equipment will be removed from the vehicles prior to turnover.

Economic Development

Department Head: Maggie Dimov, Economic Development Director

• Final Concept Design for Lawn on Main Project:

The Lawn on Main project has reached an important milestone in its development. With strong emphasis on community engagement and inclusive planning, the City, working in collaboration with POND, has completed the final concept design that captures the vision and aspirations of our residents.

POND previously introduced two preliminary design concepts for community consideration. To promote transparent dialogue and meaningful participation, the City hosted three "Table Talks" public forums and distributed a city-wide survey. These outreach efforts gathered valuable input regarding preferred layout options and desired amenities.

Guided by the community feedback received, POND has refined and finalized the concept design for Lawn on Main. This updated plan reflects the community's collective voice and long-term vision for a vibrant and welcoming public space.

Next Steps:

City Council is being asked to review and approve the final concept design during tonight's meeting. If approved, POND will move forward with securing a detailed, third-party cost estimate. This estimate will be a key component in determining the financial feasibility and strategic planning of future phases of the project.

Capital Projects:

- Grant Award: The City of Stone Mountain has been awarded a \$75,000 grant through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The funding will be used to support the replacement of the HVAC system at City Hall, an initiative that aligns with the grant's focus on energy efficiency improvements.
 - To meet the grant deadline of December 31, 2025, the City plans to
 proceed with the HVAC replacement project, which was included in the
 original grant application. In accordance with grant guidelines, the
 project will follow all required procurement procedures and will focus
 on equipment that demonstrates measurable energy and cost savings.
 - Quotes are currently being gathered, and the City is working closely
 with GEFA to ensure compliance with all contract and reporting
 requirements. All work and invoicing under this grant must be
 completed before the end-of-year deadline.
- City Hall New Parking Lot: Project start estimated date: originally planned for August 2025, to be rescheduled to September 2025.
- SPLOST Street Paving project: The street paving project is actively progressing. The City continues to monitor the project closely to ensure timely and high-quality completion of all scheduled improvements.
- VFW: Council approved the proposed agreement with DeKalb County. The Stone Mountain VFW Park improvement project will consist of the renovation of the facility as well as the installation of a pavilion with lawn, new parking, and drainage improvements.

Storm Water

Department Head: Mike Vasquez, Stormwater Administrator

- McCurdy Park: The engineered plans, including stormwater profiles and specifications, have been submitted to the supplier. A quote for the required materials has been requested, and the City looks forward to proceeding with the equipment order upon receipt.
- Ridge Avenue Catch Basin Clean-Out: The Storm Water Administrator
 cleaned out the catch basin across from the Middle School on Ridge Avenue,
 removing debris and sediment. The basin was found to be crushed and in
 poor condition, and a full replacement is recommended to restore proper
 drainage.
- Ridge Avenue Sidewalk Back-Fill: a sidewalk back-fill operation was completed along Ridge Avenue, directly across from the Middle School. The work involved filling a section adjacent to the sidewalk to stabilize the area and prevent erosion. This back-fill helps improve pedestrian safety and supports more effective management of stormwater runoff in the area
- Oakridge Stormwater Pond Maintenance and Inspection: Vegetation within the Oakridge Stormwater Pond was cut back to allow for proper access and visibility. Following the clearing, an inspection of the Outlet Control Structure (O.C.S.) was conducted. The inspection revealed that the Principal Spillway pipe is significantly rusted along the bottom and requires replacement. The damaged section consists of approximately 20 feet of 36-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP).
- Vegetation Maintenance: Vegetation encroaching into the roadway along a
 section of Manor Drive was cut back to improve visibility and maintain safe
 traffic flow. Additionally, vegetation was trimmed and curb lines were
 cleared along Mimosa Drive, including the area across from the Middle
 School, to enhance drainage and overall roadside appearance.

Special Events

Department Head: Tiffany Christopher, Special Events Manager

• Event Planning Updates:

Caribbean Festival (09/20/2025): Continued efforts to gather vendors for the festival. Planning the lawn layout to accommodate booths and entertainment.

- Halloween Event (10/31/2025): Initial planning has begun, with early coordination efforts underway.
- Report on DeKalb Fire Department Visit to City Hall: Representatives from the DeKalb Fire Department visited City Hall to present the various public safety programs offered by their department. The primary focus of the visit was the Smoke Alarm Program, which aims to improve fire safety awareness and prevention throughout the community.

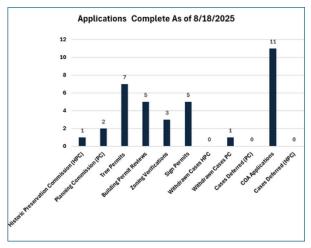
DeKalb County Fire Rescue's Public Education Unit provides a range of fire and life safety programs free of charge to the citizens of DeKalb County. Their fire safety educators conduct training sessions, deliver lectures, and perform fire safety demonstrations at elementary schools, homeowner associations, businesses, and senior centers.

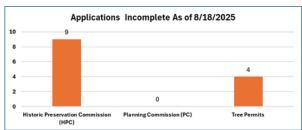
The presentation was well-received and serves as an important reminder of the resources available to residents to help protect themselves and their families from fire hazards.

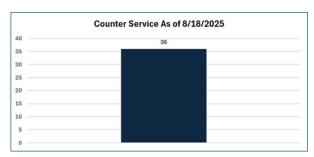
Planning Manager

Department Head: Tamaya Huff, Planning Manager

Planning and Development completed cases for the period 08/01 to 08/14:
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File Attachments for Item:

1. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint a hearing panel and a city attorney for the case regarding the removal of Mayor Beverly Jones



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 02, 2025

SUBJECT: Appoint Hearing Panel and Attorney - Removal Proceedings

Item: Action Item

Department: City Manager **Presented By**: City Attorney

Summary: At the August 19, 2025 city council meeting, an action was made to initiate the removal proceedings regarding Mayor Beverly Jones.

Per 2-135. Procedures for Removal of Officer: The following procedures shall be followed for the removal of an officer as specified in Section 5 .16 of the Charter:

- (a) Impartial Hearing Panel
- (1) The Panel shall be made up of three (3) members.
- (2) One member shall be the Chief Judge of the City's Municipal Court. If for some reason the Chief Judge is unable to serve, the Chief Judge shall appoint an individual who meets the qualifications as set forth in this Section. The Chief Judge or his/her appointee shall be paid the same rate as the current rate for the Chief Judge for Municipal Court appearances.
- (3) The remaining two members shall be appointed by a majority vote of Council.
- (4) In addition to the Chief Judge or his/her appointee, at least one member shall be a competent attorney at law in good standing with the Georgia Bar with at least seven (7) years' experience in the practice of law. Said member shall be paid the same hourly rate as that received by the City Attorney. This attorney shall not have represented the Mayor nor any individual Council Member in his/her personal business at any time. This attorney shall not be a current resident of the City of Stone Mountain. For purposes of this section, a resident of the City of Stone Mountain means either owning or renting real property in the City, where such property is the primary place of abode of said person; said person currently lives at such property on a regular, continuous basis; and said person has no present intention of leaving said abode.

Mayor Beverly Jones Nominee - Nadine Ali

Council Member Anita Bass - Erica Lewis

Council Member Mark Marianos Nominee - None

Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith Nominee – Virginia Townes

Council Member Gil Freeman – Teresa Hardy

Council Member Shawnette Bryant Nominee - Qunee Haile

Council Member Theresa Crowe Nominee - Karla Brown

Attorney Nominees:

Karla Brown

Direct: 678-881-1228

Email: karla.dolby@gmail.com

Abbott S. Hayes, Jr. Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar, LLP P.O. Box 1457 Gainesville, GA 30503

Direct: 470.703.0103 Office: 770.532.6312 Fax: 770.532.6822 ash@homlaw.com www.homlaw.com

Christopher D. Balch
Balch Law Group
830 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 510-220
Atlanta, GA 30316
404-202-5934
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www.balchlawgroup.com

Mary A. Prebula
Prebula Law LLC
5555 Glenridge Connector, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30342
(770) 495-9090
mprebula@prebulallc.com
www.prebulallc.com

Attachments/Exhibits: Resumes of Attorney, Oath to Serve

Requested Action: City Council to approve a hearing panel for the removal proceedings

STATE OF GEORGIA CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN

PROCEEDINGS TO REMOVE MAYOR DR. BEVERLY JONES

AGREEMENT TO SERVE **AND OATH**

	me is <u>Virginia Bullerman Townes</u> . I agree to the following:
1. _X	I have been provided a copy of the applicable Charter provision and ordinance of the City ne Mountain, Georgia regarding the removal of a City officer from office.
	I have been nominated by the Mayor or a member of City Council of the City of Stone tain, Georgia to serve as a member of the Impartial Hearing Panel regarding the Proceedings move Mayor Dr. Beverly Jones from the office of Mayor of the City of Stone Mountain, ia.
	If selected by the majority of City Council, I agree to serve as a member of the Impartial ag Panel, to follow all applicable laws and ordinances regarding the removal process, and to in an impartial manner.
4. busine	I have not represented the Mayor nor any individual Council Member in his/her personal ess at any time.
-	I am not a current resident of the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia. I do not own or rent operty in the City, where such property is my primary place of residence and/or where I live a property on a regular, continuous basis.
6.	My address is:
	3302 Springhouse Circle
	Stone Mountain, GA. 30087
7.	I live in _Dekalb County County.
8. nor the	I am not related by blood or marriage to the Mayor, any current member of City Council, e Chief Judge of the Stone Mountain Municipal Court.
9. Counc	I am not a current employee, contractor, or appointee of the City, the Mayor, or the City il.

- 10. I do not have a conflict of interest in serving on the Impartial Hearing Panel with respect to any dealings with Mayor Jones and/or the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia.
- 11. I am at least 21 years of age.
- 12. If I am being nominated for the attorney position on the panel, I am a competent attorney at law in good standing with the Georgia Bar with at least seven (7) years' experience in the practice of law.

I hereby swear or affirm that all statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further swear or affirm that if selected to serve, I will provide my opinion as a member of the Impartial Hearing Panel, according to the evidence presented to me, to the best of my skill and knowledge, without favor or affection to either party.

	J 1		
	Virginia Hostinas	08/26/2035	
SIGNATURE		DATE	

- (a) A councilmember, the mayor, or other appointed officers provided for in this charter shall be removed from office for any one or more of the causes provided in Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.
- (b) Removal of an officer pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be accomplished by a hearing at which an impartial panel shall render a decision. In the event an elected officer is sought to be removed by the action of the city council, such officer shall be entitled to a written notice specifying the ground or grounds for removal and to a public hearing which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such written notice. The city council shall provide by ordinance for the manner in which such hearings shall be held. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as provided in this section shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the city council to the Superior Court of DeKalb County. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules as govern appeals to the superior court from the probate court.

Rf gq gq qcargnl mdrf c Agrwnd Qml c Kmslr gl Af prep,

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN COUNTY OF DEKALB STATE OF GEORGIA

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN HEREBY ORDAINS

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN; TO CREATE SECTION 2-32; TO PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL OF AN ELECTED OFFICER OF THE CITY; TO PROVIDE FOR A HEARING, APPOINTMENT OF A HEARING PANEL, RULES OF EVIDENCE, HEARING PROCEDURES; TO REQUIRE WRITTEN DECISION; TO PROVIDE FOR AN APPEAL; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

- 1. **Chapter 2 Article II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Stone Mountain shall be amended by creating new section 2-135, to be entitled Procedures for Removal of Officer, and to provide as follows:
- **2-135. Procedures for Removal of Officer**: The following procedures shall be followed for the removal of an officer as specified in Section 5.16 of the Charter:
 - (a) Impartial Hearing Panel
 - (1) The Panel shall be made up of three (3) members.
 - One member shall be the Chief Judge of the City's Municipal Court. If for some reason the Chief Judge is unable to serve, the Chief Judge shall appoint an individual who meets the qualifications as set forth in this Section. The Chief Judge or his/her appointee shall be paid the same rate as the current rate for the Chief Judge for Municipal Court appearances.
 - (3) The remaining two members shall be appointed by a majority vote of Council.
 - (4) In addition to the Chief Judge or his/her appointee, at least one member shall be a competent attorney at law in good standing with the Georgia Bar with at least seven (7) years' experience in the practice of law. Said member shall be paid the same hourly rate as that received by the City Attorney. This attorney shall not have represented the Mayor nor any individual Council Member in his/her personal business at any time. This attorney shall not be a current resident of the City of Stone Mountain. For purposes of this section, a resident of the City of Stone Mountain means either owning or renting real property in the City, where such property is

- the primary place of abode of said person; said person currently lives at such property on a regular, continuous basis; and said person has no present intention of leaving said abode.
- (5) In addition to the Chief Judge or his/her appointee, the third member shall be a resident of DeKalb County, Georgia but not of the City of Stone Mountain. For purposes of this section, a resident of DeKalb County, Georgia means either owning or renting real property in DeKalb County, where such property is the primary place of abode of said person; said person currently lives at such property on a regular, continuous basis; and said person has no present intention of leaving said abode. A resident of the City of Stone Mountain means either owning or renting real property in the City, where such property is the primary place of abode of said person; said person currently lives at such property on a regular, continuous basis; and said person has no present intention of leaving said abode. Said member shall be paid the same rate as the current rate for a DeKalb County Grand Juror.
- (6) The person who is subject of the removal proceedings shall not serve on the panel.
- (7) Neither the Mayor nor a current member of City Council may be a member of the panel.
- (8) No member of the panel may be related by blood or marriage to the Mayor, any current member of City Council, nor the Chief Judge.
- (9) Except for the Chief Judge, no member of the panel may be a current employee, contractor, or appointee of the City, the Mayor, or the City Council.
- (10) Each member shall be impartial and shall have no conflict of interest with respect to the person subject of the removal proceedings.
- (11) Each member shall be at least 21 years of age.
- (12) Upon nomination to serve as a member of the panel, the nominee member must agree to serve and shall swear or affirm that s/he meets the applicable qualifications as set forth herein.
- (b) Commencement of Proceedings
 - (1) In order for removal proceedings to begin, there must be a majority vote of Council calling for the commencement of removal proceedings, identifying the person who is subject to removal, and stating at least one reason why such removal is being sought Such reason(s) for the removal must be one or more of the causes provided in Title 45 of the Georgia

Code or such other applicable laws. Such person subject of the removal proceedings shall be provided written notice specifying the reason(s) removal is being sought, and the City Clerk shall provide same within five (5) days of the commencement vote. The reason(s) why such removal is being sought is/are the only ground(s) upon which such person may be removed upon majority vote of the impartial hearing panel after the public hearing as set forth herein.

- Recognizing that the City Attorney has a conflict of interest in seeking removal of an elected or appointed official, City Council shall retain outside counsel to represent the City in the removal proceedings. Within ten (10) days of the commencement vote, the City Attorney shall submit in writing to the City Clerk the names of at least two possible candidates who have agreed that s/he would serve in the position of outside counsel representation in the removal proceedings. Said attorney shall be paid the same hourly rate as that received by the City Attorney. This attorney shall not have represented the Mayor nor any individual Council Member in his/her personal business at any time.
- (3) Within ten (10) days of the commencement vote, the Chief Judge shall affirm that s/he will serve on the impartial hearing panel or shall name his/her appointee.
- (4) Within ten (10) days of the commencement vote, the Mayor and each Council Member who desires to nominate a remaining member of the hearing panel shall submit in writing one name to the City Clerk.

 Therefore, there can be no more than seven (7) nominations for the two remaining panel members. This provision applies regardless of whether the Mayor or Council Member is subject of the removal proceedings.
- (5) The City Clerk shall place the names of the proposed outside counsel as the first agenda item to be voted on at the next regularly-scheduled meeting of City Council. The City Clerk shall place the names of the nominated panel members as the second agenda item to be voted on at the next regularly-scheduled meeting of City Council. The City Clerk shall provide each panel nominee's written agreement to serve and oath of qualifications in the agenda packet. Neither of these votes may be tabled or postponed to a future meeting.
- (6) In the event a majority of Council cannot agree on a proposed outside counsel to represent the City in the removal proceedings, the Chief Judge shall appoint said outside counsel.
- (c) Hearing Procedures

- (1) The Chief Judge or his/her appointee shall serve as presiding officer of the hearing. The Chief Judge or his/her appointee may issue subpoenas as may be requested by either the City or the person subject of the removal proceedings. Each side shall request no more than three (3) subpoenas.
- (2) The hearing shall be open to the public. Notice of the hearing shall be the same as that required for a regularly-schedule City Council meeting.
- (3) A majority of the hearing panel shall set the date, time, and location of the hearing. Said hearing shall take place inside the City limits of the City of Stone Mountain.
- (4) The person subject of the removal proceedings may hire private counsel but is not required to be represented by counsel at the hearing.
- (5) At least three (3) business days prior to the hearing, the City and the person subject of the removal proceedings shall provide to the Chief Judge or his/her appointee, as well as to the opposing party, a list of any witnesses the party intends to call at the hearing. The parties are not required to call any identified witness on such list, but any additional, unlisted witnesses will not be heard at the hearing, unless in the discretion of the Chief Judge or his/her appointee mitigating factors exist as to why each additional witness was not timely identified prior to the hearing. Where practicable, a copy of each exhibit to be identified or tendered at the hearing shall be furnished to the Chief Judge or his/her appointee, as well as to the opposing party at least 3 days before the hearing unless otherwise directed by the hearing officer. The Chief Judge be responsible for transmitting the witness lists and exhibits to the other hearing panel members.
- (6) The burden of proving the ground(s) specified in the notice shall be on the City. The burden of proof shall be by the preponderance of the evidence.
- (7) Each party shall have the right to give a brief opening statement, and then the parties shall be allowed to present their side of the matter, including submission of any documentary evidence and examination of any witnesses.
- (8) The Chief Judge or his/her appointee may apply the rules of evidence as applied in civil nonjury matters but shall, when necessary to ascertain facts not reasonably susceptible of proof under such rules, allow evidence not otherwise admissible thereunder if it is of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs or if it consists of documents relied upon by the City in the normal course of its business.
- (9) The Chief Judge or his/her appointee shall give effect to statutory presumptions and the rules of privilege recognized by law.

- (10) Whenever any oral testimony sought to be admitted is excluded by the Chief Judge or his/her appointee, the proponent of the testimony may make an offer of proof by means of a brief statement on the record describing the excluded testimony. Whenever any documentary or physical evidence or written testimony sought to be admitted is excluded, it shall remain a part of the record as an offer of proof.
- (11) The parties shall be allowed full and thorough cross examination of any witnesses.
- (12) As each witness is called, s/he will answer direct questions and then be subject to cross-examination from the other party. During the evidentiary presentation, the hearing panel members shall have the right to ask questions of the party currently presenting evidence, ask questions of the witnesses, and request clarification of certain points.
- (13) After the City has presented any evidence in rebuttal or waived the right to do so, each party shall have the right to give a brief closing argument as directed by the Chief Judge or his/her appointee.
- (14) The City shall provide for the transcription of the proceedings by a certified court reporter and shall bear costs of same.
- (d) Within 15 days after the completion of the hearing, the hearing panel shall make a written decision with findings and conclusions. The decision shall carry with a majority vote of the hearing panel members. The Chief Judge or his/her appointee shall deliver a copy of said written decision to the person subject of removal and to the counsel representing the City. Said counsel for the City shall then distribute said written decision to the Mayor and each Council Member.
- (e) Any appeal shall be as set forth in section 5.16 (b) of the City Charter and shall be pursued under the Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act, § 5-3-1 et seq.
- 2. **Repealer.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances that conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.
- 3. Severability. If any paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentence, clause, phrase, or any portion of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, or if the provisions of any part of this Ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the portions of this Ordinance not so held to be invalid, or the application of this Ordinance to other circumstances not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the City Council to provide separable and divisible parts, and it does hereby adopt any and all parts hereof as may not be held invalid for any reason.
- 4. This Ordinance shall become effective as provided by the Charter.

Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor

Shavala Ames, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Angela C. Couch City Attorney

Law firm partner with 30+ years of experience representing local governments and municipalities

Advise cities, school districts, and insurers, most recently serving as outside General Counsel to Brookhaven, the eleventh largest city in Georgia. Trusted advisor to professional managers, elected officials, department heads (HR, public works, and police), and boards and committees, providing guidance on risk management; strategic planning and development; budget, tax and fundraising; and policy options. Extensive experience serving on local boards and committees. Key offerings:

- Coalition Building: Identify challenges faced by local government, develop practical solutions and strategies, provide recommendations to stakeholders, and drive consensus. Experienced mediator skilled in facilitating resolution of departmental and employee disputes. Work with community leaders to resolve local issues. Communicate with elected officials on proposed legislation and obtain their support.
- Litigation: Advise senior leaders and elected officials as Litigation Counsel. Identify situations appropriate for early intervention and resolution to mitigate risks. Devise strategic litigation plans to effectuate client goals while effectively managing budget. Analyze complex questions related to coverage defenses and duties to defend and to indemnify. Counsel on contracts, intellectual property, land use and zoning proposals, Special Local Option Sales Tax allocation, and citizens claims. Tried 100+ jury trials to verdict.
- Local Government Representation: Counsel City and County clients on operations. Review, draft, and
 negotiate key contracts—including multimillion- and billion-dollar construction agreements—as part of
 city development plans. Provide advice during employee negotiations and supplier/customer negotiations.
 Interpret and advise on statutes, local codes and ordinances to effect client plans and proposals. Draft local
 legislation and ordinances as directed. Direct and conduct internal investigations. Reduce risk exposure by
 proactively developing policies and procedures
- Crisis Response and Investigations: Partner with city officials and consultants to develop public response
 strategy to issues raised by unexpected events. Work with local government leaders to quickly address
 concerns and deploy adequate resources. Investigate allegations of misfeasance or malfeasance in office by
 elected or appointed local government officials. Document investigations and provide detailed reports with
 recommended actions for based on facts. Balance necessary confidentiality of inquiry and public's right to
 know what is being done to respond to crisis.
- Management and Leadership: Direct and motivate team of professionals to accomplish organization
 goals. Provide training and mentorship to junior employees to further professional development. Implement
 processes and procedures for efficient handling of office and department workflow. Served as Board
 Member and Chair of several organizations, led Financial Responsibility Committee for Charitable Trust,
 and co-chaired and facilitated annual meetings.

Experience with highlights

Balch Law Group, Atlanta, Georgia, July 2008 – Present

Principal. Represent and counsel several counties, including Cobb, Sumter, and Fayette, and cities, including Atlanta and Union. Served as General Counsel for Brookhaven, Georgia's 11th largest city, for 7+ years. Lead litigation on stormwater, land use and zoning, employment, and governance matters. Counsel on development and project management related to land use regulations and design implementation. Conduct coverage analysis and interact with insurers on claimed losses. Select representative matters include:

• Contract negotiations: Negotiated \$45M Community Investment Agreement related to the construction of a \$1.5B hospital campus by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Inc. Negotiated and facilitated incentives for

- title project with the Atlanta Hawks Basketball club for the construction of a \$75 million practice and healthcare facility in conjunction with Emory University. Negotiated CMAR contract for construction of new city hall. Negotiated resolution to contract dispute with builder over public construction project.
- **M&A**: Led and directed property acquisition for large linear multi-use path to connect to Atlanta Beltline; Negotiated and led effort for annexation of large residential and commercial areas for city.
- **Litigation:** Successfully led effort to close problem nighttime entertainment venue with multiple violations of city ordinances. Defended city sexually oriented business ordinance from facial and as-applied challenges by shop owner. Obtained favorable Court of Appeals opinions upholding Council decision to bar rock crushing operation from residential area of City. Led coverage analysis and litigation for clients whose insurers had denied coverage for claim.
- Ordinance and Statute Crafting: Prepare and draft ordinances to give legal effect to policy initiatives of local government. Draft local legislation for passage by the General Assembly to authorize city initiatives. Testify before General Assembly on bills under consideration that would limit local government autonomy. Present legislative initiatives before Councils and Commissions summarizing terms and conditions and explaining enforcement.
- Georgia Super Lawyer, 2021-2025 Local Government Counsel

Jarrard & Davis, LLP, Cumming, GA, February 2007–June 2008

Of Counsel. Served as Senior Litigation Counsel across broad range of litigated matters involving local government, including land use, Special Local Option Sales Tax allocation, and citizens claims

- **Litigation:** Lead Litigation Counsel for local government boutique representing counties across North Georgia. Successfully led pre-election challenge to SPLOST vote preserving rights of County Commissioners to set agenda for county tax initiative. Obtained sole defense verdict in favor of police executive in multi-defendant trial alleging 1st Amendment political retaliation by county sheriff.
- Investigations: Directed and conducted internal employment investigations
- Management and Supervision: Directed litigation team involving contract disputes, intellectual property, and employment matters. Supervised and reviewed staff. Managed budget

Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, Atlanta, GA, 1996–2007

Partner. Promoted to partner in 2001. Acted as lead litigation and trial counsel in insurance coverage disputes, intellectual property, civil rights and employment matters, and serious personal injury and death claims

- **Litigation:** Managed active litigation case load of 100+ files through discovery and trial. Successfully represented Ebenezer Baptist Church in litigation resulting in a finding of no liability prior to trial. Resolved bad faith insurance claim based on misfeasance by Third Party Administrator for 60% of damages reserves.
- Insurance Coverage Analysis: Provided coverage analysis to clients in complex liability claims and
- **Special Appointments:** Appointed Special Assistant Attorney General by Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker to lead prison litigation response on behalf of Department of Corrections
- Management and Supervision: Directed and supervised team of lawyers and paraprofessionals in successful management of litigation practice. Established and led formal training program for associates. Revised and amended discrimination and harassment policy for law firm.
- Martindale Hubbel AV Rating, 2002

Associate, Chambless, Higdon & Carson, Macon, GA, 1994–1996

Associate. Managed general litigation caseload of more than 100 active cases

- Interacted with clients in dispute resolution, including mediations, litigation, and investigations
- Appeared as lead or secondary counsel in state and Federal Courts, including Appellate Courts

The Honorable Duross Fitzpatrick, U.S. District Court, Macon, GA, 1992–1994

Law Clerk. Assisted Federal Court Trial Judge with rulings on motions to ensure risk of error was reduced insofar as possible

- Prepared jury charges for civil and criminal trials, including drug possession and distribution, sentencing issues, fraud, UCC, slip and falls, employment discrimination, and excessive force by police officers
- Drafted over 800 Orders for Court consideration in 2 years

U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA • Active Duty 1986–1989 • Reserves 1989-1993

- Served as noncommissioned officer in charge of office providing legal services to logistical support command for the First Marine Division
- Awarded Navy Achievement Medal for Professional Accomplishments on Active Duty, 1989
- Awarded Good Conduct Medal (1989 and 1992)

COURT AND BAR MEMBERSHIPS

- U.S. Supreme Court, 1999
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, 1994
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, 2019
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, 1994
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, 1992
- Georgia Supreme Court, 1992
- Georgia Court of Appeals, 1992
- Georgia Trial Courts, 1992
- State Bar of Georgia, 1992

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Municipal Lawyers Association, 2015-present. Marvin J. Glink Award for Outstanding Private Practice Local Government Attorney (2022); Local Government Fellow (2018 to present); Georgia State Chair (2017-2019, 2024 to present); Small and Rural Community Committee Co-Chair (2018-19); 2019 Annual Conference Host Committee; Board of Directors (2019-2023); Amicus Award for Brief in Smart v. City of Wichita, 951 F.3d 1161 (10th Cir. 2020), Case No. 18-3242 United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit (2020). Defense Research Institute, 1997-2022. Governmental Liability Committee, Publications Chair (2004–2006, 2020-2021), Web Page Chair (1997–2004); Employment Law Committee; Trial Tactics Committee- Membership Chair (2004–2006), Liaison to Annual Meeting Steering Committee (2007), Complex Medicine Seminar Steering Committee (2005-2006); Annual Meeting Presentation on Risks of Cyber Evidence for Governmental Clients (2020).

State Bar of Georgia, 1992 to Present; Member, Local Government Committee, Secretary Treasurer 2024 to present); Appointed to Task Force on Lawyer Liability Insurance (2019); Chair, Intrastate Moot Court Competition (1998-2000)

Georgia Municipal Association, (2015 to 2023; 2025 to present); City Attorney Section, Vice Chair (2018-2019), Chair (2019-2020), Board of Directors (2019-2020), Ad hoc Committee on Telecommunications Legislation American Bar Association, 1994–2023; Member State and Local Government Committee Lawyers Club of Atlanta (2018 to present); Membership Committee (2019 to present).

Marine Corps Association of Georgia Lawyers, 1997 to present; Chair, 1999, 2001, Board of Directors 2019 to Present

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- Ethics in local government representation, International Municipal Lawyers Association, Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, September 2024.
- Ethics in Multi-Party litigation: A case study of misapplied standards, Georgia Institute of Continuing Education, City and County Attorney Institute, Athens, GA September 2024.
- Drones as First Responders: New Technology and New Privacy Concerns, International Municipal Lawyer's Association Mid-Year Seminar, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC April 2023 & Annual Meeting, LaQuinta Resort, Palm Springs, CA September 2023

- Model City Charters, Improvements and Changes: The National Civic League's 9th Model Charter, International Municipal Lawyers Association Mid-Year Seminar, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC April 2022
- The 19th Century meets the 21st: Qualified Immunity and Current Jurisprudence, International Municipal Lawyers Association, Virtual Conference, April 2021
- Local Jails and Sexual Identity: Managing the transgender incarceree, Governmental Liability Seminar, Defense Research Institute, Nashville, TN, August 2021
- Investigations in the Time of Social Media, Defense Research Institute Virtual Annual Meeting, October 2020
- Problem Elected Officials: What to say when you don't know what to say, Kansas League of Municipalities, Virtual Annual Meeting, June 2020
- Advanced Topics for Local Government Regulation of Small Cell Wireless Deployment, NBI, Atlanta, GA November 2019
- First Amendment and Local Government: A primer for local government officials, South Dakota Municipal League, Aberdeen South Dakota, October 2019
- Legal Issues for Artists: How to make a living while covering your a\$\$, Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, May 2011
- Leadership from the City Attorney's Chair, International Municipal Lawyers Association 83d Annual Conference, Houston Texas, October 17-20
- Appellate Practice for the Local Government Lawyer, Moderator of Panel of Judges from the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court, City and County Attorney Institute, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Athens, Georgia, September 2018
- The Good, the Bad & the Ugly: Hiring and Supervising Outside Counsel for the Local Government Lawyer, International Municipal Lawyers Association 82d Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls, ON, October 16-19, 2017
- Small Cell Regulation for Georgia Cities and Counties, City Attorney's Section Annual Meeting, Georgia Municipal Association, Savannah, Georgia (June 2017), City & County Attorney Institute, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Athens, Georgia (September 2017)
- Amateur Radio Towers and Local Government Regulation: The Federal Thumb on the Scales, Gwinnett County Amateur Radio Society, Lawrenceville, GA 2014, Alford Memorial Radio Club, Stone Mountain, GA, 2014, Sawnee Amateur Radio Association, Cumming, GA 2014, Southeastern DX Club, Atlanta, GA 2014; Huntsville Hamfest, Huntsville, AL August 2014
- Crisis Management in YouTube and CNN World, City and County Attorney's Institute, Institute for Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, Athens, Georgia 2011
- Electronic Discovery: The Amended Federal Rules and Strategies for Litigation, Insurance Law Institute, St. Simons Island, GA September 2007
- Lessons for Trial from Children's Stories: Winnie the Pooh as a Trial Lawyer, Ohio Association of Civil Defense Lawyers, Dayton, OH, May 2006

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Litigating Cases involving Transgender Inmates, Municipal Lawyer (Sep/Oct 2021)
- Cross-examination of the Plaintiff Damages Expert, For the Defense (June 2021)
- Arguments for Qualified Immunity, CO Researcher (30:36 Oct. 9, 2020)
- Crisis and the Constitution: Governing in a Global Pandemic, Municipal Lawyer (Sep/Oct 2020)
- Handling the Difficult Elected Official: A primer for local government counsel, Municipal Lawyer (Mar. 2019)
- Defending Land Use Cases When the Elected Official is the Problem, 61 For the Defense 8 (Feb. 2019)
- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Hiring and Supervising Outside Council for Local Government Lawyers, Municipal Lawyer 12 (Jan/Feb 2018)
- Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 68: An Underutilized Mechanism of Settlement, 46 For the Defense 38 (2004)
- Is There Hope After Hope? Qualified Immunity in the Eleventh Circuit, 54 Mercer L. Rev. 1293 (2003)
- The Art of War and the Art of Trial Advocacy: Is There Common Ground? 42 Mercer L. Rev. 861 (1991)

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, cum laude, Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University, Macon, GA, 1992. Top 10% of Class, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society; Brainerd Currie Honor Society; Order of Barristers; Mercer Law Review, 1990–1992; Moot Court Board 1991; Best Oral Advocate Team, Florida Institute of Worker's Compensation, Orlando, Florida 1991.

Bachelor of Arts, History, 1985, University of Tennessee, Knoxville Section leader, Pride of the Southland Marching Band, and UT Concert Band

COMMUNITY and VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Successful service as Board Member and Chair of Substantive Committees for International Arts Organization Lead Financial Responsibility Committee for Leach Charitable Trust, St. Ives, Cornwall, UK in managing £6.9M government grant

Fulton County Board of Commissioners Appointment 2020 to 2022.

Chair, Board of Commissioners Election Task Force—Charged with a detailed and comprehensive investigation into the work and decisions of the Fulton County Board of Elections, recommend changes to the Board, and address allegations of Voter Suppression by Local Board of Elections

City of Atlanta City Council Appointment, 2014-2020

- Proclamation by Atlanta City Council honoring individual service to the City, Veterans Day, November 11, 2020
- Inaugural Member, City of Atlanta Veterans Commission
- Elected First Chair of the Veterans Commission
- Appointed by Council Members Carla Smith (District 1), Kwanza Hall (District 2), Ivory Young (District 3), Cleta Winslow (District 4), and Council Member at Large Michael Julian Bond (Post 1)
- Re-appointed for a second term
- Led effort to amend enabling legislation for Commission
- Led 1st Veterans Exposition sponsored by the City bringing together agencies and organizations from a broad spectrum to respond to needs of veterans and their families

Bernard Leach Charitable Trust, St. Ives, Cornwall, UK

- Elected to the Board of Trustees, 2021
- Appointed to the Finance Committee 2022
- Only US member of Board

Society of North American Goldsmiths, An international arts organization serving artists who work in nonferrous metals – 2016 to 2018

- Outside Member, Board of Directors
- Chair, Impact & Evaluation Committee of the Board
- Chair, Strategic Planning Committee of the Board
- Ad hoc Member of the Board Executive Committee
- Led revisions to and modernization of organization bylaws and Constitution, adopted 2017

RESUME OF ABBOTT S. HAYES, JR.

DATE OF BIRTH: Born Gainesville, Georgia, May 21, 1969.

EDUCATION: Gainesville High School, 1987.

University of Georgia, B.A. Degree, 1990.

University of Georgia School of Law, 1994.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Internships during Law School at Myers & Stroberg, Stewart, Melvin & Frost, Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar, and Hall County DA's Office, 1991-1994.

Law Clerk to Honorable Richard W. Story, 1994-1996.

Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar, 1996-present.

EXPERIENCE: Devoted primarily to the practice of local government law and business

litigation. Currently the primary attorney for Gainesville, Hoschton, and the Franklin County Industrial Building Authority, with history of representation of

other governmental entities including the cities of Braselton, Oakwood,

Dunwoody, Blairsville, Dawsonville, Maysville, and Lula, as well as Jackson, Fannin, and Towns counties. Also represents a variety of businesses in litigation matters, including SouthState Bank, Peach State Bank, and Southern First Bank.

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

President, Gainesville-Northeastern Bar Association, 2012-2013.

President, Wyc Orr Inn of Court, 2010-2011.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier Board, including service as President, Vice-President, Board Development Chair, Resource Development Chair, 1996-current.

Gainesville First United Methodist Church service as chair of Capital Campaign, Debt Campaign, Outreach Committee, and Evangelism Committee.

President, Gainesville High School Athletic Booster Club, 2013 - 2015.

Meals on Wheels volunteer, 2003-2020.

Hall County Mentor Program Board member, including service as President, 1995-2000.

Named Young Man of the Year for Gainesville/Hall County by Gainesville Jaycees, 2003-2004.

Kiwanis Youth Service Award winner, 2014.

Member of the State Bar of Georgia and the Gainesville-Northeastern Bar Association.



MARY A. PREBULA RESUME

PERSONAL:

Born Binghamton, New York Raised in Montrose, Pennsylvania, and Goldsboro, North Carolina.

LEGAL RATINGS & HONORS:

America's Most Honored Lawyers, TM American Registry 2021-present Georgia's Top Rated Lawyers TM

Tradition of Excellence Award 2013—State Bar of Georgia, General Practice & Trial Law Section

Martindale-Hubbell© Peer Review Ratings—AV Preeminent, the Highest Possible Rating Both Legal Ability & Ethical Standards

Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers--AV Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell (2011 Inaugural Ed.)

Super Lawyers TM
National Association of Family Lawyers, GeorgiaTop Ten 10
Gwinnett Pro Bono Project Award 1995 & 1996

EDUCATION:

Emory University, School of Law, J.D. 1984. University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 1977, M.Ed. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1974, B.A. Ed.

CAREER POSITIONS:

Prebula Law LLC (f/k/a Prebula & Associates LLC), Atlanta & Duluth, Georgia. President 1996 to Present.

Practice Areas: general civil litigation including commercial, business, real estate, ERISA, COBRA, personal injury, employment law, discrimination, probate, family law, general corporate law, wills and trust.

Gibson, Deal, Fletcher and Prebula, P.C., Norcross, Georgia, Member of the Firm 1993-1996. Practice Areas: general and complex civil litigation including commercial, business, interstate commerce, real estate, environmental, products liability, ERISA, personal injury as well as environmental regulation, family law and general corporate law.

Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, Atlanta, Georgia, Associate 1989-1993.

Practice Areas: general civil litigation including business, commercial, interstate commerce, real estate, environmental, products liability, and ERISA, environmental regulation and family law.

Hansell & Post, Atlanta, Georgia, Associate 1984-89 (merged into JDRP).

Practice Areas: general civil litigation including business, commercial, interstate commerce, real estate, environmental, products liability, and ERISA, as well as environmental regulation.

ADMITTED TO COURTS:

06/15/1984 Georgia State and Superior Courts

Supreme Court of Georgia Court of Appeals of Georgia

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia

11/20/1986-2021 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

09/25/1987 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

09/10/1992 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia

05/03/2010 U.S. Supreme Court

LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ABA Advisory Panel Member

Litigation Section 1990-Present

Pretrial Practice & Discovery Committee 1990-Present

Woman Advocate Committee 2022-Present'

Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law Section

1990-2006

Young Lawyers Division 1984-1990

Career Issues Committee 1990-1995

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

Formal Advisory Opinion Board 2014-Present

Chair 2022-present

Vice Chair 2019-2022

Board of Governors 1991-1995

General Practice and Trial Law Section

Chair 2007-2008

Board Member 2005-Present

Member 1984-Present

Chair, GPTS Annual Trial Institute 2008

Discovery of Electronically Stored Information Task Force

Chair 2014-2015

Member 2013-Present

E-Discovery Joint Task Force, State Bar of Georgia

and Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Member 2012-2014

Judicial Procedure & Uniform Rules Committee

Chair 2012-2013, 2023-2025

Co-Chair 2011-2012, 2014-2015, 2020-2022

Member 2010-Present

Subcommittee on Electronic-Discovery, Chair 2011-2012

Environmental Law Section 1987-2007

Programs Committee 1991-1992

Overview of the General Counsel's Office Committee 1997-1999

Co-Chair 1998-1999

Subcommittee on Ethics Hot Line, 1999-2000

Chair 1999

Subcommittee on Lawyer Discipline, 2000

Attorney-Client Relations Committee 1997-1998

Annual State Bar Meeting GAWL Program Committee 1992-1993,

Chair 1993

Local Bar Associations Committee 1991-1992

Committee to Examine the Role of Legal

Assistants 1991-1998, Chair 1993-1996

Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee

1991-1995, 1997-2000, Co-Chair 1997-1999

Institute of Trial Advocacy Committee

1990-1991

FELLOW: AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION

2016-Present

FELLOW: LAWYERS FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA

1999-Present

CHARTER LIFETIME FELLOW: ATLANTA BAR FOUNDATION

1999-Present

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

President 1990-1991

Treasurer 1989-1990

Executive Board 1989-1994

Annual State Bar Meeting Program Committee 1992-1993,

Chair 1993

Scholarship Committee 1992-1997

Founding Chair 1992-1993 Gubernatorial Forum Committee 1990 Judicial Selection Committee 1990-2000 Vice Chair 1992-1993 Member 1984-2000

GWINNETT COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Member 1993-Present
Pro Bono Committee
Chair 1999-2002
Law Day Committee 1995
Gwinnett Pro Bono Project Award 1995 & 1996

ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION

Member 1984-2013, 2015-Present
Litigation Section 1987-Present
Environmental Law Section 1992-Present
Atlanta Council for Younger Lawyers Section 1984-1990
Work Options Task Force 1989-1992,
Chair 1989-1990
Appellate Advocacy Competition, March 2001

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Emory Ambassador 2020-2022
Executive Committee, Member at Large 1993-1996
Nominating Committee for Law School
Executive Committee 1992-1993
Annual Law Firm Fund Raising Campaign

Chair 1992-1993 Steering Committee Member 1991-1992

GEORGIA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Member 1999-Present

GEORIGA NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Member 2000-Present

LAW RELATED EDUCATION CONSORTIUM CARL VINSON INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Executive Committee 1991-1993 Treasurer 1991-1993 Finance Committee 1992-1999 Member 1991-Present

SELECTED PUBLISHED WORKS and SPEECHES:

Her Story: The Resilient Woman Lawyer's Guide to Conquering Obstacles, Book 2, Author of Essay "Meeting and Overcoming Socioeconomic Barriers to Law Practice, American Bar Association (2024).

Georgia Procedure, Civil Procedure: Discovery, Pretrial Procedure and Conduct of Trial, Generally, Co-author, Lawyers Cooperative Publishing (2008 & 1995 Editions).

"Service is a Good Thing", American Bar Association, Women and the Law Committee, DLI-266528305v3 (2016)

"Discovery Issues and Social Media" General Practice and Trial Institute, State Bar of Georgia, St. Simons Island, Georgia (2017).

"Litigation Issues and E-Discovery: Holding Your Own With the Big Guns", General Practice and Trial Institute, State Bar of Georgia, Calloway Gardens, Georgia (2014).

"Selected Issues in E-Discovery", General Practice and Trial Institute, State Bar of Georgia, Amelia Island, FL (2012).

"E-Discovery for Small Firms", Solo and Small Firm Summer Seminar, State Bar of Georgia, Atlanta, GA (2012)

"Mediation Pointers", New Lawyers Seminar, State Bar of Georgia, ICLE (2011).

"E-Discovery Basics", General Practice and Trial Institute, State Bar of Georgia, Amelia Island, FL (2011).

"Electronic Discovery in Small Business Litigation", General Practice and Trial Institute, State Bar of Georgia, Amelia Island, FL (2010).

"Guidelines for Electronic Discovery, Parts 1 and 2", Gwinnett Bar Association Monthly Newsletter (April and May, 2010)

"Suggestions for Mediation of the Difficult Case: Kin Representation, Surveillance, Hotheads, and Other Challenges", and Speech, Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia (2008).

"Georgia Civil Procedure: General Provisions Governing Discovery, Requests for Admissions, and Considerations in Trial by Jury", Gwinnett County Bar Association Seminar Safari, The Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, East Africa (2007)

"Plaintiff's Civil Litigation," Civil Justice Panel, Justice Day, Leadership Gwinnett, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Speech (2001).

"Corporate Legal Matters," Gwinnett Charter Chapter, American Business Women's Association, Speech (1999)

"E[lecro] M[agnetic] F[requency] Litigation," Environmental Litigation Committee Newsletter, American Bar Association, Vol. 7, No. 1, at 6 (1995).

"EMF Litigation," Environmental Law Section Newsletter, State Bar of Georgia (Summer, 1994).

"New Developments in Georgia Environmental Laws and the Hazardous Site Inventory," and Speech, Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia (1994).

"Effective Use of Environmental Counsel in Bankruptcy Cases," JDRP Internal Publication, and Speech, Co-author (1992).

"Recent Environmental Developments of Interest," Newsletter, Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia (1992).

"The RCRA Penalty Policy and Pollution Prevention Projects," Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, and Speech, Co-author (1992).

"NPDES -- Water Permits and Toxic Control Program Under Sections 304 and 307 of the Clean Water Act," Industry Council on the Environment, Safety and Health, and Speech, Coauthor (1990).

"Right-to-Know Laws," Executive Enterprises, Inc., and Speech, Co-author(1990).

"Fiduciary Litigation Discovery: Practical Applications," Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Georgia, and Speech, Co-author (1990).

UNIVERSITY ACTVITIES AND HONORS

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Emory Law Journal, Managing Editor 1983-1984; Staff 1982-1983 American Jurisprudence Award-Contracts 1981 Emory University Scholarship 1981-1984 Moot Court Society 1982-1984 International Law Society 1982-1984 Environmental Law Society 1981-1984 Legal Association of Women Students 1982-1984 Vice President 1982-1983 Phi Delta Phi 1982-1984

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

Masters of Education Thesis 1977

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

UNC Parents' Council 2004-2008, Emeritus 2008-Present
UNC General Alumni Association 1975-Present
James M. Johnston Honors Scholar
Dean's List
Phi Mu Sorority
President of Pledge Class

National Scholarship Award Secretary of Residence College Association

OTHER HONORS

European Tour for International Understanding, 1970 North Carolina Representative, Tour sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS:

ATLANTA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOUNDATION

Contributor 2012-present

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Contributor, Cheers to Champions 2020-2022

AID TO AFRICA SCHOOLS 2007-2008

Privately organized project with my daughter to deliver school textbooks, supplies, clothing, medical supplies, and other needs to bush schools in Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa. Worked with local agencies to find schools in need and met teachers and students to deliver items. Worked with Delta Airlines to ship crates for free.

GWINNETT COUNTY LEGAL AID
Founder's Committee
Steering Committee
Member of its predecessor GWINNETT PRO BONO PROJECT
Participant 1993-Present

HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Coach, Wesleyan School, 2003-2007 Judge/Evaluator, 1991-2003

LEADERSHIP GWINNETT

Graduate 1995-1996

AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION 1994-2005

Woman of the Month 1999

Scholarship Committee Chair 1997-1998
Business Associate of the Year Committee 1994-1996,
Chair 1996
Public Service Awards Committee 1994-1996,
Chair 1996

DULUTH KIWANIS CLUB

Member 2000 – 2004 Committee on establishing Teen Court in Gwinnett County 2002-2003

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Organizer and Instructor for Woodward Academy North Mock Trial Program 1998-6th grade, 1995-3rd grade, 1994-2nd grade, 1993-1st grade

MOUNT PISGAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Member 1999-Present Chancel Choir 1999–2003, 2008 Costa Rica Missions 2006-2007 Finance Committee 2001–2002 Hospital Foundation Service Project 2001 Pro Bono legal services 1999-2010

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS DURING LEGAL CAREER:

- Represented gender discrimination claimant obtaining largest single gender discrimination verdict, including fees, of \$1.2 million in Middle District of Georgia.
- Handled employer claims against insurance broker, third party administrator, and excess loss carrier over non-payment and non-processing employer claims for medical care, related breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and other tort claims.
- --Jury verdict of just under \$1 million in claim by Homeowners against Home Owners Association for Quiet Title, Breach of Quiet Enjoyment, trespass, and punitive damages.
- Represented individual in nursing home and rebab facilities where facility sought to displace them with no safety care plan in place and successfully protected their interests, including during COVID.
- Represented numerous individuals in personal injury cases and nursing home cases, with favorable results.

- Represented Georgia corporations in responding to Department of Justice inquiries and subpoenas with regard to contracts for the rebuilding of Iraq.
- Represented Georgia corporate plaintiff against British conglomerate in a failed acquisition including breach of letter of intent and contract of sale, promissory estoppel, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud and other business torts.
- Represented corporation in case alleging conversion and breach of escrow contract, which resulted in jury verdict in excess of \$5.5 million.
- Successfully represented major processor of agricultural product in significantly reducing \$15 million penalty under improperly enacted regulations.
- Defended major HUD developer in dissolution and accounting of partnership and breach of fiduciary duty case.
- Title VII claims for sexual and racial discrimination and harassment, including successful representation of multiple plaintiffs against Georgia manufacturer for sexual discrimination, plaintiffs in religious discrimination cases, racial cases involving racial epithets, laborers in Fair Labor Standards Act cases.
- Domestic cases involving divorce, custody, division of marital assets, child support, contempt, grandparent custody, Family Violence Act claims, pre-nuptial agreement drafting and litigation, adoption, interstate custody, international custody, Hague Convention.
- Real estate breach of contract, negligent construction, landlord tenant issues...
- Wrongful death claim against major motor vehicle manufacturer for rollover of SUV.
- Employment litigation, including breach of contract, enforceability of covenants not to compete and not to solicit.
- Other litigation, including specific performance of a lease option to purchase realty; claims against insurer for benefits; violations of Fair Credit Reporting Act; defense of false arrest and malicious prosecution; defense of assault and battery; professional and medical malpractice, personal injury and wrongful death cases.
- Seminal ERISA case in Georgia establishing Top Hat Plan requirements and reclaiming a pension for a retiree whose pension was wrongfully eliminated.
- Recovering ERISA benefits for breast cancer patient whose benefits were denied as experimental and creating new settlement approach for insurer to pay provider and provider to refund to claimant so claimant received "whole" recovery or more than insurer paid.

- Litigation and pre-litigation involving Internet and computer issues, theft of computer data, drafting agreements regarding services by computer consultant.
- Responsible for National Environmental Policy Act issues arising in the Presidential Parkway Litigation.
- Represented former President Jimmy Carter and the Carter Library in the litigation concerning the Presidential Parkway.
- Advice regarding various corporate matters including incorporation, employee handbooks, shareholder agreements, trust agreements, non-profit corporations, negotiation of loan documents for multi-million dollar loans, representing multi-state corporations, procuring and coordinating out-of-state counsel, cyber-stalking, trademark and copyright violations via internet.
- Represented parents in international and interstate custody cases successfully recovering children.
- Estate and probate litigation matters including recovering abducted mother from another state who suffered from neglect.

File Attachments for Item:

2. Consideration of an action on a request to approve the Lawn concept design, presented by Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 02, 2025

SUBJECT: Lawn on Main / Concept Design

Item: Discussion /Action Item

Department: Economic Development

Presented By: Maggie Dimov, Interim City Manager

Summary:

POND previously developed two initial concept designs for Lawn on Main. To ensure meaningful community involvement, the City hosted three "Table Talks" public discussions and conducted a community-wide survey to gather resident input on layout preferences and desired amenities.

Based on the insights gathered, POND has now developed a final concept design that reflects the community's priorities and vision for the space.

Tonight, Council is asked to review and approve the final concept design. Upon approval, POND will proceed with developing a detailed cost estimate through a third-party analysis. This cost estimate will be essential for planning the next phases of the project in a fiscally responsible manner.

This has been a community-driven process from the start, and we remain committed to ensuring that Lawn on Main reflects the spirit and values of Stone Mountain.

Attachments/Exhibits: POND concept design.

Requested Action: Staff recommendation to Council is to review/approve the final concept design.





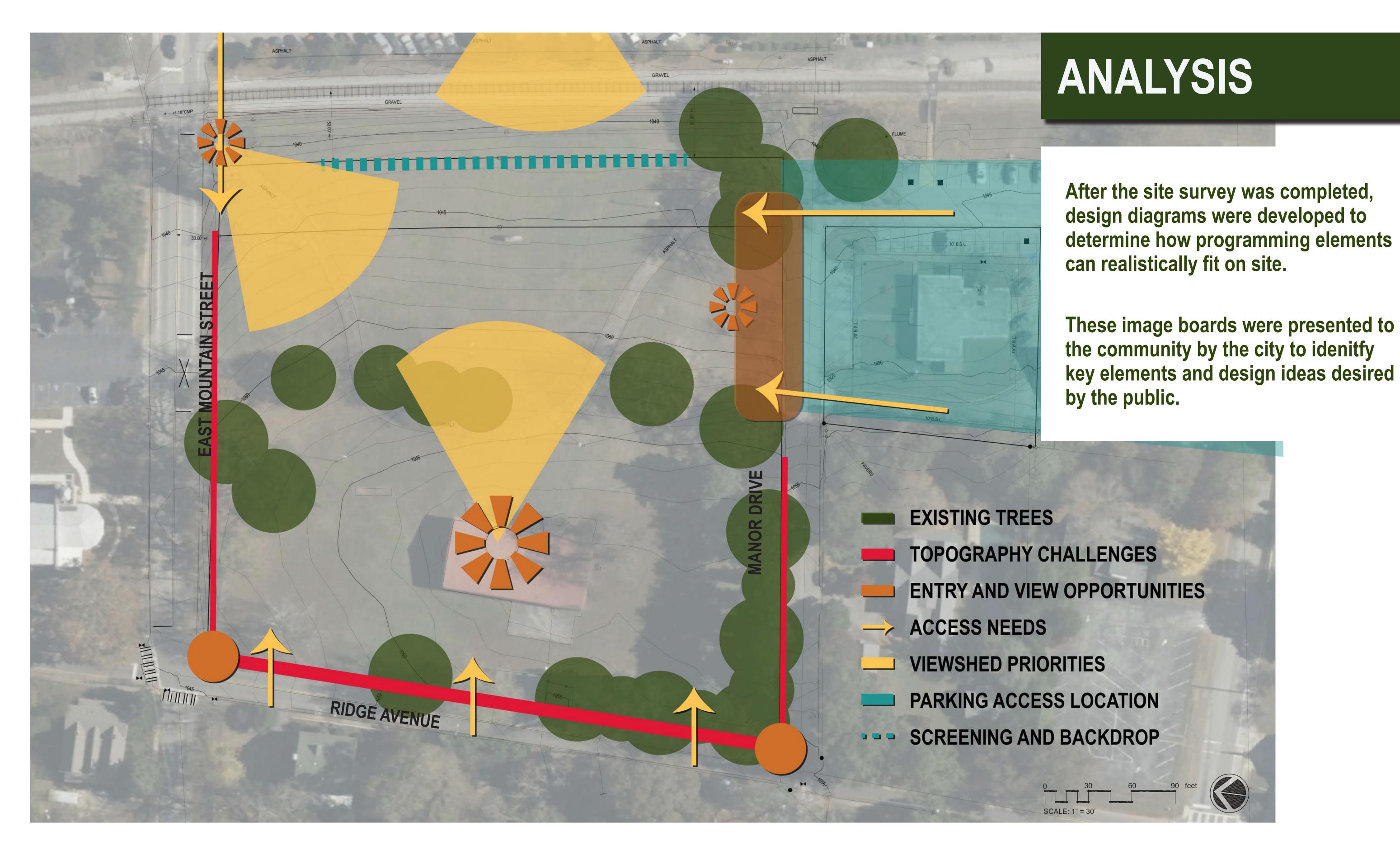
THE LAWN ON MAIN

A place to meet, make memories, and build community together

CONCEPT DESIGNALTERNATIVES

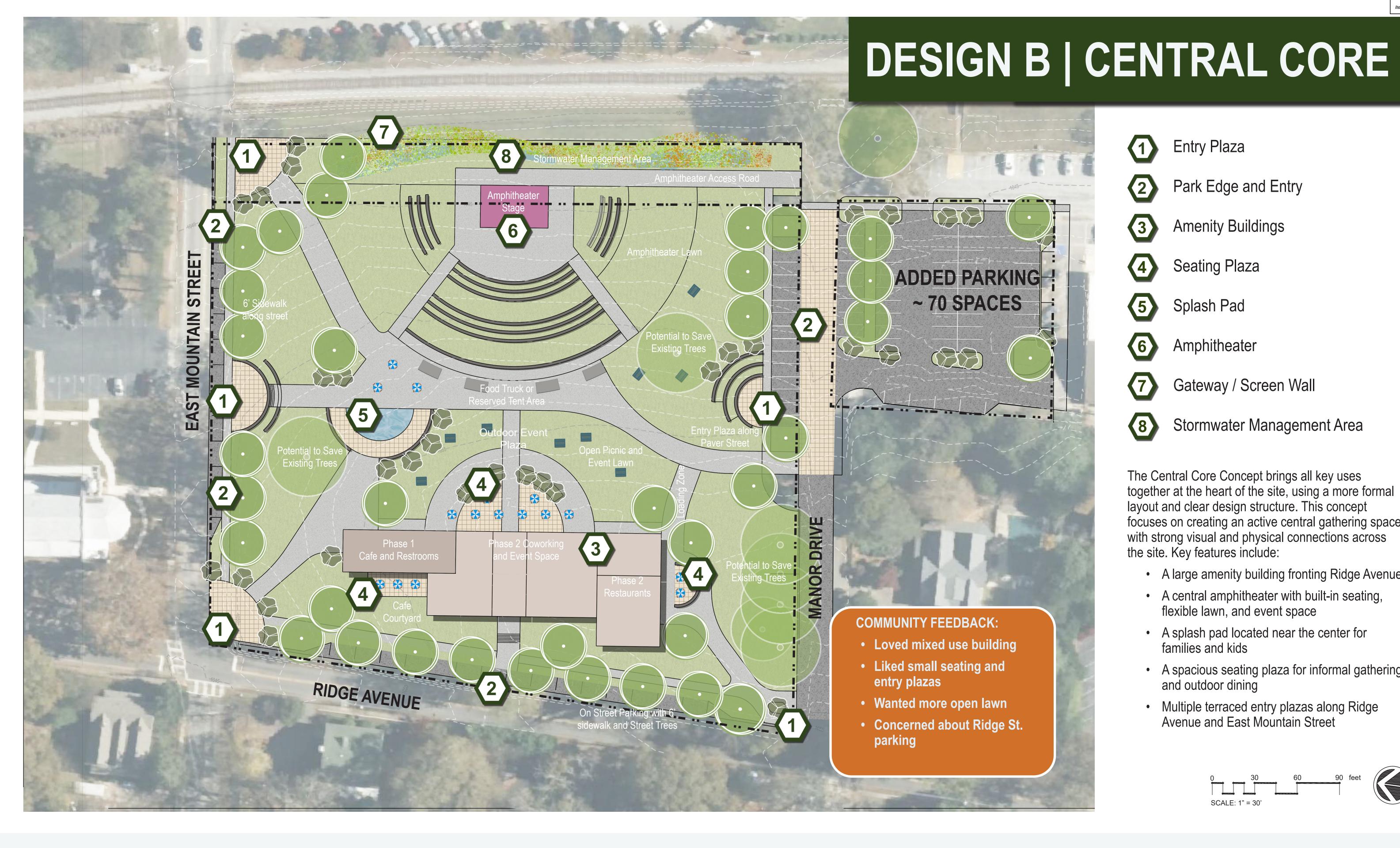
City Council Update







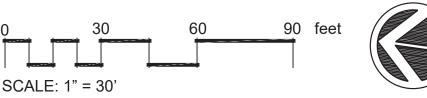




- **Entry Plaza**
- Park Edge and Entry
- **Amenity Buildings**
- Seating Plaza
- Splash Pad
- Amphitheater
- Gateway / Screen Wall
- Stormwater Management Area

The Central Core Concept brings all key uses together at the heart of the site, using a more formal layout and clear design structure. This concept focuses on creating an active central gathering space with strong visual and physical connections across the site. Key features include:

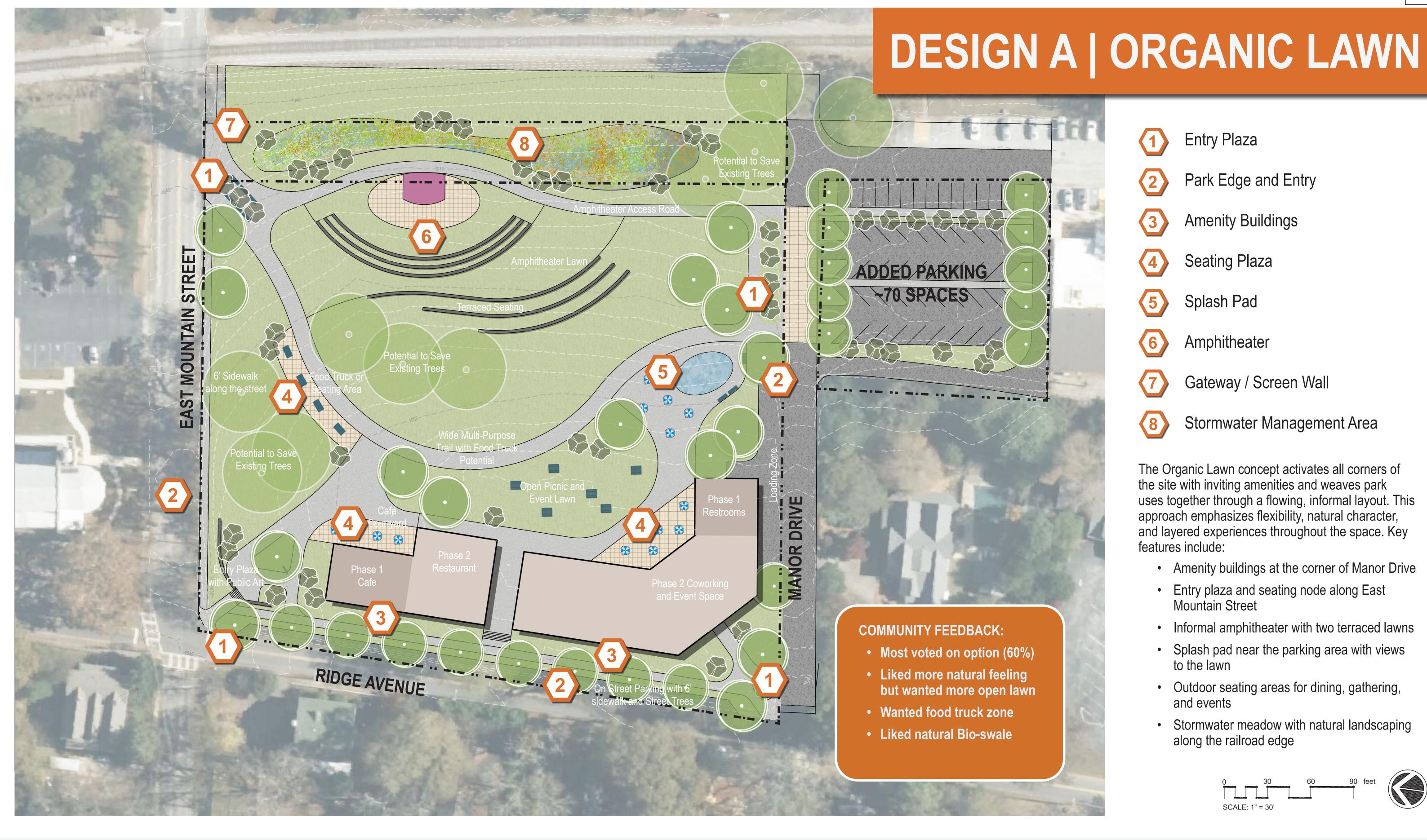
- A large amenity building fronting Ridge Avenue
- A central amphitheater with built-in seating, flexible lawn, and event space
- A splash pad located near the center for families and kids
- A spacious seating plaza for informal gathering and outdoor dining
- Multiple terraced entry plazas along Ridge Avenue and East Mountain Street







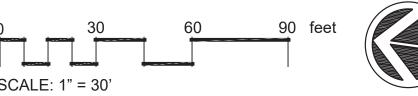




- Entry Plaza
- Park Edge and Entry
- **Amenity Buildings**
- Seating Plaza
- Splash Pad
- Amphitheater
- Gateway / Screen Wall
- Stormwater Management Area

The Organic Lawn concept activates all corners of the site with inviting amenities and weaves park uses together through a flowing, informal layout. This approach emphasizes flexibility, natural character, and layered experiences throughout the space. Key features include:

- Amenity buildings at the corner of Manor Drive
- Entry plaza and seating node along East **Mountain Street**
- Informal amphitheater with two terraced lawns
- Splash pad near the parking area with views to the lawn
- Outdoor seating areas for dining, gathering, and events
- Stormwater meadow with natural landscaping along the railroad edge

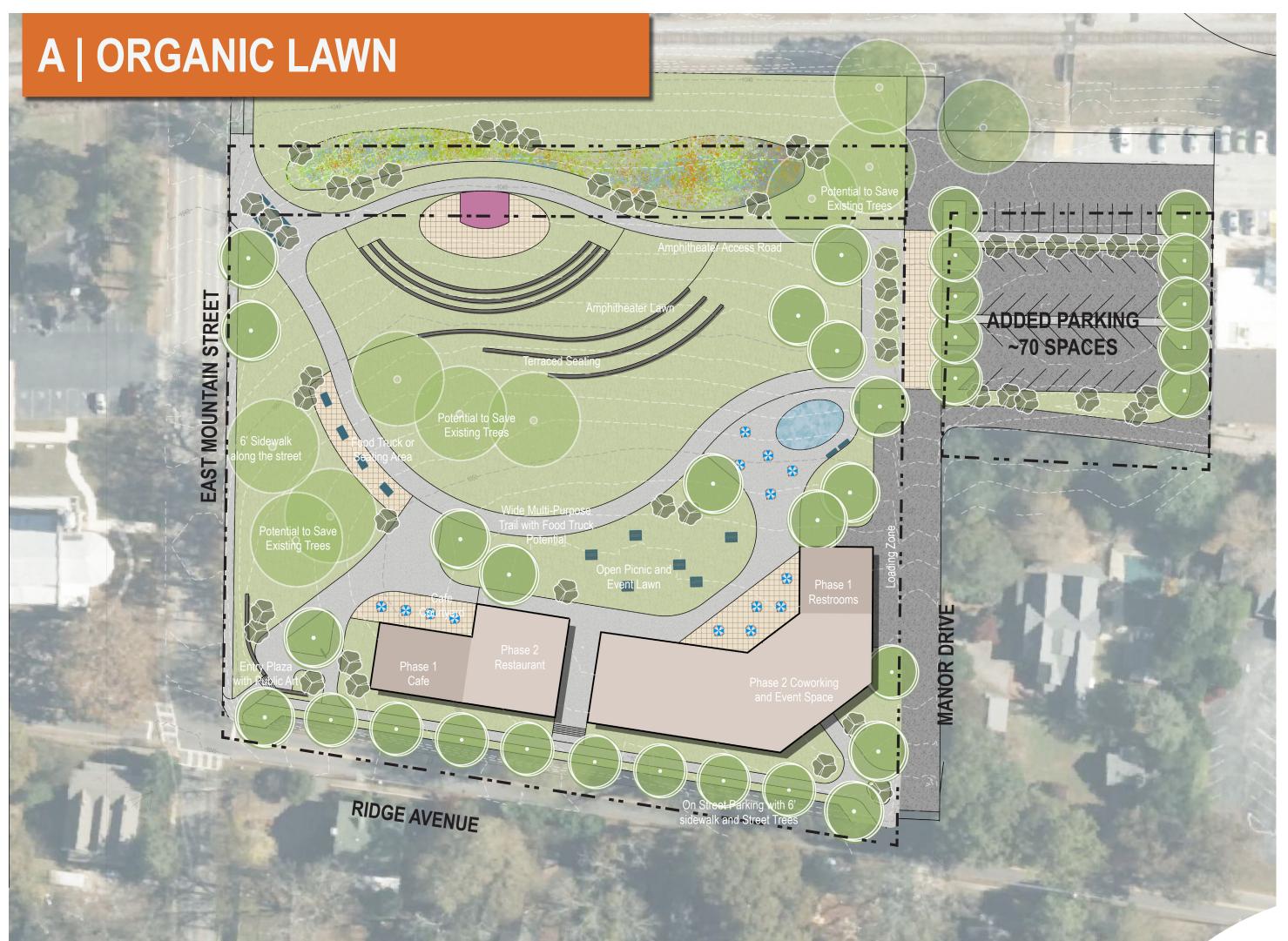


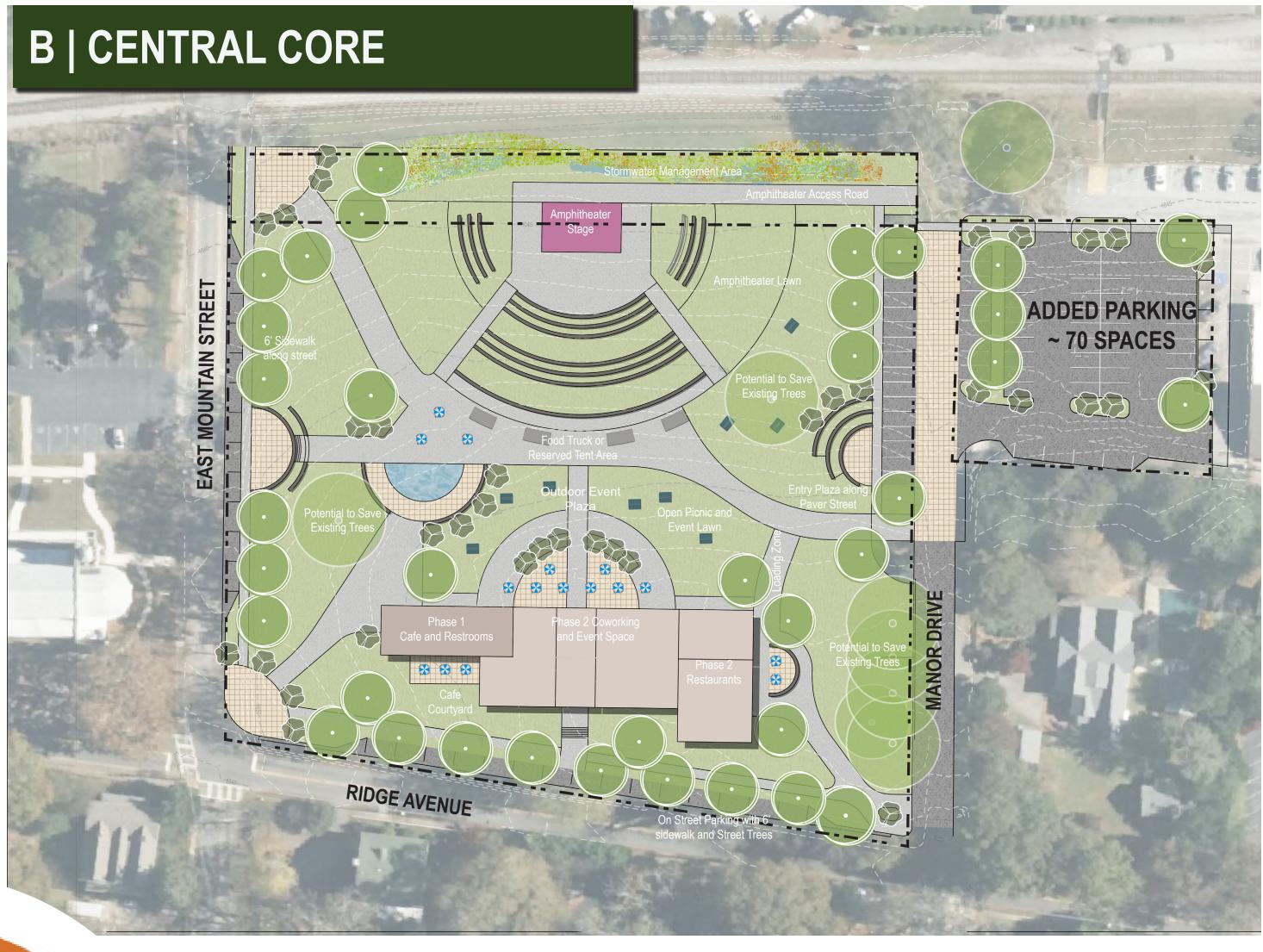






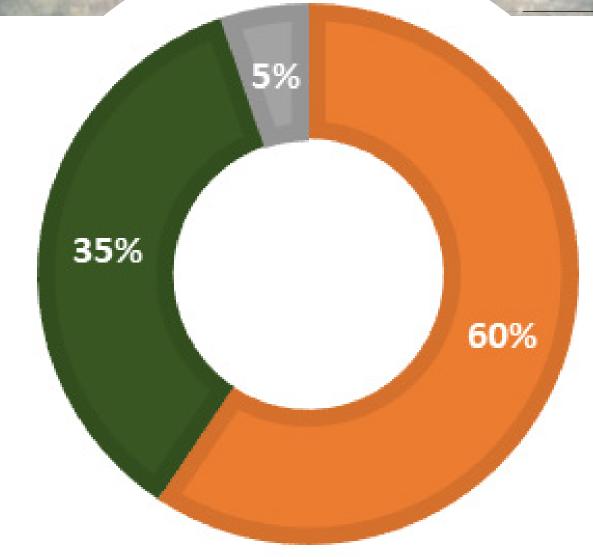
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK





LAWN SUMMARY

- Most voted on option (60%)
- Liked more natural feeling but wanted more open lawn
- Wanted food truck zone
- Liked natural Bio-swale



CORE SUMMARY

- Loved mixed use building
- Liked small seating and entry plazas
- Wanted more open lawn
- Concerned about Ridge St. parking



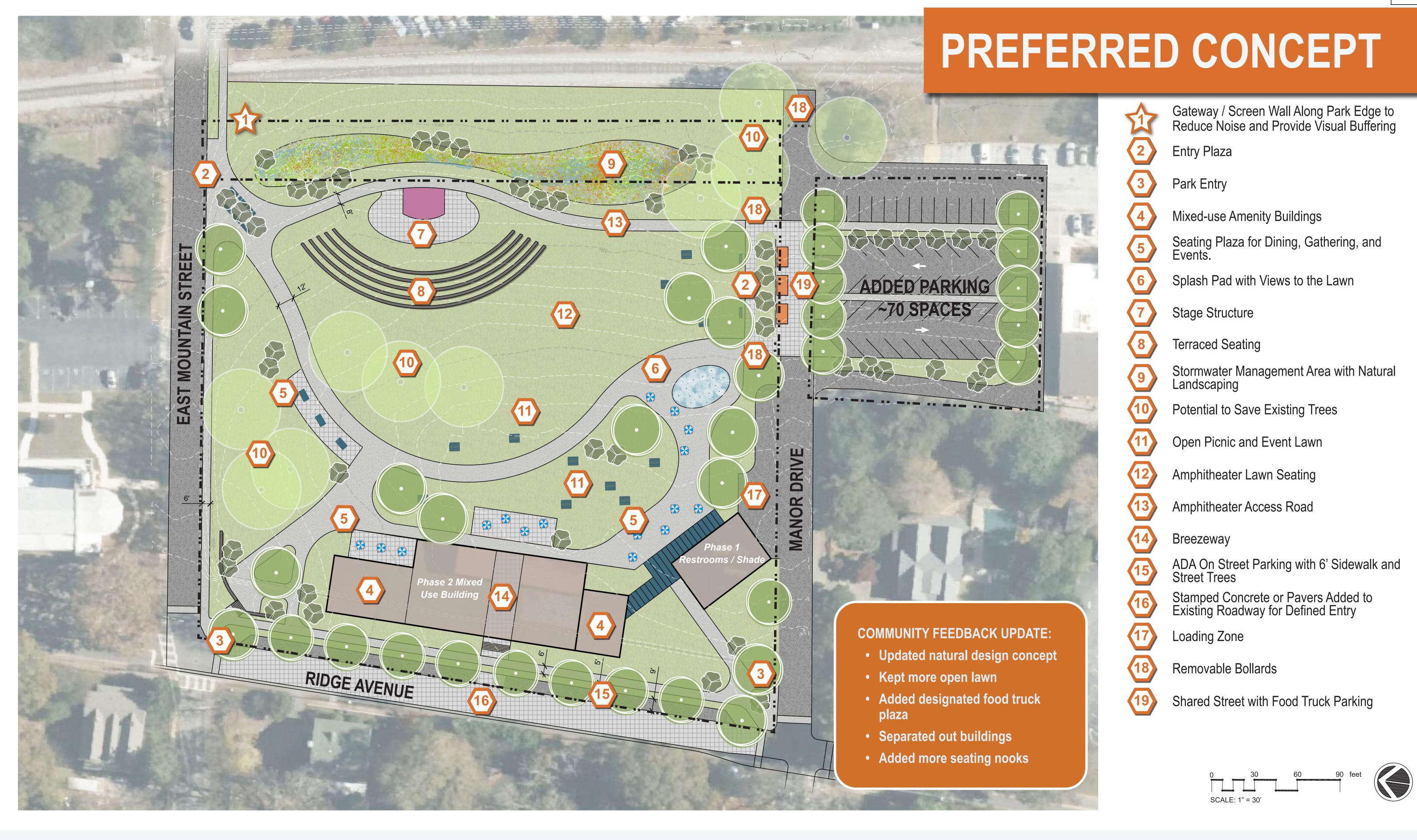








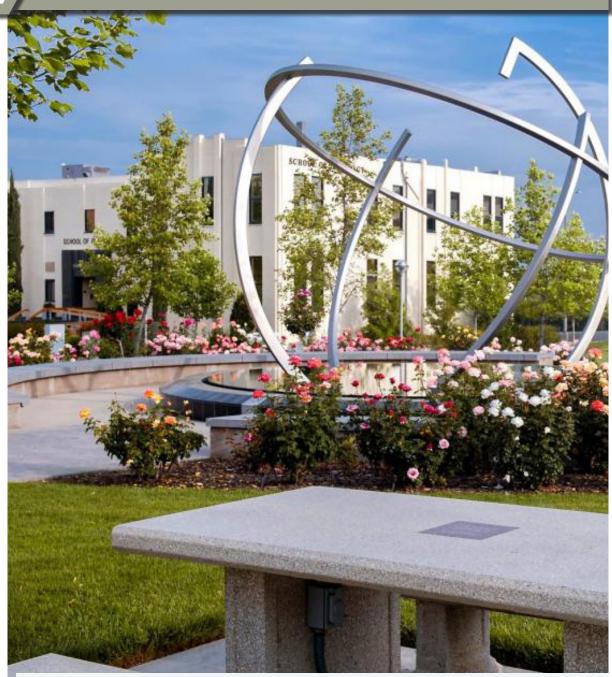




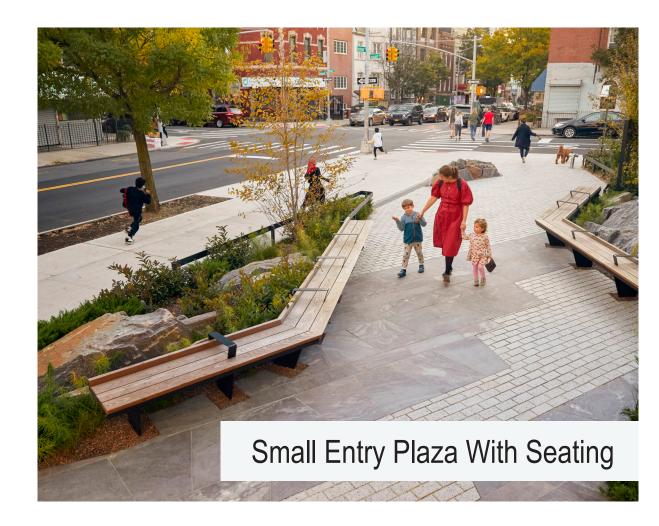




ENTRY PLAZA

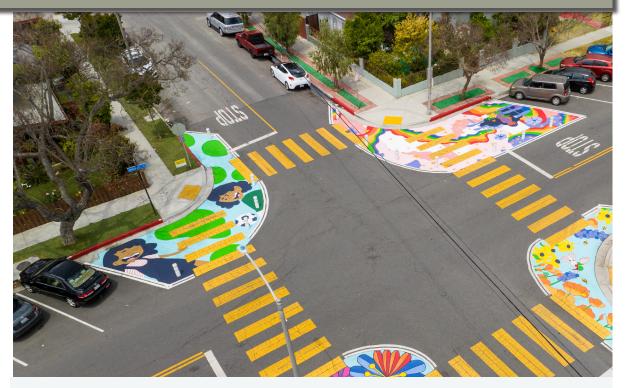


Small Entry Plaza With Seating And Sculpture



**Also desired to see landscaping and flowers

STREETSCAPE



Artful Intersection for Traffic Calming and Identity

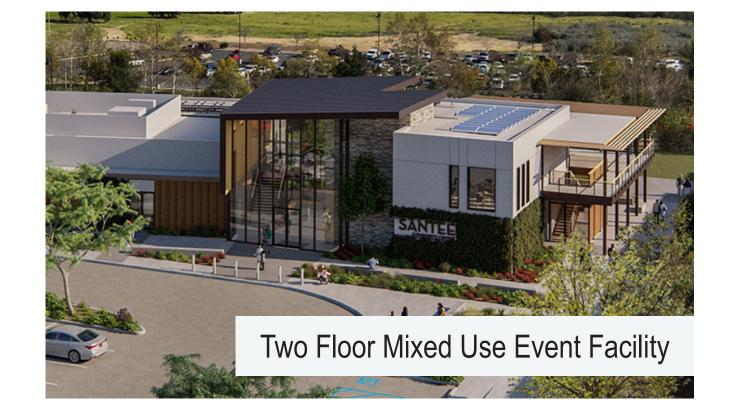




Street Plaza With Planting Cutouts. Lawn Close to Road.

3 AMENITY BUILDINGS





4 SEATING PLAZA Compact Seating Niche with Integrated Planters





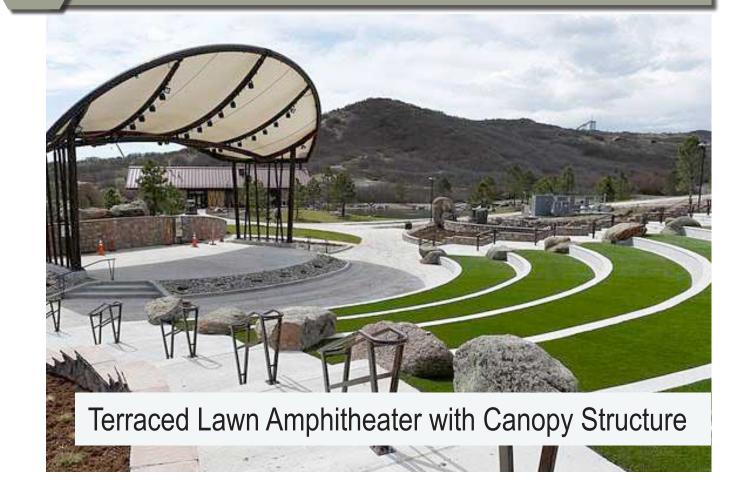


5 SPLAH PAD



Nature-Inspired Splash Pad with Shade and Boulders

AMPHITHEATER

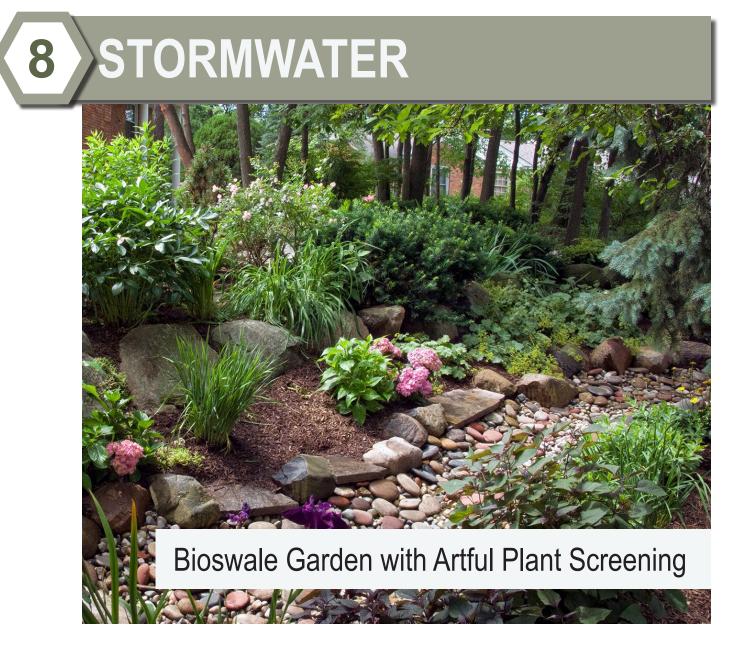


**Want to also see lawn

7 GATEWAY / SCREEN











**want to ensure views to downtown are preserved

File Attachments for Item:

3. Consideration of an action on a request to appoint Denise Phillips to the Ethics Board, requested by Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 02, 2025

SUBJECT: Appointment to the Ethics Board

Item: Action Item

Department: Ethics Board

Presented By: Shavala Ames, City Clerk

Summary:

A vacancy currently exists on the Ethics Board. Following a review of qualified candidates, Denise Phillips has been recommended for appointment by Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Smith.

Sec. 2-158.

There is created the board of ethics of the city to be composed of eight (8) residents of the city to be appointed as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection. Each member of the board of ethics shall have been a resident of the city for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of taking office and shall remain a resident of the city while serving as a member of the board of ethics. No person shall serve as a member of the board of ethics if the person has, or has had within the immediately preceding two-year period, any interest in any contract, transaction, or official action of the city.

If a member of the board of ethics ceases to be a resident of the city, that members' position on the board, by operation of law, shall become vacant. A vacancy in the board of ethics shall exist by reason of death, resignation, or loss of residency.

Attachments: None

Requested Action: City Council to approve the appointment of Denise Phillips to the Ethics Board for a term ending 12/31/2025

File Attachments for Item:

4. Consideration of an action on a request to approve a Forensic Audit, requested by Mayor Beverly Jones



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 02, 2025

SUBJECT: Consideration of an action on a request to approve a Forensic Audit, requested by Mayor Beverly Jones

Item: Discussion Item / Action Item **Presented By**: Mayor Beverly Jones

Summary:

Mayor Jones has asked the City to consider a forensic audit of Stone Mountain's financial records to ensure accuracy, transparency, and accountability.

A forensic audit takes a close, detailed look at financial records to catch any errors, inconsistencies, or unusual activity. Having an independent review helps the City strengthen controls, address any issues early, and assure the community that public funds are being handled responsibly. It's about keeping the City's finances clear, transparent, and trustworthy.

Attachments: None

Requested Action: Consideration of an action on a request to approve a Forensic Audit.

File Attachments for Item:

5. Consideration of an action on a request to approve an emergency purchase of Axon body cameras, requested by Chief James Westerfield



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 02, 2025

SUBJECT: Emergency Purchase of Body Worn Cameras

Item: Action Item
Department: Police

Presented By: Chief Westerfield, Police Chief

Summary:

This request is to purchase three (3) additional cameras on the Axon platform. Most, if not all, of these costs will be reimbursed by the Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-Worn Camera Micro-Grant Program for which we were approved last year. The cost is \$\$8,434.56.

Currently there is a shortage of cameras for our staff which is a major concern. This will supply two cameras for the Police Department and one for Code Enforcement. Includes equipment, cloud storage, and licensing.

Attachments/Exhibits: Axon Body Worn Camera Quote

Requested Action: Staff recommendation to Council to approve the emergency purchase of the body worn cameras



Axon Enterprise, Inc. 17800 N 85th St. Scottsdale, Arizona 85255 United States VAT: 86-0741227 Domestic: (800) 978-2737 International: +1.800.978.2737

→

Issued: 07/30/2025

Quote Expiration: 08/29/2025
Estimated Contract Start Date: 10/15/2025

Account Number: 460181

Payment Terms: N30 Mode of Delivery: UPS-GND

Credit/Debit Amount: \$0.00

SHIP TO	BILL TO
Stone Mountain Police Dept GA 875 Main St Stone Mountain, GA 30083-3620 USA	Stone Mountain Police Dept GA 875 Main St Stone Mountain GA 30083-3620 USA Email:

SALES REPRESENTATIV	PRIMARY CONTACT
Becky Berg Phor Email: rberger@axon.cc Fa	er W.R. Hillis e: Phone: 470) 275-3030 m Email: bhillis@stonemountaincity.org

Quote Summary

Program Length	16 Months
TOTAL COST	\$8,434.56
ESTIMATED TOTAL W/ TAX	\$8,434.56

Discount Summary

Average Savings Per Year	\$2,018.13
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$2,690.84

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Payment Summary

Item # 5.

Date	Subtotal	Tax	Total
Sep 2025	\$8,434.56	\$0.00	\$8,434.56
Total	\$8,434.56	\$0.00	\$8,434.56

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Quote Unbundled Price: Quote List Price: Quote Subtotal:

65

Pricing

All deliverables are detailed in Delivery Schedules section lower in proposal

Item	Description	Qty	Term	Unbundled	List Price	Net Price	Subtotal	Tax	Total
Program									
73352	TRUE UP - BWC HW FINANCE/TAP	4	14		\$23.30	\$23.30	\$1,304.80	\$0.00	\$1,304.80
BWCamTAP	Body Worn Camera TAP Bundle	4	16	\$63.98	\$31.83	\$21.64	\$1,384.96	\$0.00	\$1,384.96
A la Carte Hardware									
AB3C	AB3 Camera Bundle	4			\$829.00	\$829.00	\$3,316.00	\$0.00	\$3,316.00
A la Carte Software									
73683	AXON EVIDENCE - STORAGE - 10GB A LA CARTE	80	16		\$0.75	\$0.75	\$960.00	\$0.00	\$960.00
ProLicense	Pro License Bundle	1	16		\$45.30	\$45.90	\$734.40	\$0.00	\$734.40
BasicLicense	Basic License Bundle	3	16		\$15.10	\$15.30	\$734.40	\$0.00	\$734.40
Total							\$8,434.56	\$0.00	\$8,434.56

Delivery Schedule

Hardware

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY	Shipping Location	Estimated Delivery Date
AB3 Camera Bundle	11507	AXON BODY - MOUNT - RAPIDLOCK SINGLE MOLLE	5	1	09/15/2025
AB3 Camera Bundle	11534	AXON BODY - CABLE - USB-C TO USB-A (AB3 OR FLEX 2)	5	1	09/15/2025
AB3 Camera Bundle	73202	AXON BODY 3 - CAMERA - NA10 US BLK RAPIDLOCK	4	1	09/15/2025
Body Worn Camera TAP Bundle	73309	AXON BODY - TAP REFRESH 1 - CAMERA	4	1	01/15/2027

Software

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY	Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date
Basic License Bundle	73683	AXON EVIDENCE - STORAGE - 10GB A LA CARTE	3	10/15/2025	02/14/2027
Basic License Bundle	73840	AXON EVIDENCE - ECOM LICENSE - BASIC	3	10/15/2025	02/14/2027
Pro License Bundle	73683	AXON EVIDENCE - STORAGE - 10GB A LA CARTE	3	10/15/2025	02/14/2027
Pro License Bundle	73746	AXON EVIDENCE - ECOM LICENSE - PRO	1	10/15/2025	02/14/2027
A la Carte	73683	AXON EVIDENCE - STORAGE - 10GB A LA CARTE	80	10/15/2025	02/14/2027

Warranties

Bundle	Item	Description	QTY	Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date
Body Worn Camera TAP Bundle	80464	AXON BODY - TAP WARRANTY - CAMERA	4	09/15/2026	02/14/2027

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Shipping Locations

Location Number	Street	City	State	Zip	Country
1	875 Main St	Stone Mountain	GA	30083-3620	USA

Payment Details

Sep 2025						
Invoice Plan	Item	Description	Qty	Subtotal	Tax	Total
Year 1	73352	TRUE UP - BWC HW FINANCE/TAP	4	\$1,304.80	\$0.00	\$1,304.80
Year 1	73683	AXON EVIDENCE - STORAGE - 10GB A LA CARTE	80	\$960.00	\$0.00	\$960.00
Year 1	AB3C	AB3 Camera Bundle	4	\$3,316.00	\$0.00	\$3,316.00
Year 1	BasicLicense	Basic License Bundle	3	\$734.40	\$0.00	\$734.40
Year 1	BWCamTAP	Body Worn Camera TAP Bundle	4	\$1,384.96	\$0.00	\$1,384.96
Year 1	ProLicense	Pro License Bundle	1	\$734.40	\$0.00	\$734.40
Total				\$8,434.56	\$0.00	\$8,434.56

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Tax is estimated based on rates applicable at date of quote and subject to change at time of invoicing. If a tax exemption certificate should be applied, please submit prior to invoicing.

Standard Terms and Conditions

Axon Enterprise Inc. Sales Terms and Conditions

Axon Master Services and Purchasing Agreement:

This Quote is limited to and conditional upon your acceptance of the provisions set forth herein and Axon's Master Services and Purchasing Agreement (posted at https://www.axon.com/sales-terms-and-conditions), as well as the attached Statement of Work (SOW) for Axon Fleet and/or Axon Interview Room purchase, if applicable. In the event you and Axon have entered into a prior agreement to govern all future purchases, that agreement shall govern to the extent it includes the products and services being purchased and does not conflict with the Axon Customer Experience Improvement Program Appendix as described below.

ACEIP:

The Axon Customer Experience Improvement Program Appendix, which includes the sharing of de-identified segments of Agency Content with Axon to develop new products and improve your product experience (posted at www.axon.com/legal/sales-terms-and-conditions), is incorporated herein by reference. By signing below, you agree to the terms of the Axon Customer Experience Improvement Program.

Acceptance of Terms:

Any purchase order issued in response to this Quote is subject solely to the above referenced terms and conditions. By signing below, you represent that you are lawfully able to enter into contracts. If you are signing on behalf of an entity (including but not limited to the company, municipality, or government agency for whom you work), you represent to Axon that you have legal authority to bind that entity. If you do not have this authority, please do not sign this Quote.

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Signature

Date Signed

7/30/2025



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File Attachments for Item:

1. Ordinance 2025-06 - Amend Employee Personnel Policies Ordinance



Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 02, 2025

SUBJECT: Amend Employee Personnel Policies Ordinance

Item: Discussion Item / First Read

Department: HR

Presented By: Maggie Dimov, Interim City Manager

Summary:

Per Sec. 20-12 of the City Code, the establishment of all personnel policies currently requires approval by the Mayor and Council. This item seeks formal authorization to delegate that approval authority to the City Manager. This change would streamline the process for updating and implementing employee policies while maintaining accountability, as the City Manager remains responsible for enforcement and compliance under the current code.

Attachments/Exhibits: Proposed amendment of Employee Personnel Policies Ordinance

Requested Action: Staff recommendation to Council is to review the proposed ordinance for a first read.

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF DEKALB

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 20 (PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES), SECTION 20-12 (PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, pursuant to its Charter and other laws of the State of Georgia, the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia (the "City"), has the power to adopt reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations for welfare of its employees; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to update and amend Chapter 20 (Personnel Policies and Procedures), Section 20-12. (Personnel administration generally), of The Code of the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia, to clarify the penalty if not otherwise defined.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordained by the governing authority of the City of Stone Mountain as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 20 (Personnel Policies and Procedures), Section 20-12. (Personnel administration generally), of The Code of the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia, is hereby amended as set out in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. All ordinances, parts of ordinances, or regulations in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance was propos a motion to adopt. Thereafter, the motion was see	•
	ion and Council Members voted against the
motion.	
SO ORDAINED this day of	, 2025.
Attest:	Beverly Jones, Mayor
Shavala Ames, City Clerk	Approved as to Form:
[CITY SEAL]	Angela Couch, City Attorney

Ordinance No. 2025-06 Page 1 of 2

EXHIBIT A

Sec. 20-12. Personnel administration generally.

Ordinance No. 2025-06 Page 2 of 2

Sec. 20-12. Personnel administration generally.

- (a) Mayor and council. The mayor and council shall receive and act upon recommendations of the city manager for amendments, additions to, and changes in the personnel rules and regulations other than the Employee Handbook. The establishment of all personnel policies are subject to the approval of the mayor and council and shall not become effective until such approval is given. The city manager is authorized to create an Employee Handbook that is not conflict with any provision of this chapter to be approved by the city attorney. The city manager is authorized to make changes to the employee handbook that are not conflict with any provision of this chapter and that are approved in writing by the city attorney. Each employee shall be furnished a copy of the Employee Handbook and shall sign an acknowledgment of receipt of same. However, oOnce policies are approved, the responsibility for implementation and operation will belong delegated to the city manager.
- (b) Personnel director. The city manager shall serve as the personnel director for the city. The personnel director shall be responsible for implementing, carrying out and enforcing the approved rules and regulations of the personnel system. He/she is the executive head of the personnel department and shall direct all of its activities and appoint its employees. He/she may delegate such duties and responsibilities as he/she deems appropriate to personnel department staff members or other city department heads, but he/she still remains accountable for complying with all rules and regulations.

(Ord. No. 2010-05, 7-6-10)

Sec. 20-15. - Departmental regulations.

Each city department head is authorized to prepare such individual departmental personnel rules and regulations as may be necessary in the accomplishment of the operation of the department. Such departmental rules and regulations may not be in conflict with any provision of this chapter and must be approved in writing by the city manager. The city manager will review all proposed departmental regulations to insure that they are consistent with the rules and regulations of the city and advise the appropriate department head in writing of his her findings. The city manager shall discuss with the mayor and council, with counsel by the city attorney, any proposed regulations about which he/she has questions. Departmental regulations which have been approved by the city manager shall be displayed in a public place in the department at least five (5) days prior to their effective date. Each employee shall be furnished a copy of all departmental regulations.

(Ord. No. 2010-05, 7-6-10)

File Attachments for Item:

2. Resolution 2025-24 - Authorize Interim City Manager to Execute Enterprise Fleet Management Agreements



Statement of Policy and Procedures

Enterprise Fleet Management will use the information provided in this document for the sole purpose of fleet related services and programs.

Corporate Resolution for Motor Vehicle Lease(s)

RESOLVED, that **City of Stone Mountain, GA** leases motor vehicles from Enterprise Fleet Management upon such terms and conditions as provided in each Lease Quote. The **City of Stone Mountain, GA** Principal:

Name:	Title:	
Authorizes and empower	s:	
Name:	Title:	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		cute Motor Vehicle Leases and other necessary docu- Enterprise Fleet Management.
RESOLVED FURTHER, that written notice of its revoc		gement is authorized to act upon this resolution until
I further certify that said	resolution has not been	amended or revoked and is still in full force and effect
	Name:	
	Signatur	re:
	Title:	
	Date:	