



Citizens Comments Corner

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INQUIRY

Check here for Administrative Response to Citizens Inquiries Posed During the Public Comment Section of the Open Meetings of Mayor and Council

Responses will be posted within 1 week after the public meeting during which the inquiry, question, or request was posed.

Please note that some inquiries, questions, or requests may be slightly paraphrased. This is not an attempt to omit any question or inquiry in part or in full but, to offer clarity to the inquiry as interpreted by the Administration. Only comments including inquiry, question, or request for response will be shared within this communication. Statements of fact or opinion will not be responded to on this platform. The public is welcome to visit the City's website for full recording of the open meetings of Council and to review the summary action minutes or the approved written minutes of the open meetings of Council. Recordings and minutes are also posted in the Document Center on the City's website at http://www.stonemountaincity.org/main_document/index.php. Recordings are posted within 72 hours after each open meeting. Summary action minutes are available for public review within 48 hours of each voting session of Council. Approved minutes for the previous month's meetings are posted within 72 hours after the 1st Tuesday regular session of Council.

Public Comment Responses 07/06/2021

Why was there not anything done regarding the July 4th holiday in the City of Stone Mountain? No remembrance, no flags, nothing on the website. Who made the decision?

No event for the 4th of July was presented to Council during adoption of the budget or otherwise planned for the year. For several, most recent years, the City has not competed with Stone Mountain Park for celebration activities on the 4th. There was a banner placed on the home page of the City website for the 4th of July holiday and the City does recognize July 4th as an official paid holiday of the City.

If any member(s) of Council, the public, the City's Tourism Department, the DDA, Main Street, Inc., or any other affiliate of the City would like to propose festivities or some form of celebration for the coming fiscal year, you are welcome to make your request. The preferred method is a proposal to the City Council, in writing, in advance of the budget and event calendar scheduling processes and that begin in October of each year.

Are taxpayers making up the difference on the Old Post Office annual mortgage payments?

Taxpayers have not made up the difference in the annual mortgage payments that have been paid for the Old Post Office. When the loan was acquired, the DDA borrowed enough money to build out the space and to cover the mortgage until the building was leased/rented or otherwise. There is currently a tenant in the space.

Request was made for Council to be physically visible during the public meetings of Council.

Why is \$10,000 being given to one person for the mural program?

No decision has been made on any contractor, vendor, or person to create murals within the proposed mural program. The amount shown in the Work Plan document for the program is an estimated amount for the program. This estimate does not just include the cost of creation of the murals but, may also include cost for acquiring permissions for the building facades, etc. that the murals may be painted upon. There is always the potential for any project listed within the work plan to be less or more than the estimate of cost shown in the plan.

Why is \$50,000 being spent to brand/promote the Village of Stone Mountain?

The cost shown in the Work Plan for a marketing plan to brand/promote the Village of Stone Mountain is an estimate of cost for such and similar plans that have been implemented in other jurisdictions. No contractor has been selected and no contract has been entered into for completion of a marketing plan therefore, no monies have been spent on the Work Plan item.

Why is \$20,000 being spent on a survey for an amphitheater for the City? Why can't the City Council complete the survey?

The cost shown in the Work Plan is an estimate of costs associated with the completion of a feasibility study to determine if the City can accommodate an amphitheater. The feasibility study is a specific gathering of data and analytics that determines the practicality of a proposed plan or project with regards to such elements as resources (land, etc.), economics (return on investment), legal, and technical. The City Council nor the current staff resources may be versed enough to provide all of the specifics of the study.

There was an inquiry about the traffic study along with a request for a public meeting to gather input from those residents and stakeholders who are affected by the traffic on James B. Rivers Memorial Drive.

The traffic study for the James B. Rivers Memorial Area will be discussed within the Public Works Department report during the 07/20/2021 work session of Council. Within discussion of the topic, the Administration is requesting that Council give direction regarding its consideration of the scheduling of a public hearing on the matter.

Where can people buy Stone Mountain T-shirts and why is the City not making them anymore?

No feedback has been given to the Administration regarding. The Administration will discuss with the Tourism Director and the Downtown Development Authority Director regarding a proposal to City Council for the creation of t-shirts for sale.

Where is information posted on the website/otherwise regarding the vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority Board? What are the board member terms?

Information for vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors is being formulated to post for public viewing. The information will be posted on the Downtown Development Authority page on the City's website and will be distributed through other media platforms as available to the City and to the DDA.

Information on the terms of the officers of the DDA Board of Directors can be found in the By-Laws of the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Stone Mountain at:

[http://cms4.revize.com/revize/stonemountain/DDA/DDA%20By-Laws%20Executed%2020200224%20\(1\).pdf](http://cms4.revize.com/revize/stonemountain/DDA/DDA%20By-Laws%20Executed%2020200224%20(1).pdf)

Why were things that are affecting the lives of the residents not discussed during the 07/06/2021 meeting? Parks? Storm Water? Potholes? Roads?

Generally speaking, those items are set for the regular (1st Tuesday) voting agenda of Council are items that require action of the Council. During the 07/06/2021 there was no action to be taken on Parks, Storm Water, or Streets and Roads

items. For example, a parks improvements item that required the action of Council was on the agenda for the 06/01/2021 meeting of Council. During the session, Council voted to engage in the solicitation of bids for improvements to be made in Leila Mason, McCurdy, and Medlock Parks. Improvements in these parks will be paid for with a portion of the approximately \$854K that has been estimated to be collected in Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funds from 2018-2024