CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Patricia Wheeler at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Present were Council Members Coletti, Higgins, Johnson, Mailman, Redmond and Wells. City Attorney Joe Fowler was also present. Council Members Johnson, Mailman, and Wells were sworn in by Judge Warren Hoffman for additional 4-year terms.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM
Mayor Wheeler determined a quorum was present.

INVOCATION
Council Member Higgins gave the invocation and Council Member Wells led the pledge of allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS
None.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL
Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting – December 1, 2015
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Coletti. No additions or corrections were noted.
Motion approved 6-0.

Minutes of the Committee/Work Session – December 21, 2015
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Coletti. No additions or corrections were noted.
Motion approved 6-0.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS
None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY
Council Member Johnson made a motion to adopt the agenda of the day. Seconded by Council Member Coletti.
Motion approved 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY LEGISLATION VETOED BY THE MAYOR
None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
Consent Agenda
None.

Administrative Review of Proposed Building Plans – Hearthstone – Cloud Street Subdivision
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. There was an opportunity for further discussion. Council Member Mailman inquired about the
different styles of homes that are proposed for the project. Builder David Ray for the Hearthstone Park Subdivision addressed Council. Mr. Ray informed Council that there will be three to four different floor plans, with three bedroom options – some with flex space for the possibility of a fourth bedroom. Council Member Redmond inquired as to whether the name of the proposed subdivision will be changed from the name Hearthstone. Mr. Ray responded that the name will be changed and options for names are being contemplated. Council Member Wells suggested that the Historic Preservation Commission reviews the proposed building plans as well.

Motion approved 6-0.

Variance Application – 565 Rockborough Drive – Sarah Hester, Applicant and Owner
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. There was an opportunity for further discussion. Council Members Mailman, Redmond, and Coletti all expressed their concerns about granting variances “after the fact”, and the precedence that granting such variances would set.

Motion denied 6-0.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2016-01 – Amendment to the Vacant Property Registry Policy
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve and rendered the second read of “AN ORDINANCE BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN, TO AMEND SECTION 183(a) OF CHAPTER 5, BUILDINGS, ARTICLE IV, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, DIVISION 6, VACANT PROPERTY REGISTRY; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.” Seconded by Council Member Coletti.
Motion approved 6-0

Ordinance 2016-02 – Purchase Card Policy
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve and rendered the second reading of “AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED SECTION 36-80-24 TO ESTABLISH A POLICY FOR THE USE OF CITY PURCHASING CARDS AND CREDIT CARDS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS”. Seconded by Council Member Coletti.
Motion approved 6-0

Resolution 2016-01 – Cloud Street Traffic Calming Program
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. There was an opportunity for further discussion. Council Member Mailman asked if he and Council Member Wells should abstain from vote on the matter because they both live on Cloud Street. City Manager Gary Peet response was because neither Mr. Mailman or Mr. Wells has any personal interest in the program, they both are allowed vote in the matter. Council Member Redmond voiced her concerns about the program being expedited for Cloud Street because both Council Members live on the street. Council Member Wells replied that, whether elected
officials or not, the citizens of any street within the city have the same right to issue signed petition for such a program. 

Motion approved 5-1. Council Members Coletti, Higgins, Johnson, Mailman and Wells voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Redmond opposed.

Resolution 2016-02 – Appointment of the Prosecuting Attorneys

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. There was an opportunity for further discussion. Mayor Wheeler announced that the prosecuting attorney will be appointed at the end of the meeting. City Manager Gary Peet informed the public that the prosecuting attorney will be City Attorney Joe Fowler, and the assistant prosecuting attorney will be City Solicitor Larry Steele.

Motion approved 6-0

Resolution 2016-03 – Approval of Part-time Assistant to the City Manager

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. City Manager Gary Peet informed Council that funding for the position is $3,397 and is a short-term position to help with the development of annexation plans through April of 2016.

Motion approved 5-1. Council Members Coletti, Higgins, Johnson, Mailman and Wells voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Redmond opposed.

Resolution 2016-04 – Adoption of the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. There was an opportunity for further discussion. City Manager Gary Peet attended the Stone Mountain Business Association meeting to update them on the plans to adopt the State minimum fire safety standards and how that would affect commercial establishments. Mr. Peet informed Council that the administration will be sending a mailing to the commercial establishments informing them of what steps the City will take in assisting them with preparation for fire safety inspections.

Motion approved 6-0

Resolution 2016-05 – FY2016 Budget Resolution

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. There was an opportunity for further discussion. City Manager Gary Peet explained that this a budget resolution for a one-step increase for two police officers that have completed the probationary period of employment.

Motion approved 6-0

Resolution 2016-06 – FY2016 Budget Resolution

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. There was an opportunity for further discussion. City Manager explained that the resolution is to recognize decreased cost in the liability and property insurance premium and the insurance reallocation to the Downtown Development Authority for the two buildings owned by the DDA. It reduces the amount of money that will be pulled out of General Fund Reserves and requires the vote of City Council.

Motion approved 6-0
Resolution 2016-07 – Parade Permit for Main Street/Color Vibe
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. Motion approved 6-0

Ordinance 2016-03 – To Establish Procedures for the Procurement of Engineering and Design Services for Projects Using Federal Aid Highway Program Funding
Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve and rendered second read of “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR PROJECTS USING FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY PROGRAM FUNDING”. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. Motion approved 6-0

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
Planning & Zoning – No report.
Community Affairs – No report.
Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – Mayor Pro-tem Johnson reported for DDA. Ms. Johnson reported that the DDA work sessions will be moving to the second Monday of each month beginning January 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. DDA’s next regular monthly meeting will be held on January 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. The annual meeting will be held on February 18, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Silver Hill Manor.
Finance – No report.
Community Outreach – Council Member Redmond reported that the community watch group has designated areas for trash and litter pickup and is working with public works to pick up litter on the weekends. This year Keep Stone Mountain Beautiful is working towards “Gold” status for the efforts made to beautify the community. Ms. Redmond voiced concerns about tree growth within the cemetery. She asked that the City consider assessing the trees within the City cemetery. Ms. Redmond also reported that: (1) shingles from the second floor awning of the DDA building are now falling; (2) there are some concerns about the police activity point system, there is still a need to address oversized trucks that are coming through Main Street; (3) and (4) the Baptist Church is asking about repair of the sidewalk in front of the church.
Public Safety – Council Member Mailman reported that every officer is performing well with regards to the point system and that continued training will enhance the ability for each officer to continue to perform according to the standards, and thus make for an even safer community. Mr. Mailman informed Council that the police department is continuing to address the matter of oversized trucks traveling on Main Street.
Public Works – Council Member Wells reminded the public that community clean-up will be held on January 18, 2016 at Leila Mason Park. Clean-up will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12 noon. Immediately following will be the ringing of the bell on Main Street in commemoration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
Historic Preservation Commission – HPC Chairman Al Capogrossi informed Council of the interest of those HPC members whose terms are set to expire January 31, 2016 in continuing to serve on the commission. Mayor Wheeler informed Mr. Capogrossi that those members will also need to express their interest in writing and submit the letters to City Clerk ChaQuias Thornton. Council Member Johnson asked that staggered terms for the commissioners be considered. The Administration will have a draft amendment to the HPC ordinance ready for review by Mayor and Council at the January 19, 2016 work session. DDA Director Mechel
McKinley is to contact Mr. Capogrossi regarding the awnings on the DDA building on Main Street.
Visitor Center – No report.

REMARKS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE
Council Member Wells voiced his disappointment that Resolution 2016-01 for the Cloud Street Traffic Calming program was not approved with unanimous consent and that the opposing vote was rendered with no explanation.

Council Member Mailman expressed his wishes for a Happy New Year to all of those in attendance. He asked that all residents continue to watch out for one another.

Council Member Johnson thanked the citizen’s for re-electing her to the position of Council Member and that she looks forward to continuing to serve the community for another four years.

Council Member Redmond thanked the citizens for a wonderful 2015. She expressed her hopes that everyone works together as a community and supports each other equally.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR
Mayor Wheeler announced that the next work session of Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, January 19th, 2016 due to the City’s observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 18th. Mayor Wheeler also called for the scheduling and announcement of a special called meeting of Mayor and Council to be held just before the work session on January 19th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The special called meeting will be held to consider the engagement letter for auditing service submitted by James L. Whitaker, P.C.

ADJOURNMENT
Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Mailman. Motion approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.