PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Wheeler, Mayor ProTem Chakira Johnson, Council Members Susan Coletti, Richard Mailman, Steve Higgins, Andrea Redmond, Steven Wells.

STAFF: City Manager ChaQuias Thornton, Public Works Director Jim Tavenner, DDA Executive Director Mechele McKinley, Visitor Center Manager Kim Cumbie, Chief Chancey Troutman, Code Enforcement Officer S. Roseberry, City Clerk Kate Settle.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wheeler called to order at 6:01 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Council Member Redmond gave the innovation. Council Member Wells led the pledge.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY– Request for unanimous consent to bring back to the table under Unfinished Business:  B. DeKalb County Use of Facilities Agreement – Rock Gym – In kind service: Council Member Johnson motion to adopt the agenda of the day. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion. Motion approved 6-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. (Citizens are encouraged to speak but comments should be limited to three minutes):

Fritha Dinwiddie spoke against parking between the house and the street. She felt it was unsightly. Ms. Dinwiddie distributed photos of the Louisiana flooding and spoke of the need to consider pervious services when considering road construction projects.

Joan Monroe, 5499 Windsong Trace, spoke of a home in her neighborhood, 673 Pepperwood Lane, which has become a rooming house for the disabled. She did not think these homes were allowed in residential neighborhoods and hoped the City would look into the situation for her. Ms. Monroe was also against parking on the grass between the house and the street.

Jody Norwood, 764 Pepperwood Trail, reported 729 Pepperwood Trail is a vacation rental. She asked if this is allowed in the City limits.

Shawnett Bryant, 690 Rockborough Drive, was not impressed with the work Dash Construction has done regarding replacement of the junction box. She reported a crew came out on Tuesday and did not show up again until Friday. Ms. Bryant’s understanding is the work is to be completed by August 26th and was concerned it would not be completed given Dash Construction’s track record.
Clint Monroe, 5499 Windsong Trace, also reported on the rooming home on Pepperwood. He explained there is a company that owns three rooming and boarding homes within the City limits and four more in unincorporated Dekalb County. The Pepperwood Home was court ordered to close their doors by April 1, 2016. The house is still functioning and felt it was an abuse to the community.

Diana Hollis, 735 Mountain Village Drive, relayed to the Council that a person she respects felt Citizens Comments were very negative and it bothered that person. Ms. Hollis then thanked the three Council Members who attended the public hearings on the milage rate. She read the definition of a public servant into the record. Ms. Hollis was disappointed with the increase in the milage rate when those citizens who attended the public hearings requested the Council not to increase it.

Marie Maurice, 5235 Rockborough Trail, informed the Council that she has lived in her home for 34 years. She reported the decline in the City’s neighborhood. Ms. Maurice was concerned about the debris, unmarked cars on the lawns in her neighborhood. She was not clear if Code Enforcement was doing enough and what the advantage was to be in the City limits as opposed to unincorporated DeKalb. Ms. Maurice is considering moving out of the area.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Finance: None.

B. Planning and Zoning: None.

C. Community Affairs: Council Member Coletti reminded all that the Citywide Yard Sale will be taking place on October 22 and that a shredder is scheduled for that day.

She was contacted by the DeKalb History Center who are working on a project to present in the fall; African American Leaders in DeKalb County. They asked for a contact in Shermantown. They met with seven community leaders in Shermantown. They were so impressed by them the entire project will be about Shermantown.

D. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority: Mechele McKinley spoke of upcoming events: Tunes by the Tracks will be starting up again in September. The movie that was to accompany the Back to School Bash will be featured at a new event, “Fish and Flick” and is rescheduled for September 24. The exhibit “Diarama” will be located at the Depot form October to the end of March.

She reported that a representative from the Atlanta Regional Council is in attendance to review the Comp Plan with the Council. Ms. McKinley had a positive meeting with MARTA and their real estate broker.

Ms. McKinley read a letter of opposition from the Downtown Development Authority regarding making Second Street a one-way street into the record.

E. Community Outreach: Council Member Redmond encouraged the store fronts on Main Street to decorate their windows for Tunes by the Tracks and hoped they would stay open a little later when
Tunes by the Tracks is scheduled. She hoped the owners of the empty store fronts would “For Rent” signs in their windows. Council Member Redmond reminded everyone to attend “Rock the Block at Medlock” on August 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In response to Ms. Norwood’s comment regarding vacation rentals, her neighbor has turn their home into an Air B&B. She asked if the City has a policy on short-term rentals.

Council Member Redmond acknowledge there is a fight against litter and it is an everyday activity. She encouraged all citizens to help in the clean-up.

F. Public Safety: Council Member Mailman reported on Stone Mountain Day. He thanked Public Works Director, Jim Tavenner for making sure the park looked nice and the bathrooms were open, there was plenty of ice and the truck was available. Council Member Mailman also thanked Chief Troutman for his attendance.

G. Public Works: Council Member Wells reported on the Medlock Park clean-up and was happy to see the all the participants involved. He is planning on a Community Clean-up in mid to late September. Council Member Wells was glad to see so many citizens in the audience. He also thanked Public Works and the Police for their assistance and participation for Stone Mountain Day.

H. Historic Preservation Commission: Al Capogrossi welcomed the new administration. Before his report, he expressed his disappointment with the service provided by Advanced Disposal. There was a Historic Preservation Commission held on the 10th. All items were approved, all were commercial buildings and all on Main Street. He was concerned about the construction at the corner of Mountain and Main Street. Mr. Capogrossi was hoping to see the slab poured by this time. He reported the Commission is developing new guidelines and asked that he be able to print them for the Commission and again for the Council when it is time to review them.

I. Visitor Center: Kim Cumbie reported there were 275 visitors from twelve different counties. The Visitor Center Economic Impact year to day has been $7,045.47. The AMTA Meeting was August 3 at Six Flags. Ms. Cumbie thanked City Manager Thornton for attending the Tourism Association Meeting in Douglasville in October. Ms. Cumbie informed Council she had registered for the Governor’s Tourism Conference.

STAFF REPORTS

J. Code Compliance Officer: Code Compliance Officer Roseberry responded to a comment from a resident in the Rockborough Subdivision who was not sure the City was doing enough regarding Code Compliance. She reviewed several citations have been given in the Subdivision. In the areas of Mount Village Court, there are people leaving debris and trash in the yards. Officer Roseberry reported that she could not speak on the issue of Pepperwood Drive because it is an open case. She reported that she has been meeting with the administration in terms of how to approach the roaming houses in the City. There are seven more cases at the Dwells Apartments. She thanked Mr. Capagrossi for his assistance with the businesses on Main Street.
Council Member Wells asked if Officer Roseberry had been to W. Mountain Street regarding the Magnolia Branch. She informed Council Member Wells, the resident will be hiring someone to remove the debris. Council Member Wells invited those in the public that had spoken about code cases to get in touch with Officer Roseberry. She asked that the residents send her an email and let her know when there are problems.

K. **Public Works Director:** Jim Tavenner reported on Community Service; nine people gave community hours this month. On September 2, at 2:00 p.m. there will be a bid opening for the resurfacing of VFW Drive from Mimosa to West Mountain Street. He reported a couple of damaged play swings at McCurdy Park; the swings were cut in half. He updated the Council on the Rockborough Subdivision. The City has given Dash Construction a date of completion. The reason they are not doing work today or tomorrow is because of the Georgia Power line running to the neighbor’s house is interfering with the construction. The August 26, 2016 is the deadline.

Discussion turned to the repercussion of the work not being completed by that time; getting the city attorney involved; the work that has been completed thus far.

Mr. Tavenner reported on the Mountain Street Sidewalk Project. Council Member Johnson was very disappointed in their traffic control measures. She felt it made the area very unsafe. Council Member Coletti asked if the businesses and residents have been notified of when they will be affected by the project. Mr. Tavenner indicated he would let everyone in the area aware of the schedule. Mayor Wheeler recognized Jody Norwood. Ms. Norwood asked that the construction company put up signs for those leaving the park so they would know the area is under construction.

Council Member Wells asked about the street striping and when it would be completed. Mr. Tavenner reported the County has three requests from him and they have responded by saying, when they have time and when they are in the area. Council Member Wells asked Mr. Tavenner to keep requesting.

Steve Edwards with Advanced Disposal review the number of complaints that were called into their office at Advance Disposal. He reviewed the yard waste requirements to the residents: yard waste must be 4 feet length 3 inches in diameter and tied and bundled in a reasonable fashion. Mr. Edwards will be starting a tag program within the month. For those residents not in compliance, they will be tagging the items with an explanation. He hoped to work with the City’s Code Enforcement Officer in order to insure the residents are aware of the requirements.

Items discussed included the hope to increase communication; the confusion regarding the dumpster at Medlock Park; commercial recycling; recycling receptacles placed downtown; no glass in the recycling containers; Advanced Disposal’s website; dumpsters not being scheduled and when scheduled, they are not emptied; glass pick up sites in Decatur and the DeKalb Farmers Market; the brochure that was given to new residents.

L. **Chief of Police:** Chief Troutman reviewed the activity sheet with Councils. He was proud of his officers, particularly, because the department had been functioning with a skeleton crew.
He recently hired two new officers and he felt the statistics would be bigger next month. Chief Troutman distributed a mug shot of (1) Mr. Barrington that was arrested for shooting a resident six times and (2) Mr. Williams who was arrested for a battery charge and escape. Chief Troutman then turned to the public and encouraged them to go out to meet your neighbors. He reported last Friday, Officers Clark, Roseberry, Detective Norton and the Chief went to a vacant lot on Ridge Forest with rakes and shovels. They found all kinds of beer bottles, etc. The next evening, there was a sweep of that street. They locked up two people, wrote five tickets. He asked the residents to call or email him should they see this type of activity in their neighborhood. A resident from Rockborough Drive complained about speeding in his neighborhood.

Council Member Mailman thanked Chief Troutman for his work. Chief Troutman attended Stone Mountain Day in the evening.

M. City Clerk – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. East Mountain Street Sidewalk Project – Consideration of Original Streetscape Plan (Second Street Residents). Mark Keyton, 5833 Poole Street, thought this would be an open discussion tonight and had hoped the engineer would be present because he had several questions for the engineer. City Manager Thornton reminded Mr. Keyton, as was agreed to at the roundtable discussion, all interested parties were to e-mail the questions to her.

Robert Givens, 2nd Street between Poole and Manor, felt if the street was a one-way street it might curb traffic problems and would add a sidewalk. Council Member Wells asked Mr. Givens if he would like one way, two way or nothing. Mr. Givens felt at bare minimum he would like the street to be resurfaced.

Council Member Wells asked Mr. Keyton the same questions. Mr. Keyton wanted the one way street with a sidewalk.

Fritha Dinwiddie felt one way on Second Street did not make sense to her unless there was a one way street going in the opposite direction in order for it to ease the flow of traffic.

Discussion among the Council Members included to repave, using the matching funds, the drainage problems on the street, waiting for Atwell to finish their research.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consent Agenda. None. The agenda moved to Item D.

B. Agreement for Ad Valorem Tax Billing (Place holder): City Manager Thornton updated the Council and there is an invoice from the County but there is not an agreement. She spoke to a representative of DeKalb County and all municipalities are in the same situation and are basing the agreement on a handshake.
C. **Proposed Purchase of Taser Equipment:** Taser Equipment. City Manager Thornton reported Officer Hillis is working to get the background information for the purchase of the Tasers, training, and other equipment that may be needed. Council Member Mailman spoke of giving the Police Officer another option other than a gun.

Council Member Johnson asked if it was going to be three quotes or are there three quotes to be gotten for Tasers. City Manager Thornton relayed that Officer Hillis has reported the company that is recommended is the sole provider of the particular product recommended for Police Officers. He is working on receiving letters from other companies. The agenda moved to E.

D. **City of Stone Mountain Comprehensive Plan 2016 Update:** Courtney Verdier of the Atlanta Regional Commission reviewed the draft plan. The State of Georgia requires Comprehensive Plans to be updated every ten years; the plans themselves cover twenty year horizon. Ms. Verdier incorporated the 2013 LCI Plan into the Comprehensive Plan.

The plan discussed encompassed years 2016-2036. She reviewed the three required elements community goals, needs and opportunity, and community work program. She reviewed the process, the stake holder committee, two public hearings and DCA has changed some of the rules in the hope the document is more useable. Ms. Verdier reviewed the process: DCA no longer requires a resolution; the mayor can write a letter to DCA saying we have reviewed the draft and have approved it; Ms. Verdier is to make the corrections/changes Council recommends; the Plan is then reviewed by DCA; DCA may or may not have changes; the Plan comes back to Council for adoption by resolution in October.

Council made changes and corrections to the document.

Council Member Johnson asked if the rest of Council approved the draft in order for Mayor Wheeler to send a letter to DCA accepting the draft. It was the consensus of the Council to send a letter by Mayor Wheeler to DCA in order to have plan reviewed by DCA. The agenda moved to Item B.

E. **2016 Community Video Program Agreement between CGI and the City of Stone Mountain:** City Manager Thornton reviewed the agreement with CGI Communications. CGI will provide up-to-date pictures and Videos. The costs are paid by sponsorship and CGI manages the sponsorship responsibility.

F. **Application for Alcoholic Beverage Privilege License/Retail Consumption:** Distilled Spirits, Malt Beverages and Wine-Café JAYA Applicant: Jeff Carey. Council had no questions on the item. Public Hearing is scheduled for September 6.
NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance 2016-14, Text Amendment to Appendix A Zoning – Accessory Structures. City Manager Thornton review the process for an ordinance change. Council Member Johnson read the preamble into the record. The public hearing for the accessory structure is on September 6, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

B. Ordinance 2016-16, To Amend Chapter 2, Article II Meeting Time for Regular Meeting
   Johnson read preamble into the record: The purpose of the ordinance is to change the time of the Regular Session from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

C. Resolution 2016-26, Renewing the Service Delivery Strategy for DeKalb County, Georgia: City Manager Thornton reported the document was delivered to the City and after review there are still some discrepancies among our acknowledgement form, the SDS matrix and the document. She reported the DeKalb Cities are still concerned about the County opting out of providing street maintenance and construction. DeKalb County would prefer to provide traffic signalization only. City Manager Thornton anticipates tabling the item during the voting session.

D. Resolution 2016-29, Budget Amendment: City Manager Thornton reported the budget amendment includes the position of a warrant officer. She reported, Jan Lewis has been reporting warrant enforcement activity on a weekly basis. The funds collected by the increase in activity justifies the part-time position. Officer Hubbard has been performing these duties since March.

E. Resolution 2016-31 To Reaffirm Date and to Set Time for Monthly Council/Committee Work Session: Council Member Johnson read preamble of the resolution into the record. The purpose of the resolution is to change the time of the Council’s Work Sessions to the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Council Member Johnson suggested, once the meeting items have passed at the voting session to make sure the public is aware of the change.

F. Resolution 2016-32 Amending Resolution 2016-18 to include fees for Commercial Recycling Services in the City of Stone Mountain: Council Member Johnson read resolution into the record. City Manager Thornton indicated the resolution would replace Resolution 2016-18, not amend. The resolution will read the same except for the addition of adding commercial recycling resolution.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: City Manager Thornton distributed the report to the Council. Council Member Mailman supported training for the employees. City Manager Thornton thanked him for the support and indicated she would be coming to council to move monies in order for more employees to be trained. Council Member Redmond thanked City Manager Thornton for the change in the format regarding the General Fund report. City Manager Thornton reviewed the revenue/expense report with the Council. She reported for slight overage in public works due to street maintenance and tree removal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR: Mayor Wheeler thanked all the citizens for their participation at the meeting.
ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Council Member Mailman seconded the motion. 
Motion approved 6-0.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Patricia Wheeler, Mayor  Kathleen E. Settle, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED AT THE 9/6/2016 MEETING