CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION
875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, GA
May 15, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m.
MINUTES

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

STAFF: City Manager ChaQuias Thornton, Code Compliance Officer Sgt. Sanja Roseberry, Chief of Police Chancey Troutman, Public Works Director Jim Tavenner, Visitor Manager Kim Cumbie, Assistant City Clerk Alicia Daniels

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. (immediately following public hearing.)

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: The invocation was given by Council Member Higgins. Council Member Wells led the pledge to the flag.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: Chief Troutman presented commendations to Detective Norrington and Detective Burton for the apprehension of a suspect accused in a hit and run that occurred in the City. Sgt. Norrington thanked Chief Troutman for his guidance in the investigation and search for the suspect.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (The public is encouraged to speak but to keep comments to three minutes.): The following people came forward to express their concerns, opinions and suggestions: Joan Monroe (presented petition for crosswalks, traffic enforcement, and speed limit reduction), Rory Webb (presented information on Busking for Council review), Judy Asher (need for Council honesty, playground rebuild at McCurdy, accountability of building owners, attention to property at corner of Ridge and Cloud, recruitment of new members to City committees, promotion of and more diversity in business community), Sara Hester (concerns about rules applying to all, making City inviting to visitors and businesses, consistent public works and sanitation services in Rockborough, need for new perspective on Council, and citizens feelings of being overlooked), Karen Patton (difficulties for current and new business ventures, need to repair downtown buildings and to improve curb appeal, look for ways to make City more than a thoroughfare, require property owners to maintain their properties, offer tax incentives) Shawnette Bryant (continued issues with sanitation contractors, request community service workers to service the Rockborough area, thanked public works for clean-up in area, commended Chief Troutman for officer patrol of area), Diana Hollis (thanked City Manager Thornton for work to stop sanitation trucks from entering City in early mornings during children’s school travel), Joey Vincent (informed Council of his desire to enter into lease agreement to use Medlock Park for a minor league football program and his want to be involved in the restoration of the park – he was advised to see City Manager Thornton at City Hall), Barbara Iverson (thanked public works for painting speed bumps on Third Street), Melvin Woods (asked for assistance in cutting the
grass median at Rockborough subdivision), Fawn Lowry (voiced concerns about Second Street streetscape design, issued opinion about use of Second Street for art festivals in the future, about the height of the curbs on Second Street, and the need for building repairs in the downtown area), Adam Holcomb (voiced his concerns about the need for a cross walk at the intersection of Main and Poplar, speed bumps on Second Street between Mountain and JBR, and the outage of traffic lights at JBR and Mimosa), Claus Friese (voiced his concerns about the amount of roofing permit charged for replacement of the roof of his building, requested refund).

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

A. Planning and Zoning: None.

B. Community Affairs: Council Member Coletti announced the Village Vibe and Color Vibe events to be held May 20th through 21st, 2017.

C. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority and Visitor Center: Kim Cumbie reported there were over 250 visitors to the center this month. She reported on the economic impact to the City. Sundays are now opening from 1-4 p.m. She reported that the Farmers Market has grown from 16 to 24 vendors and that she received and email from a vendor who voiced their discontent for the protest that occurred in the City’s crosswalk near the market. Color Vibe will be on May 20. There are 2800 over registrants. It takes a Village on May 20 as well, with the festival being held from 12pm to 6pm and the car show being held from 5pm to 8pm. Bike rides will be held on Sunday, May 21st. Council Member Steve Higgins commended Ms. Cumbie on her service to the market and other events within the City.

D. Finance: No report.

E. Community Outreach: Council Member Redmond gave information on the history of the farmers market and encourage citizens to attend the market and to attend Tunes by the Tracks. She encouraged neighborhoods to get involved in Community Watch groups and offered her services to help to start the program in other communities. She inquired about four way stops on East Mountain at the close of the sidewalk project and informed public works of a hole that is in the project area near the bank. Ms. Redmond also represented Judy Thigpen in trying to gather information on why awards for the Christmas Parade entries were advertised on the entry application but were not awarded.

F. Public Works: Council Member Wells thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for voicing their concerns. He encouraged citizens to contact their Council members with concerns and to harness their passion for community efforts. He announced that the next organized clean-up effort will take place on June 24th, 2017 and he asked that citizens submit their ideas to him about clean-up locations. He announced his email address and encourage citizen contact and engagement.

G. Public Safety: Council Member Mailman spoke on the clean-up efforts in the Rockborough subdivision. He encouraged the citizens in that area to continue to get involved by communicating with Council and with their neighbors. Mr. Mailman asked them to contact the City when issues should arise so that the matters can be attended to in a timely fashion.
H. Historic Preservation Commission: Al Capagrossi asked Council to review the resumes of those parties that have expressed interest in serving on the Historic Preservation Commission. He also asked that information be placed on the City website regarding the tree removal permission process, the necessary documentation for three removal, and his place in that process.

STAFF REPORTS:
A. Code Compliance Officer: Officer Roseberry reviewed her report with the Council. Council Member Mailman asked that Officer Roseberry continue to canvas subdivisions, such as Rockborough, to help to deter code violation issues.

B. Public Works Director: Mr. Tavenner gave the monthly report of Public Work activities. The report included such activities as community service efforts, trash pick-up, cemetery maintenance, storm water drain maintenance, and park maintenance. Mr. Tavenner reported that the bid opening for the storm water project at 5075 Leland will be held May 26th, 2017 at 2:00pm at City Hall. Proposal for approval of a contractor for the project will be presented to Council during the upcoming regular session on June 6th, 2017. Mr. Tavenner asked for the consensus of Council to receive estimate on changes to the East Mountain Street sidewalk project. The changes include eliminating narrowing of the roadway between Second and Third streets on Manor Drive and keeping that section of Manor Drive at its original width before the start of this phase of the construction project. Consensus was given to explore cost in the matter. Mr. Tavenner is to determine if the grass area in the median at Rockborough subdivision is City property. If it is, the City will maintain the area.

C. Chief of Police: Chief Troutman reviewed his report with Council. He reported on the number of calls, citations, and warnings for the reporting period. He also reported on a suspected home invasion and aggravated assault in Ridge Forrest in which a gentleman has been apprehended.

D. City Clerk: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
A. Relocation of the Dog Park: Council Member Coletti introduce Mr. Michael Rallins, a Stone Mountain citizen who is leading the proposed dog park initiative. Mr. Rallins explained what has been happening as far as communication of the initiative on Nextdoor, meetings held, input received, action plans, and community engagement in the initiative. Questions and comments were taken from the audience regarding the matter. Mr. Rallins has been tasked with canvassing the area around to proposed park to get the citizens feedback on the idea of the park being located in the McCurdy park area.

NEW BUSINESS:
A. Consent Agenda: None.

B. Mayor’s Nomination of Janette Miles-Kendall and Theodore Hale, Sr. to the Historic Preservation Commission – Proposed approval 6/06/2017 – Three year terms to end June 30, 2020
Mayor Wheeler asked that the Council Members review the resumes prior to the June 6th voting meeting.

Page 3 of 5 05/15/2017
C. Presentation of Proposed Financial Management Policy by City Manager
City Manager Thornton informed Council that the document details that policies, regulations and processes of the City as related to financial management. Previous years audit findings have offered corrective action of the findings that includes the publication of such a document that will be made available to employees of the City. Other repeat findings from previous years were also discussed.

D. Tentative Adoption of 2017 Millage Rate – Publication of Property Tax Notice and Public Hearings
City Manager Thornton informed Council that the administration is not ready to proposed tentative millage rate at this time because the DeKalb County Tax Assessors Office has not yet rendered tax digest consolidation and revaluation reports to the cities for review. The reports are not expected to be released until May 26th, 2017 and therefore, the administration has asked that this item be a place holder for discussion and consideration of the matter during the June 6th, 2017 regular session of Council.

E. Consideration of Pickleball - Rock Gym Programming
Council Member Higgins reported on how the Pickleball activity got started in the City and how the Rock Gym was utilized to house the activity. At that time there was limited use of the Rock Gym facility. He explained that he would rather see the event continue on as a community event rather than a privatized event. He informed those present of the maintenance that the group have made to the gym and how the activity is an asset to the community offering a senior activity and bringing visitors to the City. He recommends making the activity a City function, with this determination being made by the City Council. He does not want to charge people to come in to participate in the activity. Other Council Members also weighed in on the matter.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:
F. Ordinance 2017-03 To Amend Article VI Budgetary Policies and Administration, Chapter 2, Section 2-138 Accounting Standards
City Manager Thornton explained to Council that this amendment serves to reference the Financial Policy document discussed in New Business Item C.

G. Ordinance 2017-04 To Amend Appendix A – Zoning, Article XV: Bed and Breakfast Facilities
City Manager Thornton discussed the proposed amendment. The amend serves to define and to offer regulations for the land use that offers lodging rooms for a fee within residential districts. Council Member Coletti recused herself from her Council seat and addressed Council as a citizen. Discussion was had about the consideration of regulations relative to occupation tax, owner occupancy, definition of such establishments, limitations on days of stay in such establishments, ramifications of the allowance of use, etc. Several citizens in the audience voiced their concerns.

H. Ordinance 2017-05 To Amend Appendix A – Zoning, Article VI: Supplemental Regulations, Section 6-9 Home Occupations
City Manager Thornton discussed the proposed amendment and its relevancy to the proposed amendment 2017-04. The amendment adds language regarding regulating land use that offers lodging rooms for a fee within residential districts under Home Occupation regulations.
CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: City Manager Thornton reviewed the revenue and expense report for the month of April 2017. She announced position opening and closing date for the position of City Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR: Mayor Wheeler appointed Mayor Pro-tem Johnson and Council Member Redmond to the Ad Hoc Committee for placement of the City Clerk’s position. Council Members thanked all of those in attendance for coming and for voicing their concerns. The citizens were encourage to continue to stay engaged in the community and to communicate with the elected officials and the administration of the City.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to close the work session to convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Seconded by Council Member Coletti. The work session closed at 9:27pm.

The work session reconvened at 9:42pm, with Council Member Johnson reporting that there were no items to consider per executive session.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. Council Member Coletti seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Mayor Patricia Wheeler

Alicia Daniels, Assistant City Clerk

05/15/2017