REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
875 Main Street, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Tuesday, October 3, 2017 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Wheeler, Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson, Councilmembers Richard Mailman, Andrea Redmond, Steve Higgins and Steve Wells.

STAFF: City Manager ChaQuias Thornton, Attorney Joe Fowler, Police Chief Chauncey Troutman, Public Works Director Jim Tavenner and City Clerk Rhonda Blackmon.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Councilmember Higgins gave the invocation and Councilmember Wells led the pledge of the flag.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: (Citizens are encouraged to speak but keep their comments to three minutes):

Bob Hallford at 5233 Tina Court – stated that he has a serious concern about the crime. He mentioned the shooting incident at his residence. He stated that he was concerned about the direction of the city and that it is no longer safe. He stated that the police do not patrol anymore.

Mike Cooper at 663 Ridge Avenue – Gave everyone an invite to the library friends meeting; invited election candidates to a forum; he also mentioned that he was invited to serve on the library committee. He then spoke about other situations concerning Cloud Street and Memorial Drive code and development topics.

Mike Rollins at 968 Ridge Avenue – Stated that he reached out to citizens that would be close to where the dog park would be but he could not make contact. Suggested a public hearing to see what could be done about the dog park.

There was no one else to come forward to speak.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL:

Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting on September 5, 2017; Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded the motion; motion carried 4/1 with Steve Wells abstained.

Minutes of City Council Special Called Meeting on September 8, 2017; Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded the motion; motion carried 4/1 with Steve Wells abstained.
Minutes of City Council Special Called Meeting on September 18, 2017; Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded the motion; motion carried 4/1 with Steve Wells abstained.

Minutes of City Council Work Session Meeting on September 18, 2017; Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded the motion; motion carried 4/1 with Steve Wells abstained.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA OF THE DAY: Request to add by unanimous consent under New Business: E. Consideration to Accept CORE Homebuilders as Builder for Hearthstone. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved for the adoption of the agenda of the day to add an item as E under New Business; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded the motion; motion carried 5/0.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY LEGISLATION VETOED BY THE MAYOR: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consent Agenda; none.

B. Request for Relief of Deed to Secure Debt; Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion to table this item; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded; City Attorney Joe Fowler stated there needed to be an IGA in place; motion carried 5/0.

C. City of Stone Mountain FY2017-18 MS4 Annual Report and Dry Weather Screening Proposal-Clark Patterson Lee – Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded; motion carried 5/0.

D. Purchase of 2018 Ford Interceptor SUV – Police Department - $34,500 – Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion, Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded; motion carried 5/0.

E. Consideration to Accept CORE Homebuilders as Builder for Hearthstone – City Manager Thornton had some discussion concerning this item; Mr. Jeff Ratka then came up and discussed this project with the Council and City Manager; the City Manager asked Council about a bond and there was significant discussion concerning the bond. Several councilmembers spoke. There was a lot of discussion concerning the bond requirement. Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a motion to approve; after much discussion, Councilmember Steve Wells made a motion to amend the motion to approve the agreement with the
stipulation that the bond is required after seven houses or pave the streets in Hearthstone subdivision; Mayor Pro Tem Chakira Johnson made a second; motion carried 4/0; 1 abstain.

NEW ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

A. Ordinance 2017-08 To Amend Appendix A – Zoning, Article V: District Regulations to Include Provisions for Accessory Dwelling Units – Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion; Councilmember Mailman seconded; City Manager Thornton stated that she had one recommended amendment to this under item 1 8(a) minimum lot size as 15,000 as in R-1 instead of 30,000. There was some discussion pertaining to uses, stipulations and tax base; Mayor Pro Tem Johnson withdrew her initial motion; motion carried 3/2. Councilmember Wells asked to amend the motion to table this item; Councilmember Mailman seconded; motion carried 3/2.

B. Ordinance 2017-09 To Amend Appendix A – Zoning, Article VI: Supplemental Regulations, Section 6-8 Accessory Uses – Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion to table this item; Councilmember Mailman seconded; motion carried 4/1.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Planning and Zoning; no representative.

B. Community Affairs; no representative.

C. Economic Development/Downtown Development Authority – Errol Newark spoke about the MARTA project; he and Mr. Peet attended a training; he spoke of the Georgia State student visit to City Hall; also has spoken to several business owners that would like to relocate to Stone Mountain; met with a restaurant developer and that person is interested in Stone Mountain as well.

D. Finance; no report.

E. Community Outreach; no report.

F. Public Safety; Councilmember Mailman spoke about the ongoing investigation of the shooting; an audience member asked about our newsletter that the city used to produce to be able to keep up with happenings in the city and not getting updates on the shooting; Councilmember Mailman addressed the situation with patrolling and 911; another citizen spoke on code enforcement issues; City Manager Thornton mentioned calling in the evening for code compliance and also the newsletter.
G. Public Works; Councilmember Wells asked about the shooting suspect; Chief Troutman spoke about communication and watching the news to keep up with happenings; Councilmember Wells then spoke about traffic calming speed humps; he also talked about cross walks in the city.

H. Historic Preservation Commission; Al Capogrossi congratulated the council on passing the new project for Hearthstone Subdivision; he then spoke on the timing of the paving in that subdivision; also the tiny house information was talked about.

I. Visitor Center; this report was given at the work session.

REMARKS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE; Mayor asked Council if there was any more discussion; Councilmember Mailman spoke about Mr. Bradshaw and Michael Cooper.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson spoke on the newsletter and the best way to get the newsletter back.

The City Manager Thornton spoke on the SPLOST and the information concerning that pertaining to what the council can talk about concerning the SPLOST.

Councilmember Higgins also spoke about Mr. Cooper and the library meeting upcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR; Mayor advised of the candidate forum being held on October 23rd.

ADJOURNMENT; Mayor called for a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro Tem Johnson made a motion; Councilmember Richard Mailman seconded; motion carried 5/0; meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Mayor Patricia Wheeler
City Clerk Rhonda A. Blackmon