



**CITY OF LITHONIA  
MINUTES– CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, June 5, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

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**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting began at 5:37 pm. Council members Howard, Honoré, Inman, and Wynn were all in attendance. Council member Sheppard arrived at 5:39 pm.

**II. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Council member Inman asked to add Marion Williams, HOA Chair of the Mason Mill Estates Community to the agenda as item D under New Business.

Council member Sheppard asked to remove item A the Resource Center from the agenda.

**Motion** – made by Council member Inman to approve the June 5, 2023 council meeting agenda with stated changes. Council member Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

**a. May 1, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** – made by Council member Inman to approve the May 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Council member Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. May 15, 2023 Work Session Minutes**

**Motion** – Made by Council member Inman to approve the May 15, 2023 Work Session minutes. Councilmember Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**V. Public Comment Responses**

Mayor Reynolds allowed citizens to make public comments at the meeting as there were several to show up to voice their concerns.

**Kathleen De Cocq** – Spoke about the loud music and events held in Stonecrest over the Memorial Day weekend. She stated that she spoke with DeKalb County about the events and hopes that the city can speak with Stonecrest as well. She stated that she plans to attend Stonecrest’s city council meeting and express her concerns as well.

Councilmember Inman stated she contacted Dekalb County and Stonecrest’s Code Enforcement about her concerns with the loud music as well. Councilmember Sheppard stated that she also had some issues with the noise over the weekend coming from Randall Avenue where a party started at 6 pm and ended at 7 am. Chief Dejarnette explained that DeKalb County has a noise ordinance that should be followed but the events that took place over the weekend ignored that Ordinance.

**Patricia Robinson** – Spoke about the noise she experienced over the weekend because of the events held. She also stated that the noise at the Amphitheater needs to come down during events as it also disturbs her. She spoke about trash in the city and illegal dumping at the Middle School embankment.

**Dawn Massey** – spoke about concerns with Grand Anse which is in Stonecrest and the noise ordinance in place. She spoke about the DDA program event which took place on Sunday prior to the council meeting and apologized that it was overcrowded, and it slipped past her. She also stated that there is another event scheduled for Father’s Day, Caribbean Family Fun Day at the Amphitheatre from 12-8 pm.

**A. Harper** – Spoke about the noise over the weekend and concerns about retaliation for speaking out and calling the police. She also spoke about Pine Mountain and Bruce Street having overgrowth and trash and asked who she needs to contact. Mayor Reynolds stated that the area of concern needing clean up falls on Dekalb County.

**O. Reid** – Spoke about concerns with the noise going on at the concert this weekend. Mayor Reynolds stated that she rode around the city to attempt to gauge the noise and could not hear it. Ms. Reid stated that she heard it clearly for the last couple weekends. She stated that she felt it was a safety issue to have so many people in that park area.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Lithonia High School Alumni Event**

Councilmember Sheppard provided the details and requested to hold the Lithonia Alumni Event on July 29, 2023 in the upper park area near the basketball courts from 12:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

**Motion** - Councilmember Howard to approve the Lithonia High School Alumni Event July 29, 2023. Councilmember Inman seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Farmers Market Advertising**

Chief Dejarnette explained the request for the city to reinvest in the Farmers Market on Main. Councilmember Inman stated that the city would look at the vendor payments received this year for the Farmers Market and reinvest that money into the advertising for the Market on Main Street.

**c. Marion Williams with the Mason Mill Estates Community**

Marion Williams arrived at the meeting at 6:28 pm. Council member Inman introduced Mr. Williams and stated that he was interested in getting more information and understanding how the city of Lithonia could plan a Town Hall meeting regarding a future annexation. Mr. Williams introduced himself and stated that there are 200 homes in his community of homeowners and renters and he is interested in providing more services for his community. Chief Dejarnette explained there is a meeting scheduled with a nearby city that has offered their resources and services to help the City of Lithonia with future annexation and that he would remain in contact with Mr. Williams about any upcoming plans.

**VII. Old Business**

**VIII. Reports and Updates**

**a. Police Department Report**

Chief Dejarnette stated he wanted to recognize the investigators on staff. He stated that their hard work led to an operation that shut down a problem house located in the city. He provided an update on the banner set up at Bruce and Conyers Street. There was an issue with the brackets, but they should be up shortly.

Councilmember Sheppard commented on the City of Lithonia Police Departments Instagram page and stated that it is very nice.

A visitor in attendance at the meeting asked about people spending time at Bruce Street Park after the park closed. Chief Dejarnette stated that citizens should call 911 if there is a nuisance. He stated that the park hours are from Dusk to Dawn.

Councilmember Inman mentioned that a resolution was never reached about the beautification around the new city signage. Councilmember Howard expressed concerns with planting flowers and them growing up and covering the new signage. Mayor Reynolds stated the local quarry would supply whatever the city needed if the council would consider using rock material instead of flowers.

b. Mayor's Report and Councilmember Updates

Mayor Reynolds clarified the dates of the GMA Conference in Savannah, GA and stated the Chief Dejarnette would send an email with everyone's detailed information. She asked that the citizens make their concerns about the noise known at the next Stonecrest City Council meeting and stated she would speak with Ms. Miller about the concerns at the Amphitheatre.

There was discussion about a future Town Hall meeting regarding annexation and if they would be held virtually or in person or both. It was agreed that a discussion to finalize the details would take place at a later date as there are other details that need to be clarified first.

Council member Wynn had no update.

Council member Sheppard had no update.

Council member Honoré spoke about putting something up for Father's Day in the city, possibly a banner that says, "Father's Matter". Council member Howard stated she saw it in Belize and thought it would be a great idea. She also said that another great sign would be something that says, "Keep our city beautiful" as a reminder for everyone to work to keep the city nice. Mayor Reynolds agreed and said she would work to get both of those signs up by Friday.

Council member Sheppard asked if there was a consensus to try and place rocks around the city signage on Saturday. Council member Howard suggested the use of black rubber mulch. Chief Dejarnette stated he would coordinate with Public Works to get the supplies needed from Home Depot. Council member Sheppard stated that beautification will not happen at every sign because it is not safe, and those signs could be handled by Public Works. Council member Wynn stated that the goal would be low maintenance. Council member Inman also suggested getting some solar powered lights to up-light the signage as well.

Council member Inman suggested that this Saturday be a clean up instead. Mayor Reynolds suggested that it take place at Pine Mountain Street because she asks Public Works about that area daily. Council member Sheppard stated that the start time would be Saturday at 9 am and everyone will meet at city hall. The city clerk, Ashley Waters, stated she would get with the Public Works department about gathering the supplies needed for the clean-up.

Council member Howard stated that she wanted to speak about Kudzu, an invasive vine that grows one foot a day. She stated that its growing around the Housing apartments on Conyers and Bruce Streets and the City needs to speak with the Housing Authority about cutting it back and getting rid of the bush.

IX. Executive Session

**Motion** – made by Councilmember Inman to go into Executive Session for personnel. Council member Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** – made by Council member Inman to leave Executive Session and return to the regular council meeting. Council member Howard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**X. Adjournment**

**Motion** – made by councilmember Howard to adjourn. Council member Sheppard seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting ended at 7:49 pm.

Attest:

  
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Ashley Waters, City Clerk

  
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Shemeka Reynolds, Mayor