



ACTION MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

Mayor Anthony S. Ford
Councilman Elton Alexander
Mayor Pro Tem John Blount
Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt
Councilwoman Neat Robinson
Councilman Alphonso Thomas

Administration

Randy Knighton, City Manager
Camilla Moore, Asst. City Manager
Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk
Randi Rainey, Deputy City Clerk
Michael Williams, City Attorney

Mission: To provide visionary leadership and superior municipal services that enhance the quality of life for citizens while creating a welcoming business atmosphere focused on sustainability and expansion of tourism and cultural events.

- I. Call to Order – Mayor Ford**
- II. Invocation – James Touchton**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Roll Call – All members were present**
- V. Motion to amend the Agenda to add Item #8 – Western Parallel Connector: Robinson/Alexander: Passed 5-0.**
- VI. Motion to Adopt the Minutes for the following meetings:**
 - 1. 6/10/2019 2. 06/26/2019 Blount/Gantt: Passed 5-0**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

All persons wishing to speak for public comment must sign in with the City Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting. You must sign your name, address, and phone number. You will be able to address the Mayor and Council for three (3) minutes. Speakers must respect all members of the elected body, officials, and staff. Defamation, unruliness and/or swearing will not be tolerated while meetings are in session.

- **Mr. Andrew Dixon spoke regarding the City's Moratorium on certain businesses and Economic Development in the City.**

- Mr. Lamen Latimore spoke about the need for better communication and cohesiveness between the City and County officials and less social media and in-fighting.
- Mr. Roger Custin stated his concern with the City's decision to move away from the Henry County CVB (Convention & Visitor's Bureau) and the repercussions that may follow.

CEREMONIAL REVIEW

Mayor Ford reviewed the Swearing In of (8) eight Stockbridge Youth Council members

PRESENTATIONS

3. Jazz Lee-Coley made a presentation to the Mayor & Council Human Trafficking and sought assistance from the City in getting the message out and awareness to Stockbridge residents.
4. (2nd Quarter Summary Reports 2019)
 1. Stockbridge Youth Council – not presented
 2. James Touchton gave an update on the Economic Development of the City.

AGENDA REQUEST

5. Appeal Hearing
 Applicant: Daina Cressman
 Nature of Request: Appeal the Denial of Business Permit
 Location: 1375 Rock Quarry Rd. - Proposed Use: Beauty Salon
 Reason for Denial: Moratorium Restriction
 Presented by Uneeda Smith-Sellers - Business Services Supervisor
 Motion to uphold denial: Alexander/Blount: Passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Council Consideration to approve a Resolution for the Davis Road Sidewalk Phase I project in the amount of \$510,700.00
 Presented by Decius Aaron – Public Works Director
 Motion to approve: Blount/Alexander - Passed 5-0.
7. Council Consideration to approve a Resolution for the Smith-Barnes Sewer Basin Rehabilitation Phase I project in the amount of \$140,375.00.
 Presented by Decius Aaron – Public Works Director
 Motion to approve: Blount/Gantt – Passed 5-0.
8. Council Consideration to approve a Resolution urging immediate funding and commencement of the Western Parallel Connector and of the Jonesboro Road Improvement
 Motion to approve: Robinson/Alexander – Passed 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Knighton thanked staff for their hard work and all the accomplishments of the City and is looking forward to more great things to come.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Mrs. Holiday offered condolences to her teammate and staff member, Angela Bryant for the loss of her mother.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Thomas reiterated that he is in support of the Youth/Senior Center and referenced the collection of Survey Data (up to 300 already received); referenced the recent Town Hall at Smith-Barnes Elementary School with 60+ in attendance who gave input and showed concern and frustration over the timeline of the center and gave assurance the City will get this project done ASAP; noted the Council's agreement on the priority of (3) projects: Amphitheater, Cultural Arts Center and Youth/Senior Center; noted the survey is available online on the City's website; and noted the City is working through the courts via the Nuisance and Abatement process regarding the house on Wilson Avenue.

Attorney Williams noted the attorney made a first-hand visit to the site.

Mr. Knighton thanked the Mayor & Council for their leadership in approving the Nuisance and Abatement program and referenced the recent demolition to a burnt out home on Turning Point, much to the joy of the neighborhood; and noted the City is moving aggressively with these types of issues in the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Blount thanked everyone for coming out; noted the City officials see the needs of the community and emphasized things take time, as Rome was not built in a day; noted the City is still in the healing phase, noting progress is happening; reference the recent HOA Roundtable Initiative and asked all HOA's to sign up on the City's website; noted the Governing Body is available to speak with individuals if there is an issue, ask everyone to reach out to each of them and referenced the contact information on the City's website, noting, he will call you back and will set up a meeting; and stated, there is no City of Stockbridge without you.

Councilwoman Gantt congratulated Attorney Williams on his recent nuptials; offered a sincere thank you to staff for their hard work; referenced the trials the City has been through in the past couple of years; noted tonight was a tough one on business owners and asked that all understand, the Council has to do what is in the best interest of the City in regards to the saturation of certain businesses, the City's Comprehensive Plan and quality of life; asked those who can to volunteer with the City and at the schools; noted she loves the community support and asked that everyone continue to keep the City in your prayers.

Councilman Alexander apologized to the City, and citizens for his role in a recent meeting, noting certain discussions should not have taken place in public and that going forward, he will make sure personnel matters take place in Executive Session; asked everyone to join in the efforts to *Save Cochran Park*, and referenced the 50-year legacy of baseball that included Kyle Davies and others, noted there is an online petition with more than 1,000 names on it, please add your name to the list; noted coaches of Cochran Park are already assisting players with their own personal funds to and from practice and moving the teams to Hidden Valley Park 10 miles north would create an additional hardship; referenced the previous Youth Senior Center comments where he didn't say the center was not supported by the Council, but rather, the Council did not vote to move forward with the design of the center and referred to previous Town Halls and other arenas that could cut off 6-months from the timeline and process; and referenced the Forced Cleanup being brought forward by the City.

Councilwoman Robinson acknowledged coaches in the audience and offered support to saving Cochran Park, asking everyone to sign the petition; noted Stockbridge officials had reached out to County officials to see how everyone could work together to save the park; noted there is so much potential for growth in the City; referenced Piedmont Hospital, and Technology as avenues for young people, noting, Stockbridge is not just about fun and the Amphitheater; referenced the County's transportation concerns, noting the City of Stockbridge is at the table; stated this is not a 9-5, as the Mayor & Council are working 24/7 to get things done; stated to local business owners, there are hard decisions that have to be made and recognizes it is heartbreaking, and stated she is here for the small businesses and at the same time wants the City of Stockbridge to be top-notch, and that's what the City is working towards; emphasized that as was done with Councilman Thomas' Town Hall, we need your input.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford referenced the recent ground-breaking for Hegla Corporation, a German Company, building its facility in the City of Stockbridge (first ever international corporation in the City), with a planned ribbon cutting in 2020 during the City's centennial celebrations; thanked Mr. Touchton for his Economic Development report and all of the progress; noted it is Back to School in Henry County and asked everyone to be mindful of kids and buses; noted the recent ribbon cuttings for new local restaurants: *Chicken Salad Chick* and *Moe's Southwest Grill* both on Eagle's Landing Pkwy.; referenced working with the County in efforts to *Save Cochran Park*; and asked that everyone keep the faith and continue to listen to the citizens.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting will be held at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please visit the city's website www.cityofstockbridge.com, Facebook page or contact City Hall offices at 770-389-7900 for updates and detailed information.

- Legislative Town Hall Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Merle Manders Conference Center hosted by Senator Emanuel Jones and Senator Brian Strickland
- City of Stockbridge Budget Retreat August 14, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; August 15, 2019 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and August 16, 2019 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Downtown Development Authority meeting, Monday, August 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m./Levi Rm.
- Henry County Intergovernmental Retreat August 22 – 23, 2019 – Columbus, GA
- Youth Council Advisory Committee, Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m./Levi Room
- Planning Commission meeting, Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m./Council Chamber
- Work Session meeting, Tuesday August 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber.
- Citizens Academy begins August 29, 2019 (registration has closed).

UPCOMING EVENT(S) & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Monthly Bingo Bash Wednesday, August 28, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – noon at the Ted Strickland Community Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail – spearheaded by Mayor Pro Tem Blount

ONGOING INITIATIVES

- Meet & Greet the Mayor Mondays with Mayor Anthony S. Ford from 10:00 a.m. - noon **every fourth Monday** of the month (appointment required). Please contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information and scheduling.
- Don't Trash Stockbridge No Litter Campaign – Ongoing – spearheaded by Councilman Thomas. Contact: LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.
- Monthly Bingo Bash from 10:00 a.m. – noon at the Ted Strickland Community Center spearheaded by Mayor Pro Tem Blount. Visit the City's website or Facebook page for dates and information.
- Quarterly Town Hall – Ongoing – spearheaded by Councilman Alexander. Visit the City's website or Facebook page for dates and information.
- Keep Stockbridge Beautiful – Ongoing – spearheaded by Councilman Alexander. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.
- Quarterly Clergy RoundTable – spearheaded by Councilwoman Robinson. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.
- Quarterly Welcoming Stockbridge RoundTable every **2nd Tuesday** at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Levi Meeting Room – spearheaded by Councilwoman Gantt. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.

- Quarterly Homeowners and Neighborhood Association RoundTable – spearheaded by Mayor Pro Tem Blount. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.

Attorney Williams noted the Mayor & Council had come to an agreement regarding the Coleman/Brown case and asked for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement: Motion to approve: Thomas/Blount: Passed 3-0-1(Robinson Abstained/Gantt was not present for the vote).

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.