



ACTION MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 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, Community Dev. Dir
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 – Melvin Stringer**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Roll Call – All members were in attendance for roll call except Councilwoman Gantt**
- V. Motion to amend the Agenda to add Item #10 – Authorizing the HCPD to use the MMCC for their annual Policeman Ball on 2/29/2020: Robinson/Alexander – Passed 4-0.**
- VI. Adoption of the Minutes for the following meeting: Robinson/Alexander – Passed 4-0**

1. 10/14/2019

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. **There were no public comments.**

Mayor Ford reviewed the ceremonial items as referenced below:

CEREMONIAL REVIEW

Proclamation – Cynthia Jewell (former Stockbridge E.S. Principal)
 Proclamation – Janae Cohen – Henry County Teacher of the Year from Red Oak E.S.
 Proclamation - Shop Small Saturday
 Proclamation – Hospice Awareness Month
 Resolution - Honoring the memory of Willie B. Hatcher
 Swearing-In Ceremony – Public Facilities Authority Members
 Proclamation – Diabetes Prevention/Awareness Month Workshop & Health Fair (Sat.)

Mayor Ford also referenced the City's Annual Veterans Day Parade held earlier in the day noting the veterans from Benton Village senior facility were unable to attend, however ceremonial hats were delivered personally by him and members of the Events staff.

Councilwoman Gantt joined the meeting.

PRESENTATION

2. Connecting Henry & Noel in November Update
 Presented by Barbara Coleman – Executive Director
 Mrs. Coleman presented the agency's different programs and noted the Noel in November event is still scheduled as planned.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Council Consideration to approve the City's 2020 Benefits package.
 Presented by Renee Wheeler, Human Resources Manager, John Wiggins, Treasurer and John Leggett w/MSI Benefits
 Motion to approve Option 1 – Alexander/Blount – Passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Council Consideration to approve FY2020 Water and Sewer Rates
 Presented by Decius Aaron – Public Works Director
 Motion to Table and be heard at the 11/26/2019 Work Session
 Meeting: Gantt/Blount – Passed 3-2 (Alexander/Robinson opposed)
5. Council Consideration to approve use of the Ted Strickland Community Center on November 22, 2019 for a Youth Council Forum regarding Human Trafficking and Toy Drive Event 12/15/19.
 Presented by Ericka Harvey – Youth Council Chair
 Motion to approve: Gantt/Robinson – Passed 5-0.
6. Council Consideration to approve FY2020 Council Meeting Dates
 Presented by Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk
 Motion to approve Option 2: Blount/Thomas – Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

7. Owner(s)/Applicant(s): Martin Bonea (Everything VM LLC) - Request: 100% Method Annexation into the City of Stockbridge for the property located at Hwy. 138 Spivey Project. Parcel ID: 012-02013001 Land Lot 42 of the 12th District 14.01 Acres – Present Land Use: RA. Presented by Camilla Moore – Community Development Director
 Public Hearing Opened
 Applicant Martin Bonea spoke in favor
 No Speakers Opposed
 Public Hearing Closed
 Motion to approve: Alexander/Gantt – Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

8. Council Consideration to hear an amendment to the Zoning Code amending the procedures and criteria for Administrative Appeals and Administrative Waivers. Presented by Camilla Moore – Community Development Director
 Public Hearing Opened
 Andrew Dixon spoke in favor
 No Speakers Opposed
 Public Hearing Closed
 Motion to approve: Gantt/Alexander – Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

9. Proposed FY2020 Budget Hearing – First Reading
 Presented by Randy Knighton – City Manager
 Councilwoman Gantt exited the meeting noting the request from the August 2019 Budget Retreat to list the position for the Events Team as an Office Manager and not an Administrative Assistant. 7:40 p.m.

Councilwoman Robinson questioned the reduced funding for the Economic Development Director with all that the City has on its forefront regarding economic development in the City; and the increase to the Main Street Program.

Mr. Knighton referred to the letter to Council indicating the increases in certain areas of the budget and noted he has been charged with presenting a balanced budget.

Councilman Alexander asked if Wayfinding was in the FY2020 budget; Randy Knighton confirmed it was not.

Councilman Thomas made a request to move Historic Preservation from Planning & Zoning to Main Street staff and not the Main Street Program where it would be more suited.

Randy Knighton noted it was not unusual for Historic Preservation to be in Planning; however, because Main Street is under Community Development along with Planning, it could happen.

Camilla Moore noted the relationship between Historic Preservation and P&Z and stated they would comply with the wishes of the Council.

Public Hearing Opened

No speakers in favor

Speakers Opposed – Art Christian disagreed with moving Historic Preservation.

Public Hearing Closed

No Action taken. Next Budget Hearing will take place on 11/26/2019.

10. Council Consideration to approve the Henry County Police Department's use of the Merle Manders Conference Center at no cost for their Annual Policeman's Ball on 2/29/2020.
Presented by Randy Knighton – City Manager
Motion to approve: Robinson/Blount – Passed 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Randy Knighton thanked staff again for the fine job they do every day, and for the great Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon, honoring all the wonderful veterans who allow us to enjoy the freedoms and liberties to discuss the very important matters of city government.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Vanessa Holiday thanked staff, and especially the team of the Clerk's Office specifically, as they come in and do a fantastic job, a lot of times behind the scenes; and thanked all the veterans for all they do (noting she has two brothers who served).

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Thomas wanted to take the opportunity to complete his thoughts from the previous meeting noting the vision of the Council and the role of the Council is to create the vision for the City, and noted the vision could not be carried out without a great staff and thanked everyone for all that they do to carry out the vision; noted the groundbreaking of the Amphitheater showed exactly where the City is headed and there are other projects on the table; noted sometimes there may be back and forth, as it should be, but the goal is to eventually get it right; thanked the seven staff members who remained in attendance of the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Blount thanked all the veterans for their service, noting we don't take their service for granted; noted that over the last four years, he has suffered a lot personally with the loss of his son, sacrifices of his family, and also spoke to the many achievements of the City over the last four years; noted right now, we are in the right place for the City and moving the city forward; noted citizens came out in record numbers for early voting and on Election Day, noting the more you get out and vote, you hear the voice of the citizens and how they want to see the City; noted a lot of challenges have come this way, and sacrifices have been made; thanked those who supported his re-election efforts and allowing him to serve, noting he does not take it for granted; and further stated, he believes you must be in a serving capacity to do this, noting he has a track record that speaks to that.

Councilman Alexander thanked all who came out and for tuning in and being involved noting citizens decide the destiny of most communities; noted the Veterans Day activities today were awesome, noting he was inspired as he listened to their journeys and patriotism for America as they have protected our rights to descent and disagree, noting those rights can never be taken for granted; thanked the veterans for making sacrifices by being away from family, friends and loved ones to protect those rights that we enjoy in this country; noted the Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon was one of his favorite events; acknowledged Ms. Mildred Reed as a veteran and asked those veterans in attendance to stand, and they were applauded by everyone in the chamber and he thanked them for their service to America; thanked citizens for voting, no matter who you voted for, and participating in the democratic process; appreciates the ability to serve; noted it is a great time to be in the City of Stockbridge; thanked representatives; noted everyone has the best interest of the City at heart and it's great to have a seat at the table.

Councilwoman Robinson thanked all the veterans for their service; noted she would be travelling along with the Teen Ambassadors to the National League of Cities November 20-24th and asked everyone to keep them in their prayers; congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Blount and Councilman Alexander (noting only 4 votes separated them) and allowing to them serve another four years, and congratulated Councilwoman-Elect Yolanda Barber who was a foot soldier to Keep Stockbridge Together; noted her respect for the process of elections; stated she is moving on to a new journey and that she is excited, noting more to come; stated she will continue her support of the great City of Stockbridge that she loves so dearly; referenced the last four years of tremendous progress in the City; noted the seed has been planted and she will be here to see it grow; thanked staff for the outstanding job that you do and continue to do for Stockbridge and is looking forward to continuing to work with everyone; and stay tuned for an upcoming announcement.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford referenced the recent elections and noted it is always great to have people on the local level be involved in the process; noted where he often talks with kids about registering to vote referring to many who shed blood, sweat and tears for the right to vote; noted the citizens decided, and Councilwoman Robinson will be missed, but knows there are great things before her; referenced the City's Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon was great and that he is a veteran himself and his dad was a career soldier; noted this City honored veterans with a great service today; wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving; noted he is a Saints fan; asked all to keep the faith, and God Bless.

Mayor Ford read the following news and announcements:

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.

- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m./Levi Meeting Room
- Youth Council Meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. - Council Chamber
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m./Levi Meeting Room
- Work Session Meeting (2nd Public Hearing FY2020 Budget), Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber

UPCOMING EVENT(S) & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcoming Stockbridge RoundTable Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Levi Meeting Room – spearheaded by Councilwoman Gantt. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.
- Monthly Bingo Bash Wednesday, November 13th from 10:00 a.m. – noon at the Ted Strickland Community Center – spearheaded by Mayor Pro Tem Blount
- Teen Ambassadors Meeting, Wednesday, November 14th at 5:00 p.m. in the Levi Meeting Room – spearheaded by Councilwoman Robinson. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Saturday, November 23rd at the Ted Strickland Community Center spearheaded by Councilman Thomas. Please contact LaQuinda Jackson for more details: 678-833-3348 or via email: ljackson@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov

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.
- Welcoming Stockbridge RoundTable every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in the 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.
- Teen Ambassadors Meetings, November 14th and December 12th at 5:00 p.m. in the Levi Meeting Room – spearheaded by Councilwoman Robinson. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.

Motion to adjourn: Blount/Robinson – Passed 4-0. 8:05 p.m.