



ACTION MINUTES **COUNCIL MEETING**

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

Mayor Anthony S. Ford
Councilman Elton Alexander
Councilwoman Yolanda Barber
Councilman John Blount
Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt
Councilman Alphonso Thomas

Administration

Randy Knighton, City Manager
Camilla Moore Asst. City Mgr./
Community Dev. Director
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 – City's Chaplain, Pastor Terrence Gattis**
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Swearing-In of Officials - Judge Matthew McCord**
Councilman Elton Alexander
Councilwoman Yolanda Barber
Councilman John Blount
- V. **Roll Call – All members present**
- VI. **Motion to amend the Agenda: to add Item #4 – Use of the MMCC**
Blount/Gantt: Passed 4-0-1 (Barber abstained)
- VII. **Adoption of the Minutes for the following meetings:**
 1. 11/11/2019, 11/12/2019, 11/26/2019, 12/9/2019, 12/12/2019
Motion to approve Gantt/Blount: Passed 4-0-1 (Barber abstained)
 2. **Organizational Appointments**
 - Appointment of Municipal Court JudgeMotion to appoint Matthew McCord: Gantt/Alexander: Passed 5-0.

- Swearing-In of Municipal Court Judge - Mayor Anthony S. Ford
Mayor Ford issued the Oath of Office to Judge Matthew McCord.
- Appointment of City Attorney
Motion to appoint Michael Williams: Gantt/Thomas: Passed 3-2
(Alexander/Barber opposed).
- Council Selection of Mayor Pro Tem
Motion to appoint Alphonso Thomas: 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. Bruce Smith, Sr. stated this is the first time in a long time that a Council is being seated without controversy; noted the fresh start and a new way of getting things done for the City; referenced investors who are interested in doing business in Stockbridge; wants the City to be on one accord and not holding any grudges; wants the City to address policing and districts; thanked the Mayor & Council for their service, hopes all is in the past to allow the City to move forward.

Mayor Ford referenced a proclamation issued to J Lee Coley for Human Trafficking Awareness and a proclamation for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to Mayor Pro Tem Thomas for his African American Heritage Celebration efforts and also to Councilman Alexander for his *Day On* and not a *Day Off* efforts with beautification efforts over the weekend.

NEW BUSINESS – PUBLIC HEARING

3. Council Consideration to approve the Annual 2019-2024 (STWP) Short-Term Work Program & (CIE) Capital Improvement Element Update for transmission to the (ARC) Atlanta Regional Commission. Presented by Camilla Moore – Community Development Director
Public Hearing Opened
No Speakers in Favor No Speakers Opposed
Public Hearing Closed
Motion to approve with corrections to pg. 2 Item 5, Page 3 Item 2 and page 5, Burke Street Streetscape to be included in the next update:
Alexander/Gantt – Passed 4-0-1 (Barber abstained)
4. Council Consideration to approve use of the Merle Manders Conference Center for the 2020 Bingo Bash Initiative. Presented by Councilman Blount
Motion to approve Blount/Gantt- Passed 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Knighton noted the wonderful things to be accomplished in 2020; noted the City's 100 Centennial celebrations throughout the year; asked everyone to be engaged; noted staff is on board to support the Mayor & Council's vision for the City.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY CLERK

Mrs. Holiday offered congratulations to the Mayor & Council; welcomed Councilwoman Barber to the Council; noted she is looking forward to serving and working with the elected body.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas referenced Kelsey Bunn who sang the National Anthem earlier noting she performed at the African American Heritage Celebration program at age 11 and has an amazing voice, and that she will also be performing at the 9th Annual African American Heritage Celebration and invited everyone to attend noting Rev. of Red Oak UMC would be the keynote speaker; reference the M L King, Heritage Trail as the footprint of the King family, with Stockbridge being the ancestral home and referenced Daddy King's travels along the trail and to the Quarry.

Councilman Blount offered congratulations to the newly elected officials; referenced the upcoming Bingo Bash on January 29th at the Merle Manders Conference Center from 10am – noon; noted he is an advocate for the veterans community, and referenced the number of suicides of veterans and law enforcement officers, and spoke to the mental illness within those communities and noted Sgt. Scott's recent heroism of intervening a potential victim; noted it is a beautiful day to be a part of the City of Stockbridge.

Councilwoman Gantt welcomed Councilwoman Barber; noted it is an honor to serve and she does not take it lightly; referenced the recent loss of Linda Mitchell who knocked on doors during the fight to keep the City together, would randomly pick up trash, because she loved this City and asked that we not forget their spirit; noted it takes a village, and asked that we all pull together as a community to make Stockbridge the best city in Henry County; referenced the loss of Ola Martin who recently loss her battle to cancer, who was a member of the Stockbridge Youth Council Advisory Committee and would call in from her hospital bed to participate in the meetings because she loved helping children; referenced the Welcoming Stockbridge committee which has spun off from the Welcoming America group, that speaks to the diversity throughout the community and asked that you check the website for updates on those meetings; looks forward to a great year in 2020.

Councilman Alexander thanked everyone for coming out and allowing him to serve, noting he represents all of the citizens of Stockbridge; noted the bar has been set high, and truly believes country where you have First Amendment rights; noted the people of Stockbridge have spoken and elected those they want to represent the City; noted the Council's job is to work with everyone together as a team to move forward with projects noting citizens will have an opportunity to partake in the process; noted as elected officials, they work for the citizens; noted Stockbridge was in Henry County to issue a Human Trafficking proclamation to bring awareness to this crisis and referenced J Lee Coley for his efforts to bring awareness to Human Trafficking and asked everyone to attend the meetings and town halls when information is offered noting the first known case was here in Henry County, so when you see something, such as men following young girls to the restroom; say something.

Councilwoman Barber stated she was humbled; noted she had met so many amazing people in this community and knows the expectations are high for her and the entire Council; referenced Linda and Ola, noting these were two people who were instrumental in her running for office; thanked everyone for their support noting she had been a resident for 17+ years, and got involved when it was apparent she had to fight for her city; asked citizens to expect more, and hold each and every one accountable.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford congratulated the newly elected officials; noted the upcoming M L King, Jr. Day and asked all to enjoy themselves and to give back; noted the Jodeco South project is coming and you won't have to travel downtown to enjoy great shopping and dining; noted Council is working hard to make some things happen here in the community; noted the upcoming Census and asked that everyone participate, projecting Stockbridge will remain the largest city by population in the county; noted the City's Centennial year and the celebrations throughout the year; asked everyone to remain engaged. God bless.

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.

- Youth Council Meeting, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. – Levi Meeting Room
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Levi Meeting Room.
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. - Patrick Henry Meeting Room
- Planning Commission Meeting Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber

- Work Session Meeting Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber

UPCOMING EVENT(S) & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Keep Stockbridge Beautiful – Saturday, January 18, 2020 10:00 a.m. – noon. Location: North Henry Blvd. & Hwy. 138 (Walmart) – spearheaded by Councilman Alexander
- All City offices closed Monday, January 20, 2020 in observance of M.L. King, Jr. Holiday
- Unity Monument Park Marker Dedication – Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Centennial 100-year celebration kickoff – Tuesday, January 28, 2020 – City Hall 5:00 p.m.
- Monthly Bingo Bash Wednesday, January 29, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – noon at the Ted Strickland Community Center – spearheaded by Councilman Blount
- Annual African American Heritage Celebration – Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 4 -6 p.m. at the Merle Manders Conference Center – spearheaded by Councilman Thomas

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 Councilman 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.
- 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 Councilman Blount. Contact LaQuinda Jackson @ 678-833-3348 for more information.

Motion to adjourn Gantt/Blount – Passed 5-0.