



ACTION MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED
COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020 9:00 A.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 Manager, Randy Knighton**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Roll Call- All members present**
- V. Motion to adopt the Agenda: Alexander/Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Passed 5-0**

New Business

1. Council Consideration: COVID-19 Pandemic Response – Public Gathering Restrictions
City Attorney, Mike Williams noted the County and Municipalities met on March 23, 2020 to discuss the COVID-19 Pandemic, and what precaution local Governments can take. Mr. Williams noted several Jurisdictions across the County have proposed significant restrictions and stay at home orders: with the Mayor of Atlanta proposing a mandatory stay at home and closure of all businesses, except for essential businesses. Mr. Williams noted the County will anticipate adopting some level of restriction this afternoon; and noted Council has two (2) Resolutions to chose from to adopt. Mr. Williams explained the first Resolution is like the County, directing all symptomatic

people to stay at home and not be allowed in public places. Also, putting a restriction on indoor recreational fitness and entertainment establishments for the duration of the emergency. Mr. Williams also noted restaurants should adopt a drive-thru or delivery model, except for certain establishments within medical or governmental facilities and should follow the CDC guidelines. Mr. Williams mentioned there was a section added to the City's proposed Resolution, Section:3A- Such establishments are granted time limited authority to sell packaged beer and wine with food sales while the Resolution is in effect without any further licensing required by the City. Mr. Williams noted Houses of Worship are encouraged to not have more than 10 people meeting at a time. Mr. Williams noted the County added two more sections, Section 6 that deals with all orders to be carried out by the City of Stockbridge and staff; and will be in effect until midnight April 7, 2020.

Mr. Williams explained Option 2 has a general business closure order to close all businesses, whereas option 1 only deals with indoor recreation. Mr. Williams noted the Mayor could adopt an emergency order without a vote from Council.

Mayor Ford noted to make sure the Resolution states City and not County; and, expressed he would get consensus from Council before adopting anything, and prefers Option 2.

Councilwoman Gantt noted she has had several small businesses reach out to her, specifically hair salons and barber shops asking if they could have one (1) person at a time. Councilwoman Gantt noted she is for Option 2. Councilwoman Gantt would like to take this very seriously and noted her thoughts and prayers are with everyone.

Councilman Alexander noted Council wants to do the right thing for the City and asks all small businesses to understand they are trying to follow the best medical advice and do the right thing. Councilman Alexander stated he supports Option 2. Councilman Alexander send condolences to the person who has passed from the COVID-19 virus.

Councilman Blount noted his concern is with the stimulus package that has yet to be passed by Congress and is in favor of Option 2. Councilman Blount also noted Council should be cautious of certain provision with certain businesses.

Councilman Thomas noted he supports Option 2 and encourages all citizens to stay at home; and if they do go out to use gloves and wipe down everything.

Councilwoman Barber noted she supports Option 2 and echoes all other members of Council.

Councilman Thomas asked City Manager, Randy Knighton to explain how the citizens can pay their bills. Mr. Knighton noted he encourages all citizens to go to the City's website, while City Hall is physically closed. Mr. Knighton noted there was a brief problem with the online bill pay yesterday, but the matter has since been resolved; and there has been a 30-day grace period for all water and utility billing and will not disconnect anyone. Mr. Knighton stated he encourages all citizens to reach out to all of the City's social media platform, and can reach him at rknighton@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov with any questions they may have.

Councilman Alexander asked if citizens call the main number. Mr. Knighton noted the main number has been routed to the appropriate staff members.

Councilwoman Gantt inquired when the Resolution will go into effect. Mr. Williams noted it will go into effect today. Councilwoman Gantt also inquired how would this be sent for citizens to see. Mr. Williams recommended all social media outlets and can release a press release. Councilwoman Gantt suggested getting a copy of the Resolution.

Mayor Ford suggested having Occupational Tax Department to send out a correspondence to all businesses.

Councilman Blount suggested to add a provision on when businesses should close. Councilman Blount stated his concern is enforcement and inquired on how to direct phone calls and who would be responsible to enforce the closures. Mr. Knighton noted he encourage citizens to utilize See Click Fix and has had the Henry County Police Department working night shift patrolling businesses and parks. Councilman Blount inquired if the 6-hour time blocks could be moved to the evenings to check on the businesses not closed. Mr. Knighton noted there is normally a 9pm-3am time block.

Councilman Thomas recommends giving Code Enforcement a copy of the Resolution.

Mr. Williams reiterated Option 2 main provision: Symptomatic persons (shall refrain from entering public businesses) , business closures (with the exception of list of businesses on Exhibit A), eating establishments (shall only provide takeout and delivery services), house of worship (no more than 10 people gathering), physical distancing, Georgia Executive Order, with a duration to terminate midnight, April 7, 2020. Mr. Williams noted exempt

businesses are: Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations and Essential Infrastructures.

Councilman Alexander motioned to adopt Option 2; Second by Councilwoman Barber. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas motioned to adjourn; Second by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed 5-0.