



Where Community Connects

ACTION MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING (Via Zoom)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 20 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

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

Administration

Randy Knighton, City Manager
Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk
John Wiggins, City Treasurer
Michael Williams, City Attorney
Decius Aaron, Public Works Director
Camilla Moore, Community Dev. Dir.

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 - Councilwoman Gantt
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call - All members were present
- V. Motion to Amend the Agenda: To remove Item #7 and #8 and to hear Item #10, and #11 following Executive Session - Gantt/Blount Passed 4-1 (Thomas Opposed)
- VI. Motion to Adopt the Minutes for the following meetings:
 1. 08/10/2020 2. 08/25/2020 Gantt/Blount - 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. Reggie Sylvain submitted a Public Comment expressing concerns as a developer with the City's proposed action of bringing Building, Permitting and Inspections services in-house, noting his favorable service he has received from the City's contractor staff from Charles Abbott & Associates.

CEREMONIAL

Mayor Ford presented the following proclamations:

3. Proclamation – Chadwick Boseman
4. Proclamation – Hispanic Heritage Celebration Month
5. Proclamation – National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
6. Proclamation – National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

OLD BUSINESS

7. Council Consideration to bring the functions of Building, Permitting and Inspections In-House.
Presented by Randy Knighton, City Manager
Item Removed from the Agenda.
8. Council Consideration to approve job descriptions for the positions of Building Official, Building Inspector and Permit Clerk.
Presented by Randy Knighton, City Manager
Item Removed from the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Council Consideration of proposed amendment to the Procurement Ordinance.
Presented by Michael Williams, City Attorney
Motion to approve Barber/Alexander - Passed 3-2 (Blount/Gantt Opposed)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to convene Executive Session for Litigation, Personnel and Real Estate Blount/Gantt Passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION

10. Council Discussion to fill vacancy and appoint member to the Downtown Development Authority.
Presented by Michael Williams, City Attorney
Motion to appoint Robert Swygert to the Downtown Development Authority
Barber/Alexander Passed 5-0.
11. Council Discussion to fill vacancies and appoint members to the Development Authority.
Presented by Michael Williams, City Attorney
Motion to Table this item to be heard at the 10/27/2020 Work Session Meeting - Gantt/Alexander Passed 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford noted voting began today for the 2020 election, emphasizing it is your constitutional right to vote; referenced the Merle Manders Conference Center location and the hours this week for voting: 8am - 5pm; Saturday 10/17 9am - 4pm; October 19-23 7am - 7pm; Saturday 10/24 9am - 4pm/ Sunday 10/25 1pm - 4pm "Souls to the Polls" and the week of October 26-30 7am - 7pm; noted Absentee Mail-In Ballots were due in to the Elections Office by November 3rd.

Mayor Ford reminded everyone that we are still in a pandemic and encourage everyone to wear masks, wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer; noted COVID-19 testing was available by calling 1-800-847-4262 noting testing is available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am - 1pm; and Tuesday 8am - 1pm and 2pm - 7pm; noted the Census deadline had been extended to October 31st and reminded everyone to complete the Census by visiting the 2020 Census.gov website, noting \$2,300 is allocated for every individual for the next 10 years and will help with funding for schools, hospitals, public safety, and determine the number of state and federal representatives we have in our area; announced the City's first Breast Cancer Awareness/Survivor Convey, Saturday October 24th with the lineup starting at 10am and the convoy starting at 11am to bring Breast Cancer awareness to the forefront and support the survivors and will have information on getting screened and support to those affected on how to survive; noted registration is required and to visit the City's website: cityofstockbridge.com and note everyone will be required to wear masks and social distancing will be in place; noted the information for businesses to receive funds from the CaresAct can be found on the City's website for businesses who had a financial impact due to COVID-19.

Councilman Blount referenced the long lines for voting at the Merle Manders Conference Center and asked if there was anything the City could do to alleviate the long lines.

Mr. Knighton noted the Clerk had been in a number of conversations with the Henry County Elections staff and the he had also spoken with members of County Management as they were aware of the problem here and at the Elections Office in McDonough; noted the MMCC was not being used because the equipment and additional staff was not available; noted the issue with Absentee Ballot requests and voters electing to vote in person, which required the affidavit process and was time consuming; noted it was a holiday and a number of people were home to vote along with the anticipated volume.

Councilman Blount noted the number of machines that were in place versus the number of machines being used; and that staff was available for election day only and not early voting.

Councilman Alexander noted he visited both locations, McDonough and Stockbridge; noted he spoke with staff and was told there was not enough staff to accommodate the record number of voters fast enough, along with the Absentee Ballot affidavits; noted the board is going to have an emergency board meeting tomorrow 1pm to present remedies extending the hours to 7am - 7pm opposed to the current hours this week of 8am - 5pm.

Mrs. Holiday agreed with Councilman Alexander and noted much of the delay was due to the affidavits having to be completed and sent to the County, deleted out of the system and returned to the polling location, which was a 20-25 minute process; and also noted the your Absentee Mail-In ballot must be received at the Henry County Elections Office by 7pm on Election Day, November 3rd. Ballots received after that will not be counted. The 3-day grace period has been eliminated.

Councilwoman Barber inquired as to whether the City could accommodate the voters who were waiting in lines.

Mr. Knighton noted he had spoken with the County's EMA Director, Don Ash regarding port-a-potties and would follow up tomorrow.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting will be held via Zoom until further notice. 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, Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom
- Youth Council Advisory Meeting, Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
- Planning Commission Meeting, Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
- City Council Work Session Meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom
- City Council Meeting – Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. Via Zoom

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public Hearing – First Reading of the Proposed FY2021 Operating Budget
Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. Via Zoom
- Public Hearing – Second Reading of the Proposed FY2021 Operating Budget
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. Via Zoom
- Public Hearing – Adoption of Proposed FY2021 Operating Budget
Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. Via Zoom

Motion to Adjourn: **Alexander/Blount Passed 5-0.**