



COUNCIL MEETING ACTION MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 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
Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk
John Wiggins, City Treasurer
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. Zoom Meeting Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82836070083?pwd=SGdLWTVoNWZCQWNFbTgxakI4SUNaQT09>
Passcode: 735164

II. Call to Order – Mayor Ford

III. Invocation – Randy Knighton

IV. Pledge of Allegiance – In unison

V. Roll Call – All members present

VI. Motion to amend the Agenda to reverse Item #5 & 6: Alexander/Thomas passed 4-1 (Blount opposed)

Motion to hear all appointments following Executive Session: Blount/Gantt failed 2-3 (Alexander, Barber, Thomas opposed)

VII. Ceremonial:

Proclamation – Martin Luther King, Sr. “Daddy King” Birthday

Read by Mayor Ford and presented to Pastor Vance of Floyd Chapel Baptist Church

Proclamation - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Read by Mayor Ford and presented to Pastor Vance of Floyd Chapel Baptist Church

Pastor Erik Vance thanked the City for the proclamations noting ironically, he was the 2019 winner of the Martin Luther King Sr. Award, one of the highest honors given by the Morehouse School of Religion; referenced the history of the Church and looks forward to a great partnership here in the Stockbridge community.

DDA Service Awards

Mayor Ford thanked former Downtown Development Authority members for their volunteer service and presented service awards to Calvin Gleaton, Rodney Hornes, Aneta Lee and Renee Shaw

Aneta Lee noted it was an honor to serve in her capacity on the DDA and looks forward to other opportunities to serve as well.

Rodney Hornes thanked the City for the opportunity to serve and looks to become more involved in the future.

VIII. Adoption of the Minutes for the following meetings:

1. 11/09/2020
2. 11/24/2020

Motion to approve Alexander/Barber Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

All public comments must be submitted to the Clerk no later than one hour prior to the meeting. The Public Comment Form can be found on the City's webpage on the City Clerk's page at: <https://stockbridge.seamlessdocs.com/f/20pkdz4mo7xb> and the form must include your name, phone, and email contact information. Comments are limited to (3) three minutes and will be read by the Clerk during the meeting, respecting all members of the elected body, officials, and staff. Comments including defamation, unruliness and/or swearing will not be accepted.

There were no Public Comments.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Appointment and Oath of Municipal Court Judge

Motion to appoint Matthew McCord Blount/Thomas Passed 5-0

Oath of office issued by Mayor Ford.

Judge Matthew McCord stated it is a privilege to serve and welcomes anyone to visit the court, once re-opened, noting the closure due to the pandemic.

4. Appointment and Oath of Municipal Court Solicitor

Motion to appoint Julie Kert Blount/Gantt Passed 5-0

Oath of office issued by Mayor Ford.

Solicitor Julie Kert thanked the Mayor & Council for the appointment, noting she is available by email for any questions, policies, or matters pending before the court.

5. Appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem and create a policy for rotation.
Councilman Alexander noted each member of the Council had served in the capacity of Mayor Pro Tem, with the Mayor serving twice, and the exception being Councilwoman Barber, and himself, and motioned to appoint Councilman Elton Alexander to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the year 2021 and to create a policy to rotate the position allowing all members to serve.

Mayor Ford asked for a legal opinion if a member could self-appoint.

Attorney Williams confirmed there is no rule that prohibits the action.

Alexander/Barber Passed 3-0-2 (Blount, Gantt abstained).

6. Appointment of the City Attorney

Motion by consensus not to renew the City Attorney's contract, thanked Mr. Williams for his service to the City; noted the City was moving in a new direction and to issue a 30-day notice; tasked the City Manager with providing details to Mr. Williams and the overseeing the transition with the option to bring the position in-house.

Councilwoman Gantt noted she had not been consulted on the action as presented and referenced several actions all year where there was a 3-2 vote, calling the actions both unprofessional, and disrespectful, and needed to stop.

Councilman Blount echoed Councilwoman Gantt's statements; noted for the record a statement made by Mayor Pro Tem Alexander where he had *consulted with his colleagues* did not include him and called the 3-2 votes a power move and lacking transparency.

Councilman Thomas noted he has had several discussions with all members of the Council noting the 3-2 votes of the Council are not new and while he will refrain from naming members, he reminded the Council of the history of past meetings over the years will confirm prior 3-2 votes.

Councilwoman Barber stated her decisions are based on facts and information; noted she has watched the 3-2 votes of the Council for years prior to her being in office; and noted there is no power move here, but rather her actions are always made in the best interest of the City.

Councilman Alexander called for the vote.

Alexander/Barber Passed 3-1-1 (Gantt opposed, Blount abstained).

Michael Williams stated it has been his honor to serve the City for seven years and thanked the Council for the opportunity and stated the City of Stockbridge has great potential; and noted he prefers a 5-0 confirmation and respects the City's decision to move in a new direction; is available for a smooth transition; and is available should the Council reconsider.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford congratulated Senator-Elect Jon Ossoff and Senator-Elect Rev. Raphael Warnock on their victories and joining the U. S. Senate and congratulated Lauren "Bubba" McDonald on his re-election as the Georgia Public Service Commissioner; noted free COVID testing was available from 10am -3pm five days per week at the Heritage Senior Center in McDonough and to call the Department of Health (DPH) at 800-847-4262 to schedule testing; noted the County also has (3) mobile testing sites: Mondays at Hidden Valley Park in Stockbridge, Wednesdays at North Mount Carmel Park in Hampton, and Fridays at Warren Holder Park in McDonough; noted vaccinations were beginning tomorrow and would be issued in phases from 8:30am – 4pm at the Atlanta Motor Speedway by reservation only and Phase 1A = Healthcare Worker in a clinical setting, Nurses , Physicians or EMS workers, Technicians, Environmental Services, Staff and Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities, Law Enforcement, Fire Personnel, adults age 65 and over and their caregivers; noted tomorrow's vaccinations are already booked, and the next vaccination date is January 26th and you must contact the DPH for a reservation at 800-847-4262 or visit the website at www.district4health.org.

CITY OFFICES ARE CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

As a COVID precaution, City offices are closed to the public until further notice. Staff is operating under telework protocol. Please contact the City's webpage cityofstockbridge.com to contact each department for service and information.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 for the meeting invitation link, Facebook page or contact City Hall offices at 770-389-7900 for updates and detailed information

- City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom – 2nd Monday of each month.
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting, at 9:00 a.m. Via Zoom - 2nd Friday of each month
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, at 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom - 3rd Tuesday of each month

- Youth Council Advisory Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom - 3rd Tuesday of each month
- Youth Council Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom - 3rd Wednesday of each month
- Planning Commission Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom – 4th Thursday of each month
- City Council Work Session Meeting & Public Hearing, at 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom – Last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC HEARING

January 26, 2021 6:00 p.m. - Council Consideration to approve the Adoption of the 2020-2025 Short-Term Work Program/Capital Improvement Element (STWP/CIE).

CITY EVENTS

None scheduled at this time.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Join Mayor Pro Tem Alexander for the annual King Holiday Service Day Project taking place January 16, 2021, a day of service on the Saturday prior to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday from 10am - noon. Please plan to meet at City Hall and contact Zenovia Pearson at (404) 565-5109 for more information.

HOLIDAY CLOSING

Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Motion not to convene Executive Session Alexander/Thomas Passed 3-2 (Blount/Gantt opposed).

Motion to adjourn Alexander/Thomas Passed 5-0.