



WORK SESSION MEETING ACTION MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

Mayor Anthony S. Ford
Mayor Pro Tem 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/84437544572?pwd=OGJPTmkxQXhVanhIYWWhEdkNVaHErUT09>
Passcode: 284019

II. Call to Order - Mayor Ford

III. Invocation – Councilman Thomas

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Roll Call – All members present except Councilwoman Gantt.

VI. Motion to amend the Agenda: Add Ceremonial Proclamation for National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Item #8 – Moratorium on development of Single-Family homes for rental.

Councilwoman Gantt joined the meeting.

Motion to approve the amended Agenda: Alexander/Barber Passed 5-0.

VII. Review of the Minutes for the following meetings: No Action

1. 12/14/2020
2. 12/22/2020
3. 12/29/2020

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.

The Clerk read the Public Comment from Concerned Citizen in the Glynn Addy Subdivision who questioned why the City has not shored up the boundaries following the de-annexation efforts; requested a progress and cost update on the Amphitheater project; and expressed safety and health concerns with unmasked individuals playing basketball in the parks, and the City not passing a mask mandate.

CEREMONIAL

Mayor Ford read the proclamation for National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Debra Abernathy, President of the Henry County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. received the proclamation on behalf of the Alumnae Chapter, and recognized officers and members; President Abernathy thanked the City for recognizing their work and service by bringing awareness to this issue, noting their efforts to educate and inform the Stockbridge and Henry County community by hosting forums, donating to various organizations who provide assistance, providing information in airports, bus stations and truck stops with a toll-free hotline that victims can call for help.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander noted the City of Stockbridge was the first city in Henry County to introduce a Proclamation in 2016, noting the importance and bringing awareness to Human Trafficking in our community.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Council Consideration to establish Voting Precincts.

Presented by Henry County Elections Director Ameika Pitts, Henry County Polling Manager, Brook Schreiner, Henry County Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter, Michael Williams, City Attorney, Randy Knighton, City Manager, Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Motion to Table: Gantt/Alexander Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Council Consideration to approve the 2020-2025 Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvement Element (STWP/CIE).

Presented by Randy Knighton, City Manager

Mr. Knighton noted the Comprehensive Plan is updated every ten years, and in the interim, the State requires an update of the City's Short-Term Work Program/Capital Improvement Element noting this action to be a requirement of DCA (Department of Community Affairs) and upon approval by the City is then transmitted to ARC (Atlanta Regional Commission). Mr. Knighton noted the report includes projects, funding source and project

status and once approved, the report will be returned to the City for final adoption, noting the referenced projects listed on the report are updated annually and are goals in which the City hopes to accomplish.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked Mr. Knighton to speak about some of the City's key projects that are in the works.

Mr. Knighton noted the Amphitheater is the City's major project with more updates and information to be presented at the next Council meeting in February, noting the Amphitheater was included in the LCI and the leadership of the Council was able to bring the project to fruition; noted the proposed Cultural Arts Center which is proposed to include a 300+ seat ballroom and 300+ seat theater along with meeting rooms; ballet room and culinary arts space; and a proposed Youth and Senior Center, which is in the concept phase with a full gym, basketball court, pool and indoor track; noting these projects will enhance the quality of life for citizens here in the Stockbridge community and ensure the vision of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander noted the City has a solid Comprehensive Plan and is in a strong financial position.

Mr. Knighton confirmed the comments from Mayor Pro Tem Alexander, noting the City utilizes Financial Advisors and will continue to be fiscally sound and seek other funding avenues such as Grants, SPLOST, and a TSPLOST scheduled for the November 2021 ballot.

Mayor Ford opened the Public Hearing.

No Speakers in Favor

No Speakers Opposed

The Public Hearing was closed.

Motion to approve Gantt/Thomas Passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Council Consideration to approve participation in the Graybar OMNIA Partners Program – OMNIA Contract #EV2370 for the installation of a new phone system via Spectrum VOIP in the amount of \$2,207.37 per month. Funding Source: Information Technology
Presented by Randy Knighton, City Manager and Jonathan Van Horn and Laura Mathwig of Spectrum VOIP.
Motion to approve Gantt/Barber Passed 5-0.
7. Council Consideration to approve Falcon Design Consultants Task Order No. 2021.01 to review the Amphitheater Master Plan for a Ridesharing Area in the amount of \$1500.00. Funding Source: Amphitheater Project.
Presented by Randy Knighton, City Manager
Motion to approve Thomas/Alexander Passed 5-0.

8. Motion to approve establishing a Moratorium on the acceptance of any applications related to the development of any buildings for residential rental purposes.

Motion to approve: Alexander/Gantt Passed 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford noted the recent passing of Pastor Spencer T. O'Neal of Global Impact Christian Ministries and Pastor Phillip Kouns of The Bridge First Christian Church of Stockbridge, noting the tremendous loss to the Stockbridge community offered condolences to their families and church families and asked for continued prayers; noted the passing the Hammering Henry "Hank" Aaron as a baseball legend, Homerun King, Civil Rights activist, great man and a class act who was well respected; noted the pandemic remains with us and if you show any symptoms to call 800-847-4262 to make an appointment to get tested; noted testing will take place this week on Wednesday and Thursday with the Henry County and Department of Public Health mobile testing sites at No. Mt. Carmel Park in Hampton from 10am – 3pm and Friday at Warren Holder Park in Locust Grove from 10am – 3pm; noted mobile testing sites will eventually cease with testing by appointment taking place Monday – Thursday at the Heritage Senior Center in McDonough from 9am – 3pm and Saturday, 9am – noon, noting there would be a reduction in testing as there will be an emphasis on vaccinations, which for Henry County are taking place at the Atlanta Motor Speedway by reservation, Tuesday, February 2nd and February 9th from 9am – noon for 2nd vaccination and to please check with local pharmacies for vaccinations as well, noting the vaccinations are being given to Phase 1A: healthcare providers, seniors age 65 and older or their caregivers, long-term care facilities, first responder, police, fire and high-risk categories; noting the Moderna vaccination is given to those age 18+; Pfizer vaccination is given to those age 16+. Mayor Ford encouraged everyone to continue to wear masks, wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, and stay out of crowded spaces; keep the faith as we will get through this; and hopefully the virus will be under control to have a grand opening of the Amphitheater as we embark upon 80-90% herd immunity.

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.

- 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 at 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom – Last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

None scheduled at this time.

UPCOMING COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Join Councilman Alphonso Thomas for the 10th Annual African American Heritage Celebration taking place virtually, February 6, 2021. For more information, please contact Zenovia Pearson at 404-565-5109

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSING

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem motioned not to convene and Executive Session.

Mr. Knighton asked to introduce the City's new Economic Development Director, Alan Peterson, who came on board the first week of January and noted he has hit the ground running and looks forward to the wealth of knowledge he will bring to the City.

Mr. Peterson stated he looks forward to working with everyone to advance the City forward as far as economic development is concerned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander motioned not to convene and Executive Session.

Councilwoman Gantt noted she did not 2nd the motion, but rather had a comment for the record: "For over a month now, we have an HR independent 3rd party study and I feel that it is being negligent and being done on purpose not attending Executive Sessions".

Councilwoman Barber noted this report as well as other issues such as the Procurement Policy can be discussed at the upcoming Retreat.

Councilwoman Gantt noted the report and other legal matters need to be discussed in Executive Session to address the concerns of staff and the administration.

Councilman Blount noted the HR report needed to be discussed in Executive Session and that cannot be done at the Retreat, with staff in attendance and there were other pending litigation updates that were needed to be heard in Executive Session with a member of the governing body whom it concerns motioning not to convene Executive Session.

Councilwoman Barber noted original email from the consultant had an incorrect email address where she noted the correction and sent to the governing body; noted the report was reviewed with the Mayor and every member of Council and there was nothing urgent that could not wait until the Council convenes at the Retreat where Executive Session matters could be discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander stated that every member of the Council can speak to and meet with the City Attorney and/or City Manager, or any official at any time as he has done and will continue to do, noting items have often been referred to be presented at the Retreat and agrees that would be the proper time.

Mayor Ford noted there are legal matters that are reserved for Executive Session.

Councilman Thomas noted that he made a request for a Special Called Meeting with an Executive Session last week and while it is not the policy, the Mayor asked for a unanimous consent to hold the meeting, and trying to oblige requests, there were members who failed to respond to the Mayor's call for the meeting.

Mayor Ford noted his request for unanimous consent of the Special Called Meeting

Councilwoman Gantt noted it is her understanding that the information has been shared with all members of the Council individually, however, it is important to hear the information with all members present to discuss and share information and ideas; and to avoid discussing the report could be deemed negligent.

Councilman Blount noted he did not hear the information separately, but rather with Councilwoman Gantt and Mayor Ford.

Councilman Thomas he has been a member of the Council for a while noting when the Council has these back and forth exchanges makes us all losers; there are no winners here; noted the meeting up to this point had been productive; and stated this has to stop; noted the citizens have made the Council aware they do not like these exchanges, and that there are better ways for the Council to agree to disagree and noted that he would be signing off from the meeting as he did not want to be a part of losing. Councilman Thomas exited the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander and Councilwoman Barber exited the meeting.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting ended.