



WORK SESSION MEETING
ACTION MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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

Vacant, City Manager
Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk
John Wiggins, City Treasurer
Quinton Washington, City Attorney
Jeremy T. Berry, 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/82606489114?pwd=TVdubE9BYy9EVnFhQmNQRHRTbEVqdzo9>

Passcode: 518693

II. Call to Order - Mayor Ford

III. Roll Call - All members present except Councilman Blount

IV. Invocation - Mayor Ford

V. Motion to amend the Agenda to convene Executive Session following Informational Presentations: Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0.

VI. Motion to amend the Agenda to add New Business Item #14 - Speed Hump for Winslow Subdivision on Winbrook Drive: Alexander/Gantt Passed 4-0.

VII. Motion to adopt the Agenda: Alexander/Gantt Passed 4-0.

**VIII. Review Draft Minutes: 1. 9/20/2021 2. 10/11/2021 3. 10/26/2021
No Action**

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.

Mr. Robert Kolpak submitted a comment regarding noise mitigation for the residents near the Amphitheater and inquired about the water features near the Amphitheater.

INFORMATIONAL

4. Falcon Design LLC Projects Update, Status and Timeline
Presented by Skip Layton and Adam Price
Motion to approve additional sidewalk on Amphitheater Way:
Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0.

Motion to move forward with Phase I of Wayfinding Signage along major arteries of the city: Alexander/Thomas Passed 5-0.

5. Carter & Sloope Projects Update, Status and Timeline
Presented by Chad Pedsen
6. Keck & Wood Projects Update, Status and Timeline
Presented by Carl Trevathan
City Clerk was tasked with following up with the insurance carrier on the Lighting Strike Claim at the Amphitheater.
7. InterDev Projects Update, Status and Timeline
Presented by Nathan Holder and Robert Bonds

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to convene Executive Session Real Estate matters:
Alexander/Thomas Passed 3-0 (Councilwoman Gantt was not present for the vote).

Councilwoman Gantt joined Executive Session.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Council Consideration to approve the Task Order No. 21 with TSW, Inc. - City of Stockbridge Parks Master Plan in the amount of \$385,400.00.
Funding Source: SPLOST.
Presented by Decius Aaron Public Works Director, Heather Hubble-TSW
Motion to approve Alexander/Barber Passed 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING - BUDGET HEARING - SECOND READING

9. Proposed FY2022 Operating Budget
Presented by John Wiggins Treasurer
Mr. Wiggins presented the 2nd Reading of the Proposed FY2022 Budget noting an increase from \$17.4 million dollars to \$18.2 million dollars, an \$800,000 increase; noted a \$700,000 increase for the Police Department Budget from \$2.6 million to \$3.3 million, and \$100,000 for North Henry Blvd. Beautification Project; noted Enterprise Funds remain the same at \$24.9 million and (63) proposed new positions (58) police, (3) Community Development (1) Municipal Court (1) Human Resources.

Councilwoman Barber made the following recommendations:

- Adjust the Organizational Chart moving the Grants position under the City Manager.
- Adding a Grants Administrator position to the Police Department, noting there are several capital projects in the works for the city and the police department and the city needs individuals specifically dedicated to seeking grant opportunities.
- Reducing the (8) vacant Public Works Positions to (2).
- Fill in the Amphitheater Operating Expenses in the budget.
- Requested the budget include the cost for renovations to the Ted Strickland Community Center, Merle Manders Conference Center, and downstairs renovations at city hall.
- The newly proposed salaries for the Judge, Solicitor, and additional Court Clerk to become effective July 1, 2022, when the police department is operational.
- Amend the city's personnel policy where employees must be with the city a minimum of (1) year to receive bonus and merit increases.
- Freeze bonuses for 2022
- Align Court Services under the Police Department; and Code Enforcement under the Police Department; noting she had spoken with Chief Trammer and Brecca Johnson who were both okay with this recommendation.

Councilwoman Barber reiterated these are her recommendations and the Council can chime in accordingly.

Mr. Wiggins noted the City Hall renovations in the downstairs area had been rescinded by the Council.

Councilwoman Gantt objected to the recommendation to move Court Services under the police department, citing a conflict of interest; and was okay with re-aligning Code Enforcement.

Mr. Aaron asked why the request to reduce the Public Works vacant positions from 8 to 2.

Councilwoman Barber noted the positions have been vacant for an entire year, and Public Works has outsourced a number of services including Landscaping, Right of Way Grass Cutting, Limb Cutting, and asked Mr. Aaron how many positions have been filled.

Mr. Aaron responded (1) position has been filled and referenced the low wage of \$13/hr has made it difficult.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander recommended a \$15/hr minimum livable wage be put in place for the city and asked that a salary survey be completed to include the Metro Atlanta area.

Councilman Thomas stated the Council controls the salaries when the Pay & Classification is approved and adopted with the Budget; noted he has thoroughly reviewed the budget and noted approximated \$1.5 million dollars in savings that include *wish lists* from the Department Head, and would like to schedule meetings with the Mayor, Department Head, to include members of the Council noting these would be informational meetings only with no actions, and bring back the recommendations to the December 13th meeting for the 3rd Reading; Councilman Thomas asked Mr. Aaron for the Cutting Zones, Schedule and number of staff for General Maintenance, along with a list of duties for General Maintenance staff during the dormant grass-cutting season.

Councilwoman Gantt stated she did not recall voting for changes to the criteria for the Human Resources position; noted staff was out of the office in 2020 and some of 2021 and would need to see the levels pre-pandemic; and agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Alexander on the \$15/hr. pay scale.

Councilman Thomas asked the Clerk to read the motion from the November 8, 2021, First Reading of the Proposed Budget where the job description was amended; the motion was read with a vote of 3-1-1.

Chief Trammer noted the increase to the Police Services budget is for (7) months of expenses for Henry County to continue services from January - July 2022 in the amount of \$288,000; noted and \$3.372 million dollars is earmarked for (7) months of City of Stockbridge Police Services.

The Public Hearing Opened - No Speakers in Favor-No Speakers Opposed
The Public Hearing was closed.

The 3rd Reading and Final Adoption will take place on Monday, December 13th.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Council Consideration to approve Downtown Stockbridge 2021 Strategic Work Plan.
Presented by Alan Peterson, Economic Development Director
Motion to approve Thomas/Alexander Passed 4-0.
11. Council Consideration to approve Fleet & Equipment Replacement Policy.
Presented by Decius Aaron, Public Works Director
Motion to approve Barber/Thomas Passed 4-0. (Does not include police vehicles).
12. Council Consideration to approve purchase of Police Vehicle Emergency Equipment, Graphics and Associated Upfitting costs for (60) police vehicles in the amount of \$754,615.40 Funding Source ARPA
Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief
Motion to approve Alexander/Barber Passed 3-0-1 (Gantt abstained).

13. Council Consideration to approve TSW Task Order for Construction Design of the North Precinct Police Building - 4545 N. Henry Blvd. in the amount of \$165,175.00. Funding Source: Bonding
Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief
Motion to approve Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0.
14. Council Consideration to approve Speed Hump Waiver for Winbrook Dr. in Winslow Subdivision.
Motion to approve Waiver to add Speed Humps to Winbrook Drive and include No-Cut Thru Signage Alexander/Barber Passed 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford noted COVID-19 is still with us and the Omicron variant is the new threat and asked that everyone continue to be careful, wear your mask, wash your hands often and get vaccinated; noted 51% of Georgians are fully vaccinated and 58% of Georgians have at least one dose; noted the CDC encourages everyone to get the Booster ASAP for everyone over 18+ years old; asked everyone to get the flu shot and take COVID test Monday thru Friday from 9am - 3pm located at 135 Henry Pkwy. McDonough and you can call the Department of Health at 800-847-4262 or 888-457-0186.

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.

- Planning Commission Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom – **REVISED** Meeting Date Via Zoom (Dec 2)
- Youth Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom - 2nd Wednesday of each month Via Zoom (Dec 8)
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting, 2nd Friday of each month 9:00 a.m. Via Zoom (Dec 10)
- City Council Meeting/Budget Hearing - Final Adoption at 6:00 p.m. 2nd Monday of each month (Dec 13) Council Chamber
- Planning Commission Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom – **REVISED** Meeting Date Via Zoom (Dec 16)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom - 3rd Tuesday of each month Via Zoom (Dec 21)
- Youth Council & Advisory Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom - 3rd Tuesday of each month (Dec 21) City Hall

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

Please join Councilwoman Barber at the Eagles Landing Dance Center 627 Red Oak Rd for FREE Zumba (Fitness in the Park) Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Annual Holiday Festival - Thursday, December 2, 2021, from 5pm - 9pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center 111 Davis Rd. Stockbridge, GA

Councilman Thomas thanked everyone who submitted Veteran pictures and profiles and noted it was such a success, the acknowledgements will continue throughout the year.

Motion to adjourn Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0.