



WORK SESSION MEETING
ACTION MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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
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**
- II. **Call to Order – Mayor Ford**
- III. **Roll Call - `All members present except Councilwoman Gantt**
- IV. **Invocation – Mayor Pro Tem Alexander**
- V. **Motion to amend the Agenda to Remove Item #10 Johnson Controls Alexander/Barber Passed 4-0**
- VI. **Motion to amend the Agenda to Table Item #20 DDA Appointments to be heard in January 2022.Barber/Alexander Passed 4-0**
- VII. **Motion to amend the Agenda to Add Item #30 to purchase Tasers for Police Services Alexander/Barber Passed 4-0**
- VIII. **Motion to amend the Agenda to Table Item #18, Green Room Rental; Item # 24 Police Dept. Policies; Item #26 Temporary Spending Authority Barber/Thomas Passed 4-0**
- IX. **Motion to adopt the Agenda Barber/Alexander passed 4-0**
- X. **Motion to amend the Agenda to Add Item #31 Discussion Item Employee Incentive Blount/Alexander Passed 4-0**
- XI. **Motion to approve Minutes Barber/Alexander Passed 5-0**

1. 9/15/21 2. 9/16/21 3. 9/17/21 4. 9/20/20 5. 10/8/21 6. 10/26/21 7. 11/8/21 8. 11/30/21 Barber/Alexander Passed 4-0.

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. **None**

OLD BUSINESS

9. Public Hearing - FY2022 Operating Budget – Final Adoption

Presented by John Wiggins, Treasurer

Mr. Wiggins presented the FY2022 Operating Budget

General Fund Budget \$18,380,993.12

Motion to add Employee and Volunteer Recognition in December in the amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 Barber/Thomas Passed 3-0-1 (Blount Abstained)

Motion to task staff with advertising for a Grants Administrator for Police Services w/salary not to exceed \$65,000 Barber/Motion Rescinded

Motion to task staff with advertising for a Grants Administrator for the City salary and benefits funded upon research by staff and to be placed under the City Manager on the Organizational Chart and for the position to remain posted until filled: Barber/Thomas Passed 3-1 (Blount Opposed).

Motion to task staff to post the Executive Assistant to Mayor & Council position (confirmed as funded by the Treasurer) and to remain posted until offer has been accepted Barber/Alexander Passed 4-0.

Motion to reduce Youth Council Budget by \$6,000 noting all departments were requested to make reductions to their budgets Barber/Motion Rescinded

Motion to amend the Assistant Public Works Director **Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, a related field of engineering, environmental science or technology, requiring by seven (7) years of experience in public works, including water, sewer, stormwater, solid waste management, streets and roads, parks, and facility and fleet maintenance; with an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job will be considered with the required engineering degree and a valid State of Georgia Driver's License: Thomas/Alexander Passed 3-1 (Blount Opposed).**

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED – No Speakers In Favor or Opposed
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

Motion to approve the FY2022 Operating Budget with the approved amendments for a total of \$18,480,993.12 Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0.

10. Council Consideration for approval to increase the contract for Johnson Controls Security Solutions LLC (Tyco Integrated Security LLC) in the amount of \$497,572.84 for installation costs; plus \$7,579.80 for year one service costs and monitoring for a total of \$505,152.64.

Presented by Decius Aaron, Public Works Director

Item Removed from the Agenda

11. Council Consideration to approve Merle Manders Conference Center Building Renovations in the amount of \$314,000. Funding Source; \$50,000 FY2021 Budget; \$150,000 FY2022 Budget \$134,000 Tourism Funds

Presented by Kim Jordan, Conference Center & Events Manager

Motion to approve with contingency of confirmed Tourism funding Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0

NEW BUSINESS

12. Council Consideration to approve and publish the 2022 Public Meetings schedules.

Presented by Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Motion to approve w/Option 1 of the City Council meetings and the Board/Committee meetings as presented Alexander/Blount Passed 4-0.

13. Council Consideration to approve the 2022 Agenda Timeline.

Presented by Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Motion to approve Thomas/Barber Passed 4-0.

14. Council Consideration to approve the 2022 Holiday Calendar.

Presented by Renee Wheeler, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Wheeler read the holidays for 2022: Jan 1 New Year's Day, Jan 17 M L King, Jr. Holiday, April 15 Good Friday, May 30 Memorial Day, June 19 Juneteenth, July 4 Independence Day, Sep 5 Labor Day, Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day, Nov 25 The Day After Thanksgiving, Dec 24 Christmas Eve, Dec 25 Christmas Day.

Motion to approve Blount/Barber Passed 4-0.

15. Council Consideration to approve the 2022 Council Initiatives Calendar of Events.

Presented by Zenovia Pearson, Admin. Asst. to Mayor & Council

Motion to approve Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0

16. Council Consideration to approve the 2022 City Events Calendar.

Presented by Kim Jordan, Conference Center & Events Manager

Motion to approve Alexander/Blount Passed 3-0-1 (Barber Abstained)

Councilwoman Barber motioned to rescind her vote from the 12/13/2021 meeting supporting the Halloween Festival.

Mayor Ford asked Legal Counsel to speak to the legality of the request.

Attorney Berry noted Councilwoman Barber can have a note placed in the record noting her position on the matter has changed from yes to no; however, the vote has been taken and is recorded as history and that a motion to reconsider the item would be the appropriate action.

Councilwoman Barber noted she has observed other members change their votes on this Council and called for a motion to Reconsider her vote of the City's Halloween Festival.

Councilman Thomas offered his knowledge of the Motion to Reconsider and noted that supports the City's Halloween Festival, he was of the understanding that a voting member has the right to change his or her position on an item at the meeting or the very next meeting.

Councilman Blount noted during the discussion at the previous meeting it was stated there was another Halloween event and the motion was approved to move forward, in which he voted to oppose and in conflict along with Councilwoman Gantt that the events were in conflict.

Mayor Ford requested a legal opinion.

Attorney Berry stated that any councilmember that voted in the majority whether it was a vote in favor of or a vote opposed to could bring the item back for reconsideration and a vote and stated Councilwoman Barber has the right to bring the item back for a vote.

Attorney Washington read the City's Charter Section 2.04.140 Motion to Reconsider:
A motion to reconsider any of the proceedings of council shall not be entertained unless it be made by a member who voted with the majority, and such motion shall be made at the same or succeeding meeting.

Councilman Thomas stated that while he remains in favor of the original motion, he wants the actions of the Council to be procedurally correct to allow for a Motion to Reconsideration and stated likewise with a Point of Order, that request should speak to the item at hand.

Mayor Ford called on Councilwoman Barber for her request.

Councilwoman Barber made a Motion to Reconsider her vote; second by Councilman Blount.

Attorney Berry stated the motion is not to reconsider her vote, but a motion to reconsider the item and call for a vote on the item.

Councilwoman Barber made a motion to Reconsider the motion regarding the Halloween Event at the December 13, 2021 meeting.

Councilman Thomas disagreed with the opinion stating it is the councilmember's prerogative to change their vote without other members of Council voting on that.

The Clerk read the rule regarding the motion to reconsider; *The motion to reconsider may be made only by a member who voted on the prevailing side in the original vote (such as someone who voted "yes" if the motion had passed or voted "no" if the motion was defeated). The making of the motion to reconsider takes precedence over all other motions and yields to nothing.*

Attorney Berry agreed with the definition as read and stated it contemplates a motion.

Attorney Washington stated that as with any other motion, it must be properly moved and seconded to take any action.

Councilman Thomas disagreed with the call for a motion to reconsider her vote.

Attorney Berry stated the meeting two weeks is set stone and is why it takes a Motion for Reconsideration to bring the item back to the Council for a vote.

Attorney Washington stated the City's only provision in the Charter speaks to a Motion to Reconsider can only be brought back by a member of the Governing Body who voted in the majority.

Councilwoman Barber stated she is prepared to make two motions: A motion to rescind her vote; and a Motion to reconsider.

Mayor Ford called for a vote on the motion to reconsider made by Councilwoman Barber; second by Councilman Blount (there was not vote from Alexander or Thomas) the motion failed.

Attorney Berry noted the action of the was correct and gave an example of a rezoning item being approved by the Council and the developer begins to build relying on the zoning, and a member of the Council comes back two weeks later to change their vote, which is why the actions or voting of the full council.

Councilwoman Barber responded that the example of a developer or investor would relate to items involving contracts.

Attorney Berry noted the process is from Robert's Rules and used the rezoning as an example.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander noted the Council voted and has received the opinion of legal counsel.

Councilwoman Barber opted to move on.

Councilman Blount stated while it was her prerogative to move on, he did not think Councilwoman Barber was allowed to change her vote.

Mayor Ford noted the process was that the Council did vote on the motion to reconsider, and the motion failed.

Councilman Thomas stated for the record he abstained from the vote.

17. Council Consideration to approve the 2021 Utility Billing Write-offs in the amount of \$14,111.8.

Presented by John Wiggins, Treasurer

Motion to approve Alexander/Barber Passed 3-0-1 (Thomas Abstained)

18. Council Consideration to approve Green Room Community Use Policy and Fee Schedule.

Presented by Kim Jordan, Conference Center & Events Manager and Econuel Ingram, Conference Center Coordinator

Item Tabled

19. Council Consideration to appoint a representative to the Council on Aging.

Presented by Attorney Washington

Motion to appoint DeRitha Barber – 2yr Term Alexander/Barber Passed 4-0.

20. Council Consideration to appoint members to the Downtown Development Authority

Presented by Attorney Washington

Item Tabled to January 2022

21. Council Consideration to appoint members to the Main Street Advisory Board.

Presented by Attorney Washington

Motion to appoint Greg Horton to a 3yr Term; Linda Jones, Mildred Reed, Anika Potts, Willie Hopkins and Shomari Furtch with a 2-yr Term Thomas/Alexander Passed 4-0.

22. Council Consideration to appoint members to the Youth Council Advisory Committee

Presented by Attorney Washington

Motion to appoint Sharika Zellars and Jodie Alexander with a 2-yr Term; Aaniyah Kendrick, Alfreda Gouridine, Arvia Hall, Derius Peurifoy, Keely White and Shameka Jones, with terms to be determined to fill the 1yr unexpired terms or vacant 2-yr terms following discussion with legal: Blount/Alexander Passed 3-0-1 (Barber Abstained)

23. Council Consideration to approve the Commercial Code Enforcement Fee Schedule

Presented by Brecca Johnson, Community Development Director

Motion to approve with amendments Alexander/Barber Passed 3-0-1 (Blount Abstained)

Motion to bring Residential Fee Schedule to the Council within the next 30 days for approval Alexander/Barber Passed 4-0.

24. Council Consideration to grant the Chief of Police the authority to implement and/or amend police department policies and procedures with review by Legal Counsel as appropriate, excluding policies and procedures with a financial impact greater than \$5,000.

Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief

Item Tabled

25. Council Consideration to approve Vehicle Usage Policy for the City of Stockbridge Police Department.

Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief

Motion to approve Barber/Thomas Passed 4-0.

26. Council Consideration to temporarily waive spending authority limits to authorize the City Manager to approve police department start-up purchases not to exceed a designated amount and/or specified costs for pre-approved categories.

Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief

Item Tabled

27. Council Consideration to approve the purchase of body worn cameras with a 5-year program in the amount of \$471,743.99, and in-car video cameras and associated storage costs with a 5-year program in the amount of \$239,500.01 for the City of Stockbridge Police Department for a total amount of \$711,244.00. Funding Source ARPA.

Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief and Richard Godfrey, Commander

Motion to approve Barber/Alexander Passed 4-0.

28. Council Consideration to approve the purchase of mobile and in-car police radios for the City of Stockbridge Police Department in the amount of \$611,736.00. Funding Source ARPA.

Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief and /Richard Godfrey, Commander

Motion to approve Barber/Alexander Passed 3-0 (Blount was not present for the vote).

29. Council Consideration to approve the purchase of remote-controlled spotlights for City of Stockbridge Police Department patrol vehicles in the amount of \$37,589.26. Funding Source ARPA.

Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief

Motion to approve Thomas/Barber Passed 3-0 (Blount was not present for the vote).

30. Council Consideration to approve the purchase of 56 Taser X 7's for the City of Stockbridge Police Department in the amount of \$.176,198.39. Funding Source ARPA.

Presented by Frank Trammer, Police Chief and Richard Godfrey, Commander

Motion to approve Alexander/Barber Passed 3-0 (Blount was not present for the vote).

DISCUSSION

31. Councilman Blount proposed a \$500 incentive for vaccinated employees and staff working through the pandemic using ARPA Funds.

Councilman Blount noted the City was blessed not to have to layoff any staff throughout the pandemic and that ARPA funds was being used by other municipalities to issue incentives to staff and wants the City of Stockbridge to issue a \$500 incentive to vaccinated staff and those who worked through the pandemic using ARPA funds for approximately \$50,000 for the city's eighty employees.

Councilwoman Barber supports tasking HR staff and legal with researching vaccine incentives for employees noting ARPA funding is specific and wants to be sure the incentives fall within the ARPA parameters and supports all ways of encouraging staff to get vaccinated and get their boosters; and to research how what is done in the case of employees who don't want to be vaccinated at all and how that factors in; and noted a Cost of Living Adjustment increase would require General Funds and cannot use ARPA Funding.

Councilman Blount noted this request does not involve the Cost of Living (COLA) and saw today in fact on the news where other cities were distributing this type of incentive to their employees and wants the city's legal team and staff to look into for our employees.

Mayor Ford asked legal if they had any remarks.

Attorney Washington noted legal would need to research the item and prepare a memo and submit to Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander stated he is in support of doing something for the city's employees with the ARPA funding that has come to the city; noted the city has been fortunate with no layoffs and maintained a full staff; noted the increase in the livable wage to a minimum of \$15/per hour; and wants to make sure the attorneys are tasked with a leveled approach if it is legal to give this one-time payment it should perhaps be 3-tiered with an employee who has taken the steps to get fully vaccinated with the booster and protect themselves and others should receive a higher amount than someone who has received one or two vaccinations; and they should receive a higher amount than someone who has not been vaccinated at all; noting the definition of fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC will change; and noting everyone endured, and there may be those who did not get the vaccination for religious reasons and did wear a mask and took precautions would be worthy of something and it not be zero, and it is allowable, everyone should receive something; and asked HR staff and see what other cities are doing.

Councilman Blount noted he appreciated Mayor Pro Tem's recommendation of the tiers and referenced the cities of Douglasville and Sandy Springs who he believes may have issued incentives to their employees as part of the research, and just wants to do something for the employees.

Councilwoman Barber wants the attorneys to look into the discrimination factor of the tiered approach to avoid potential litigation; and noted her support of the incentive.

Councilman Blount noted it falls along the line of insurance companies who charge based on a tiered approach.

Councilwoman Barber noted because this is the use of ARPA Funding, there are specific guideline and criteria.

Mayor Pro Tem asked HR to look into and bring back to the Council if the cost of employees not getting vaccinated and if there will be a cost that will be passed along to the city, noting the city has absorbed the cost of the added premiums for several years, as this will certainly help with the decision.

Mayor Ford asked Ms. Wheeler for her thoughts on the request for the research; there was no response.

Councilman Blount noted that when the information comes back from HR and Legal, asked if there could be a consensus by email or vote in the public.

Attorney Washington noted a vote would need to be made before the public.

Councilman Blount noted the request is that there be an incentive of \$500 for the vaccinated; \$250 for the unvaccinated and \$7 for the boosters.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked that the Council wait on the research from HR and Legal as discussed.

Mayor Ford noted the Attorneys have heard the information and HR Staff and Legal Counsel were tasked with determining the feasibility and legal justifications for the incentive and distribution and report back to the Council within the next 30 days.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Ford noted the COVID variant Omicron has become more prominent; noted Dr. Henson of Piedmont Henry stated the hospital is preparing for the 5th surge as people prepare to gather for the holiday season; noted he and his spouse received the booster with no issues, and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated, get boosters, get tested because Omicron is here and that's the only way we will be able to beat this virus; noted the CDC has stated boosters are available to those who qualify age 16+ free of charge and you can set up an appointment for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccinations and boosters at the Public Health Department located at 135 Henry Pkwy in McDonough by calling 470-661-0005; noted COVID Testing is available Monday through Friday from 9am – 3pm at Red Hawk Field 143 Henry Pkwy in McDonough and with rapid testing for faster results and you can get vaccinations and the booster as well; noted walk-ins are welcome from 9am – 11am and 1pm – 3pm and closes at 5pm and is open 5 days per week; noted once you have completed the first two vaccines from Pfizer or Moderna you can cross over and take the Pfizer or Moderna boosters; noted the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are being administered to individuals age 5+, and boosters cannot be administered to ages 5 – 15, noting the CDC has not approve a booster for that age group, and asked that you please get permission and/or advice regarding the vaccinations; noted the City has moved forward with the selection of a Sole Finalist to fill the vacancy for the City Manager position noting the candidate is Mr. Frederick Gardiner, and noted the city is in the 14-day period by law of the process which started on Saturday and will end December 31st where the city will then have a Special Called meeting between January 1 – 10 to make the formal appointment and confirmation.

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 and - 2nd Monday of each month 6:00 p.m. Swearing-In Ceremony Location TBD (Jan 10)
- Youth Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. - 2nd Wednesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Jan 12)
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting, 2nd Friday of each month 9:00 a.m. Via Zoom (Jan 14)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 3rd Tuesday of each month Patrick Henry Meeting Room - City Hall (Jan 18)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom - 3rd Tuesday of each month Via Zoom (Jan 18)

- City Council Work Session Meeting, Last Tuesday of each month - Time and Virtual (Jan 25)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom – (Feb 24)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

Please join Councilwoman Barber at the Eagles Landing Dance Center for FREE Zumba Saturdays at 8 a.m. at 627 Red Oak Road Stockbridge, GA

A Continuous Salute to Veterans: Please forward pictures of Veterans including name, branch, rank, and years of service as Councilman Thomas presents a special tribute to our local veterans. Pictures should be submitted to: zpearson@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov Thank you for your service!

Here is your opportunity to *Meet the Mayor*, and voice your questions and/or concerns Monday, January 25, 2022, from 10 a.m. to noon. Call Zenovia Pearson to schedule an appointment. 770-389-7900 ext. 248.

Mayor Ford wished everyone, and on behalf of the City Council and the staff a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukah, and Kwanza.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, and Real Estate: Barber/Alexander Passed 4-0.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session: Thomas/Barber Passed 3-0. (Councilman Blount was not present for the vote).

Motion to reconvene the meeting without action from Executive Session Thomas/Barber Passed 3-0 (Councilman Blount was not present for the vote).

Ms. Holiday noted during the presentation of the Public Meeting Schedule it was stated that the Planning Commission meeting time was 6:00 p.m. and should be 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn Thomas/Alexander Passed 3-0. Councilman Blount was not present for the vote).