



WORK SESSION MEETING ACTION MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

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

Administration

Frederick Gardiner, 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. **Call to Order – Mayor Ford**
- II. **Invocation – Mr. Maestro Evans**
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance**
- IV. **Roll Call – All members were present except Councilman Alexander and Councilwoman Gantt. Councilman Alexander joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.**
- V. **Motion to amend the Agenda to add Item #17 Licensing Agreement for parking and Item #18 Contract Extension for GFL: Thomas/Blount Passed 4-0**
- VI. **Motion to adopt the Agenda: Thomas/Alexander Passed 4-0.**
- VII. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: Blount/Barber Passed 4-0**
 1. Draft Minutes Special Called Meeting October 3, 2022
 2. Draft Minutes Council Meeting October 10, 2022
 3. Draft Minutes Work Session Meeting October 25, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENTS - All persons wishing to speak for public comment must sign in with the City Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting noting your name, address, and phone number. You will be allotted three (3) minutes. Speakers must respect all members of the elected body, officials, and staff. Defamation, unruliness and/or swearing will not be tolerated.

Mr. Maestro Evans – Stockbridge (Henry County) referenced the recent passage of the Annexation Referendum and asked when information would be distributed to the new residents.

PRESENTATION

4. Presentation of Open Gov Project

Presented by: Frederick Gardiner, John Wiggins, Brice Percynski

Informational and reporting tool for government transparency was presented.

No Action

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Final Reading and Adoption - Public Hearing of the Proposed FY2023 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan

Presented by: Frederick Gardiner, John Wiggins

Mr. Gardiner presented an overview of the proposed FY2023 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilman Blount referenced his request for the city's Financial Advisor to attend the meeting noting this is the first budget that is being balanced with Fund Balance and will rely on the \$1.9 mil county rollback; and not being transparent as to how the city will sustain the increases.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas noted the city is absorbing credit card fees of over \$53,000 per year and motioned to no longer absorb the fees; second by Councilman Alexander. The motion failed 2-0-2 (Barber/Blount Abstained).

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas referenced the 2nd Budget Hearing where it was confirmed by the City Manager that the newly proposed positions would not be funded in the 2023 Operating Budget, and that the critical position of Economic Development Director is moving forward and being funded.

Mr. Gardiner confirmed, noting his intent was for the candidate to be confirmed later during the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem noted historically, and traditionally, the Council receives the resume of any Director nominated by the City Manager prior to Council confirmation.

Councilman Blount noted he did not need to see the resume and asked that the City Manager be allowed to hire and build his team.

Councilwoman Barber asked if there are any mid-year budget review meetings scheduled for 2023, noting there were no meetings provided in 2022 following requests; referenced the budget retreat and the new format that did not include the governing body, and noted that because of the lack of a budget review to know where the city is financially, she cannot support approval of the budget; Councilwoman Barber referenced the ARPA report and asked if the numbers were for FY22 or FY23.

Mr. Wiggins confirmed the report references FY2022.

Councilwoman Barber asked for a detailed report for ARPA funds spent by the Stockbridge Police Department and the city's Public Works Department; and asked for clarification of the ARPA funds paid in the amount of \$280,000.

Mr. Wiggins confirmed the \$280,000 was for the Employee Retention Incentive; and noted the ARPA balance is \$1.5 million with \$1.167 restricted.

Mr. Gardiner noted the goal is to try to get the budget process started with the Retreat in February 2023 to include the city's Strategic Plan, and priorities for FY23 Projects and have a working document to present in August 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas requested that Council receive financial reports from the City Manager on a monthly and quarterly basis; and cited Section 4.10 of the Charter whereas the Council shall confirm all Directors, noting the Council should see the background information of the Director in which they are being asked to confirm, stating the Council must do their due diligence with respect to vetting and confirmations.

Mr. Gardiner noted he was not informed of that process noting the Charter does not specify that resumes be submitted to the governing body and would have the information forwarded to the Council for review for confirmation at the December 20, 2022 meeting.

Councilman Blount referenced the Charter and noted areas that appear to be antiquated and needs to be updated to 21st century best practices, and asked councilmembers present their questions for behind closed doors.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas noted the Council had not been made aware that a candidate was being brought forward for confirmation until today.

Mr. Gardiner noted he plans to meet with the county to request additional tax funds based on the passage of the annexation referendum and the approximately 7,000 new residents as a result, and hopes the county will comply with the request without legal recourse.

Mr. Gardiner noted he is working with GMA (Georgia Municipal Association) to draft the appropriate correspondence to submit to the county regarding L.O.S.T. (Local Option Sales Tax) and the new city residents/former county residents where there is law that speaks to an approximate 6% increase in population.

Councilman Blount noted there needs to be a financial analysis completed.

Public Hearing Opened

No Speakers in Favor

No Speakers Opposed

Public Hearing Closed

Motion to adopt the FY2023 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. There was no motion.
NO ACTION TAKEN

6. Notice of Public Hearing and Adoption Proposed Stockbridge Redevelopment Plan for (Tax Allocation District #1 - Downtown and North Henry Boulevard Corridor)

Presented by: Frederick Gardiner, Gary Mongeon of KB Advisory Group

Mr. Gardiner presented the Tax Allocation District #1 for adoption noting upon approval, the next step would be to reach out to the County Tax Assessor

Public Hearing Opened

No Speakers in Favor

No Speakers Opposed

Public Hearing Closed

Motion to approve: Alexander/Blount Passed 3-0-1 (Thomas Abstained).

7. The governing authority for the City intends to consider and to vote upon an ordinance that will provide for an increase in compensation for the members of the governing authority, and will provide that said increase for councilmembers shall increase from \$12,000 to \$20,000 annually and for the mayor shall increase from \$14,400 to \$22,400 annually. If so approved on December 12, 2022, the annual salaries will become effective January 2024. Presented by: Quinton Washington, City Attorney

Public Hearing Opened

Ms. Armenta Jones, Stockbridge (Henry County) asked where the money would come from to pay the additional salaries.

Mr. Maestro Evans asked what methodology was used to compute the 66.5% increase noting this percentage of an increase does not happen in the public or private sector.

Mayor Ford noted the salaries for the governing body have not increased in ten years.

Mr. Gardiner noted a salary analysis was completed taking into account compensation for similar municipalities.

No Speakers in Favor

Public Hearing Closed

Motion to table: Alexander/Thomas Failed 2-0-2 (Blount/Barber Abstained).
NO ACTION TAKEN

Councilman Alexander exited the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Council Consideration to approve the 2022 Utility Billing Write-Offs for the prior year in the amount of \$45,649.83.
Presented by: John Wiggins
Motion to approve: Blount/Barber Passed 3-0.
9. Council Consideration to approve Water Deposit Change/Increase from \$150 to \$200.
Presented by: John Wiggins
Motion to approve: Thomas/Blount Passed 3-0.
10. Water and Sewer Rate Increase Ordinance – Council Consideration to approve the Ordinance for FY23 – FY27 (per attached).
Presented by: Decius Aaron
Motion to approve: Blount/Barber Passed 3-0.
11. Council consideration to approve the renewal of the City of Stockbridge On-Call Sidewalk Replacement and Repairs Contract with DAF Concrete, Inc., in the amount of 250,000.00. The funding source is from SPLOST V.
Presented by: Decius Aaron
Motion to approve: Blount/Thomas Passed 3-0.
12. Council Consideration to approve the 2023 City Events Calendar
Presented by: Kim Jordan
Motion to remove the \$50,000 for Re-branding: Barber/Blount Passed 3-0.
Motion to Table the Item: Thomas/No Second. Motion Failed.

13. Council Consideration to approve the 2023 Council Initiative Calendar
Presented by: Rosalynd Rawls
Councilwoman Barber amended the calendar noting Zumba would begin in May; removed the Blood Drives and asked that the non-profit entity listed for the Kickball event be removed as a new non-profit benefactor will be determined on a later date.
Motion to approve as amended: Barber/Thomas Passed 3-0.
Motion to Table to the January 9, 2023 meeting: Thomas/Barber Failed 2-1 (Blount Opposed).
Motion to Table Blount/Thomas Failed 2-0-1 (Barber Abstained). NO ACTION TAKEN
14. Council Consideration to appoint members to the Planning Commission
Presented by: Quinton Washington
NO ACTION TAKEN
15. Council Consideration to appoint members to the Youth Council Advisory Committee
Presented by: Quinton Washington
NO ACTION TAKEN
16. Council Consideration to appoint members to the Main Street Advisory Board
Presented by: Quinton Washington
NO ACTION TAKEN
17. Council Consideration to approve a Licensing Agreement for parking at Stockbridge Municipal Court and City Hall between the Stockbridge First Baptist Church and the City of Stockbridge during the Right-of-Way Easement construction.
Presented by: Danielle Davis
Motion to approve: Barber/Thomas Passed 3-0.
18. Council Consideration to approve a contract extension for sanitation services with GGL.
Presented by: Danielle Davis, Frederick Gardiner, and Decius Aaron
Motion to approve a one-year contract extension: Blount/Thomas Failed 2-0-1 (Barber Abstained).

Councilwoman Gantt joined the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Motion to approve a one-year contract extension with performance improvement standards: Blount/Gantt Passed 3-0-1 (Barber Abstained).

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Council meetings will be held in the City Council Chamber. Meeting dates, locations 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.

- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 6:00 p.m. City Hall Levi Meeting Room 2nd Tuesday of each month (Dec 13)
- Planning Commission Meeting, **Special Date** - Thursday at 6:30 p.m. City Hall Council Chamber – (Dec 15)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, **Special Date** - Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chamber (Dec 20)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom - 3rd Tuesday of each month Via Zoom (Dec 20)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 3rd Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Dec 20)
- City Council Meeting, 2nd Monday of each month – City Hall Council Chamber (Jan 9)
- Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 2nd Monday of each month City Hall Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Jan 9)
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting 2nd Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Jan 13)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- *A Continuous Salute to Veterans:* Please forward pictures of Veterans including name, branch, rank, and years of service as Mayor Pro Tem Thomas presents a special tribute to our local veterans. Pictures should be submitted to: Rosalynd Rawls at rrawls@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov Thank you for your service!
- Please join Councilwoman Barber for FREE Zumba on every Saturday morning at Vivid Affairs Event Center located at 747 Davis Rd. Suite 400 Stockbridge at 8:00 a.m. Come out for FREE fitness!
- Here is your opportunity to *Meet the Mayor* and talk with Mayor Ford on Monday, December 19th from 10am to noon. Please contact Rosalynd Rawls to schedule an appointment at 678-833-3348 or via email at rrawls@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov

MAYOR'S COMMENTS (Mayor Anthony Ford)

Mayor Ford referenced the recently held Volunteer Appreciation Gala where the city thanked the volunteers who serve and support the city throughout the year, and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Thomas for taking the lead on the event; noted we are still in a pandemic and encouraged everyone to get COVID vaccinations and boosters and flu shots throughout the county and at the Henry County Health Department Monday – Friday 9am – 11:30am and 1pm – 2:30pm; noted COVID testing was available at Red Hawk Field Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am – 3pm; Mayor Ford wished everyone Happy Holidays, prosperity and good health, and to be safe, and wished everyone a happy new year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Exemptions to the Georgia Open Meetings Acts)

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel: Gantt/Blount Failed 2-1-1 (Thomas Opposed/Barber Abstained).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Thomas/Gantt Passed 4-0.