



WORK SESSION MEETING ACTION MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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 – John Wiggins**
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance**
- IV. **Roll Call – All members were present except Councilwoman Gantt**
- V. **Motion to adopt the Agenda: Blount/Barber Passed 4-0**
- VI. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES – No Action**
 1. Draft Minutes Council Meeting November 14, 2022
 2. Draft Minutes Work Session Meeting November 29, 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. **None**

Councilwoman Gantt joined the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Council Consideration to approve the 2023 City Events Calendar
Presented by: Kim Jordan, Conference Center Manager
Motion to approve: Blount/Alexander Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Final Reading and Adoption - Public Hearing of the Proposed FY2023 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan
Presented by: John Wiggins, Treasurer

Mr. Wiggins presented the proposed FY2023 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan citing Title 36 Chapter 81 of the Georgia Code, noting the Budget Hearings had been properly advertised and were held on November 14, 2022, November 29, 2022, and December 12, 2022, with the adoption scheduled to take place today, December 20, 2022.

Councilwoman Barber noted it had been confirmed that there were positions that had not been funded, however the positions remain on the Organizational Chart and Pay and Classification.

Mr. Wiggins reiterated that the positions are not funded, however, the research has already taken place should the Council move to approve and fund the positions later in the year.

Councilman Alexander referenced the improvements in the city's landscape, noting a new standard of quality service executing in a new level.

Mr. Aaron confirmed the new level of service would continue.

Councilman Alexander referenced landscaping improvements along Hudson Bridge and Campground Road.

Mr. Aaron noted the project was not approved by the Council and would submit the information to the Mayor & Council for review in the event it is to be added to Agenda for consideration, noted Public Works has budgeted to procure additional equipment in the FY2023 Budget to maintain the additional roadways and rights-of-way as a result of the approved Annexation Referendum; noted the Public Works staff has been surveying the newly annexed land over the last three weeks and have noticed there are roadway repairs needed along Old Conyers Rd., Mt. Zion Rd. and Walt Stephens Rd.

Councilman Alexander asked Mr. Aaron if he has been working with the City's Grants Administrator to secure grants for infrastructure and roadway projects.

Mr. Aaron confirmed that he is working with Ms. Russell seeking grants.

Councilman Blount asked Mr. Aaron if there are funds in the budget for pressure washing the city's buildings, city hall specifically as a focal point of the city and needed to be cleaned; and asked if pressure washing is a service provided by staff or a contractor.

Mr. Aaron noted funds are in the budget and that he would address the concerns with the city's Building Maintenance Supervisor.

Mayor pro Tem referenced the new positions that had been presented in the proposed budget and asked if the salaries were included in the salaries line of the budget.

Mr. Wiggins confirmed there was no funding for the new positions.

Councilman Alexander noted the 10' walking paths along East Atlanta Rd., noting the city has bonded monies for trails that is just sitting there and asked if the paths could be added to the E. Atlanta Rd. project; and asked if the 10' sidewalks could be completed by staff or a contractor.

Mr. Aaron noted the request would require GA Department of Transportation approval and would delay the current project timeline and would require that that work be completed by a contractor.

Mayor Ford noted TSPLOST projects need to be prioritized with the underserved community as priority one.

Mr. Wiggins noted the city is collecting \$463,000 in TSPLOST funding from the county.

Councilman Blount asked Mr. Aaron if the city has including cutting back crepe myrtles in the landscaping contract or if staff is cutting those, being specific with the difference between cutting and trimming of these trees.

Mr. Aaron noted the contractor has the cutting of the trees in their scope of work.

Councilman Alexander agreed Councilman Blount, noting the trees along N. Henry Blvd. need to be cut back as well.

Mr. Aaron noted the city's Main Street Program had previously offered a plan for the vacant lot adjacent to city hall.

Councilman Alexander also advised the Public Works Director that the median on Hwy.138.

Councilman Blount asked Mr. Wiggins how much of the city's proposed FY2023 Operating Budget is being balanced with Fund Balance.

Mr. Wiggins confirmed \$4.5 million dollars.

Public Hearing Opened
No Speakers in Favor
No Speakers Opposed
Public Hearing Closed

Motion to approve the FY2023 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan:
Alexander/Gantt Passed 4-0-1 (Barber Abstained).

5. The governing authority of 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 council members 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 in January 2024.

Presented by: Quinton Washington, City Attorney

Attorney Washington noted if approved, the compensation changes become effective January 1, 2024.

Public Hearing Opened

No Speakers in Favor

No Speakers Opposed

Public Hearing Closed

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

NEW BUSINESS

6. Council consideration to approve the 2023 Workers Compensation Policy with J Smith Lanier in the amount of \$157,914.00.

Presented by: Renee Wheeler, HR Manager

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

7. Council Consideration to appoint members to the Planning Commission.

Presented by: Quinton Washington, City Attorney

Motion to appoint: David Planchon, Harold Thibodeaux, and Kathleen Nelson to the Planning Commission: Gantt/Alexander Passed 5-0.

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

Presented by: Quinton Washington, City Attorney

Motion to appoint Bonita Adams, Joc'Quelyn Carter, Ericka Harvey, Ayesha Watson and Tonya "Toni" Williams: Gantt/Thomas Passed 5-0.

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

Presented by: Quinton Washington, City Attorney

Motion to appoint Camille Mason and Andrea Burnett: Thomas/Barber Passed 5-0.

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.

- 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)

- **Downtown Development Authority Meeting- 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom - *Special Day***
(Jan 10) - Tuesday Via Zoom
- **Citywide Development Authority Meeting - 6:00 p.m. City Hall Levi Meeting Room**
2nd Tuesday of each month (Jan 10)
- **Main Street Advisory Board Meeting 2nd Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. City**
Hall Levi Meeting Room (Jan 13)
- **Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 3rd Tuesday of each**
month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Jan 17)
- **Planning Commission Meeting - 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m. City Hall Council**
Chamber – (Jan 26)
- **City Council Work Session Meeting - Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council**
Chamber (Jan 31)

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 Councilman Alexander for the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Project on Saturday, January 14th at Hudson Bridge Rd. @ I-75 (Parking at Walmart) from 10am - 12pm.
- Please join Councilman Blount for Bingo Bash on Wednesday, January 18th at the Merle Manders Conference Center from 10am - noon.
Here is your opportunity to *Meet the Mayor* and talk with Mayor Ford on Tuesday, January 24th 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 noted we are still in a pandemic and noted the data from news sources state sick cases and hospitalizations are on the rise, 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; noted the New Residents Guide was mailed out to the newly annexed residents that will be extremely helpful to residents on how we do business and provide services; congratulated City Clerk, Vanessa Holiday on her recent IIMC CMC, Certified Municipal Clerk certification; wished everyone Happy Holidays and to be safe, noting 2023 is going to be a great and prosperous year for all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Exemptions to the Georgia Open Meetings Acts)

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate and Litigation:
Blount/Gantt Passed 5-0.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session: Gantt/Alexander Passed 5-0.

Motion to reconvene the meeting: Gantt/Thomas Passed 5-0.

Motion to appoint Mr. Kimberly Allonce to the position of Economic Development Director:
Alexander/Gantt Passed 5-0.

Motion to appoint Mr. Rusi Patel to the position of Information Technology Director:
Blount/Gantt Passed 3-0-2 (Barber/Thomas Abstained).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Gantt/Blount Passed 5-0.