



WORK SESSION MEETING ACTION MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

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

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 – Captain Karen Anderson**
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.**
- IV. **Roll Call – All member were present.**
- V. **Motion to amend the Agenda: to Remove Item 7 Blount/Barber Passed 5-0.**
- VI. **Motion to amend the Agenda: to Remove Item 10 Alexander/Gantt Passed 5-0.**
- VII. **Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Alexander/Barber Passed 5-0.**
 1. Review of the Retreat Minutes 03/20/2023
 2. Review of the Retreat Minutes 03/21/2023
 3. Review of the Retreat Minutes 03/22/2023
 4. Review of the Work Session Minutes 03/23/2023

No Action

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**

PUBLIC HEARING

5. The City of Stockbridge Mayor & Council will hold the initial public hearing regarding the 5-Year update to the 2018 Comprehensive Plan & Community Work Program/Capital Improvement Element Presented by: Brecca Carter, Community Development Director and Ms. Keri Stevens of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC).

Ms. Carter noted the City of Stockbridge will hold public hearings regarding the 5-year update to the 2018 Comprehensive Plan & Community Work Program/Capital Improvement Element, and the public participation process will take place over a 6-month period; noted the ARC is leading this process at no financial charge to the City.

Ms. Carter referenced the 2018 Comprehensive Plan document, noting applicable maps, Short-Term Work Program and Capital Improvements Element were put in place to offer direction on the future growth of the City; and noted the DCA (Department of Community Affairs) requires that a 5-year plan update be conducted in order to incorporate changes to strengthen the plan in areas of housing, economic development, natural resources, facilities, etc., and that this process will allow the City to meet state standards.

Ms. Stevens noted this would be the first Public Hearing; noted the reason we plan is to Prepare for the Future, Provide for Public Health, Safety, & Welfare, Build Communities, Minimize Weaknesses, Enhance Strengths, Accommodate to Present Needs and Anticipate Change.

Ms. Stevens reviewed the Process and the Required Plan Elements, which included Vision & Goals, Needs & Opportunities, Community Work Program, Broadband Services, and some requirements for Capital Improvements Element, Land Use, Economic Development, Transportation and Housing.

Ms. Stevens reviewed the Tentative Schedule for February – October, noting the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been signed with ARC, the Steering Committee will meet May 3rd and June 7th; a website will be launched along with a survey; ARC/City staff drafts the plan; Planning Commission/Council reviews plan at Work Session; ARC amends the plan as requested and will hold the 2nd Public Hearing.

Ms. Carter noted the Steering Committee would consist of the an elected official, the City Manager, the Community Development Director, the Public Works Director and the Economic Development Director.

Councilman Thomas asked if there was a set number of members on the Steering Committee.

Ms. Stevens noted the committee is typically 7-9 members.

Councilwoman Gantt suggested new members in the community be selected for the committee.

Councilman Alexander asked Ms. Carter to speak to how the projects come to fruition.

Ms. Carter noted the Amphitheater as an example that had been on the Capital Improvement Plan for years, and has finally come to fruition, noting it takes years of planning for projects to work themselves through.

Councilman Alexander noted through guidance and training from National League of Cities and the Georgia Municipal Association, it was made very clear that local governments cannot request funding if the project is not included in the Plan.

Ms. Carter noted the committee will also need to meet 3/3 with officials about their initiatives as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Barber emphasized the importance of getting information out to the public and include in the city's next newsletter and social media platforms.

Ms. Stevens noted comments will be posted to the Public Input website and noted the ARC can assist and look into grant opportunities for the city; and thanked the ARC for the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Barber suggested trails, trails, and more trails.

Ms. Stevens noted the plan will include trails, housing, infrastructure, and economic development.

Councilman Alexander asked the city to pursue funding and every dollar possible to address traffic and paving issues, especially along the Walt Stephens corridor and place on the next SPLOST.

Councilwoman Gantt agreed noting Flippen road should be added as well, along with pocket parks, sidewalks, and lighting, with the priority being the downtown area.

Councilman Blount noted he agrees with his colleagues, noting his greatest concern is funding, and the need to ensure that the infrastructure is the priority with the city's growth at a fast pace; and referenced the Rock Quarry Rd. widening project is already behind.

Mr. Gardiner reiterated the need to have meetings with the governing body to accomplish the goals, and noted that when projects are identified, there will be a need to address the funding, and this will need to be a collaborative effort; and noted there are several road issues that were inherited in District 1 that need to be addressed, and the funding has to be identified as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Barber noted District 4 has the same issues particularly along Valley Hill Rd.

Mayor Ford opened the Public Hearing.

There were no speakers in favor; there were no speakers opposed.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Ms. Carter advised the Mayor & Council that someone would be in touch to schedule meetings over the next week or so, and that the Public Involvement Meeting would take place May 17th at the Merle Manders Conference Center with more information to follow.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Ordinance OR23-527 - To Amend the City of Stockbridge Code of Ordinances to provide for an exception to the restrictions on possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages at the Stockbridge Amphitheater
Presented by: Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk
Ms. Holiday presented OR232-527 and read Section 3.23 of the Charter: Submission of ordinances to the mayor veto power.

Mayor Ford read his veto letter into the record:

"I, Mayor Anthony S. Ford, City of Stockbridge, am invoking City Charter Section 3.23 Submission of Ordinances to the Mayor, Veto Power. I am utilizing my veto power against Ordinance Amendment 23-527 Section D. The Veto is based on both: (A) Safety of the Concert Attendees and (B) Liability involving the City of Stockbridge. Concert attendees can still bring water, soft drinks, and juice in a cooler no larger than 12 inches by 12 inches. There is only one cooler per patron allowed."

Motion to override the Veto Gantt/Blount passed 4-1 (Alexander opposed).

NEW BUSINESS

7. Council consideration to revise Chapter 10.12 of the city's code of ordinances governing parking regulations. Parking Ordinance Revisions
Presented by: Karen Anderson
Item Removed from the Agenda

8. Disposal of vehicle seats removed from police patrol vehicles as part of the up fitting with emergency equipment.
Presented by: Richard Godfrey
Motion to approve the surplus or donation of 82 police department vehicles seats: Blount/Gantt Passed 5-0.
9. Council Consideration to approve the Youth Council and Youth Council Advisory Committee to utilize the entrance of the Amphitheater on May 17, 2023, from 5:00 pm-9:00 pm for the Youth Council's Senior Banquet -
Presented by: Dr. Renee Gourdine
Motion to approve the Youth Council's use of the Amphitheater Platform area or Council Chamber on May 17, 2023: Thomas/Alexander Passed 5-0.
10. Council consideration to fill a vacancy and appoint a member to the Downtown Development Authority - Presented by: Quinton Washington
Item Removed from the Agenda
11. Council Consideration authorizing the Mayor to sign the Resolution Amending the 2020 Service Delivery Strategy Agreement.
Presented by: Frederick Gardiner
Motion to approve: Alexander/Gantt Passed 5-0.
12. Council Consideration to appoint the Stockbridge Representative to the Transportation Advisory Group
Presented by: Brecca Carter
Motion to Table Alexander/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 at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chamber (May 8)
- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (May 9)
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting 2nd Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Welcome Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (May 12)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of each month Via Zoom (May 16)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 3rd Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (May 16)

- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber 4th Thursday of each month– (May 25)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, Last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chamber (May 30)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Join Councilwoman Gantt on Wednesday, April 26th for a District 1 Community Town Hall at the Merle Manders Conference Center at 6:00 p.m.
- Join Councilman Blount for National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 4th at Stockbridge City Hall from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Council Chamber.
- Food Truck Tuesday starts Tuesday, May 2nd at Clark Community Park 111 Davis Rd. Lots and great food and activities for everyone.
- Save the Date: Carrie May Hambrick Day, Saturday, May 13th. More information to follow. Contact Councilman Thomas at 404-247-4972 for more information.
- Join Mayor Ford for a Fund-Raising Luncheon in partnership with Sister Talk on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 2pm for programs helping young girls to become both mature and responsible. Please contact Rosalynd Rawls at 678-833-3348 for more information.
- Join Mayor Pro Tem Barber for a Mother's Day Tea/Brunch - Honoring Mothers and the Grace They Carry- Sunday, May 7th from 2-5pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center. Registration is required at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) MothersDayTeaBrunch.
- Save the Date: Carrie May Hambrick Day, Saturday, May 13th. More information to follow. Contact Councilman Thomas at 404-247-4972 for more information.
- Join Councilman Thomas for the Don't Trash Stockbridge centered around education highlighting the causes and effects of Littering and Illegal Dumping. More information to follow.
- Henry for Music (HFM) presents the ASEP Violin Classes and Music Program of Cotton Indian, Red Oak, and Fairview Elementary Schools & Students from the HFM Youth Orchestra United "Joy Through Music" Spring Concert 2023 on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center and will feature Mayor Pro Tem Barber on violin.
- Honoring Veterans with a Continuous Salute all year long. Please send your pictures of Veterans with their name, branch, rank, and years of service as Councilman Thomas sends a salute to honor Veterans all year long. Please send pictures to rrawls@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov
- Join Mayor Pro Tem Barber for FREE Zumba every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. beginning May 6th at Gardner Community Park on E. Atlanta Rd.

- The City of Stockbridge Police Department is conducting a "Teddy Bear Drive" to benefit our partners at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. New and gently used teddy bears can be left at the Police Department located at 4545 N. Henry Blvd. or scan the QR Code on the city's website to purchase one from Amazon. Bears are used to comfort children receiving services after significant incidents.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Ford noted COVID is still with us and to get vaccinated and boosted; invited everyone to visit the website stockbridgeamp.com to see the concert lineup and noted more concerts are still being added; and extended congratulations to all the 2023 graduates and wished everyone success.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion to adjourn Executive Session: Thomas/Alexander Passed 4-0 (Gantt was not present for the vote).

Attorney Washington asked for a motion to approve a Resolution for the City to enter into L.O.S.T. (Local Option Sales Tax) negotiations with Henry County: Blount/Alexander Passed 4-0 (Gantt was not present for the vote).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Alexander/Thomas Passed 4-0 (Gantt was not present for the vote).