



WORK SESSION MEETING ACTION MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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

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 at 6:02 p.m.
- II. **Invocation** – Councilman Blount
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Recited by all in attendance.
- IV. **Roll Call** – All members were present.
- V. **Motion to amend the Agenda to add item #8 for clarification regarding Reconsideration made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Blount. The motion passed 4-0-1. Alexander, Barber, Blount, and Gantt approved; (Thomas abstained).**
- VI. **Motion to approve the Agenda made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilman Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.**
- VII. **Review of the Minutes – No Action**
 1. Review of the Draft Retreat Minutes August 10, 2023
 2. Review of the Draft Retreat Minutes August 11, 2023
 3. Review of the Draft Council Meeting Minutes August 14, 2023
 4. Review of the Draft Work Session Minutes August 29, 2023

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.

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Council consideration to approve Task Order No. 44 with Carter & Sloope for Watershed Monitoring and Reporting (2024 – 2026 Monitoring Years) in the amount of \$70,400.00. Funding Source: Sewer Department Budget. Presented by: Decius Aaron, Public Works Director

Motion to approve made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Aaron requested a site visit with the Council to determine the trees to be trimmed/cut.

Mayor Pro Tem Barber made a Point of Order to request the Agenda be amended to add the discussion regarding tree trimming and maintenance.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add a discussion for Tree/Trimming and Maintenance around city hall made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to cut down the trees around the flagpole and trim the trees along East Atlanta Rd. made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

6. Council consideration to renew the contract with Amazon, which is a Piggyback contract with OMNIA Partners Public Sector, through Prince William County Public Schools in the amount of \$75,000.00 under R21-1386.
Presented by: John Wiggins, Treasurer
Motion to approve made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.
7. Council consideration to amend the Downtown Special Events Program to increase the maximum funding amount from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and allowing for up to \$1,500 to be used towards City of Stockbridge fees related to special events such as staffing needs, street closures, security detail, cleaning, and City equipment.
Presented by: Kim Allonce, Economic Development Director
Motion to approve with a cap of \$15,000 per year made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

8. Clarification of the Reconsideration

Presented by Councilwoman Gantt

Motion to issue the directive of the consensus of Council that the staff shall prohibited from directly hiring anyone for the position of Deputy Clerk and to yield to will of the City Council to appoint the candidate of our choice made by Councilman Alexander; seconded by Councilman Blount. The motion passed 3-2 Alexander, Blount and Gantt approved; Barber and Thomas opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Council meetings will be held in the City Council Chamber. Meeting dates, locations and times are subject to change or contact City Hall offices at 770-389-7900 for updates.

- Stockbridge Citizens-Police Advisory Council meeting 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Stockbridge Police Community Room 4545 N. Henry Blvd. (Oct 5)
- City Council Meeting, 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chamber (Oct 9)
- Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 2nd Monday of each month - City Hall Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Oct 9)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. -2nd Monday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Oct 9)
- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Oct 10)
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting, 2nd Friday of each month – Welcome Center located at 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail at 9am (Oct 13)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month Welcome Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (Oct 17)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber 4th Thursday of each month– (Oct 26)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council (Oct 31)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Join the City of Stockbridge for the *Annual BridgeFest Festival* taking place Saturday, September 30th at the Stockbridge Amphitheater. This is a Free Event with Carnival Rides, Food Trucks, Vendors, and a Concert. The gates open at 3:00 pm. Contact the Events Team at 770-389-5982 for more information.
- Join Councilwoman Gantt in partnership with the Southern Crescent Pearls Foundation and AKA Sorority PSI Alpha Omega Chapter for the *Bizness Matters Entrepreneur and Black Business Expo*, Sunday, October 1st from 11am - 5pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center; contact via email: paoblack365@psialphaomega.org for additional information.

- Join Mayor Pro Tem Barber for the 'Breast Friends' Breast Health Awareness event on Monday, October 2nd at the Merle Manders Conference Center Lower Level and again on October 9th for the 'My Breast Friend' mammogram screening event in partnership with Women's Imaging Specialist. There are 20 slots available for women who are uninsured.
- Join Councilman Blount for *Bingo Bash*, Wednesday, October 18th from 10am – noon at the Merle Manders Conference Center located at 111 Davis Rd.
- Join Mayor Ford for the monthly *Meet the Mayor* on Monday, October 23rd from 10am – noon. Please contact Rosalynd Rawls to schedule an appointment at 678-833-3348 or via email at rrawls@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov
- Join Councilman Thomas for the *Don't Trash Stockbridge* initiative centered around education highlighting the causes and effects of Littering and Illegal Dumping. More information to follow.
- Councilman Thomas is honoring *Veterans with a Continuous Salute* all year long. Please send your pictures of Veterans with their name, branch, rank and years of service to rrawls@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov

Get your tickets for the upcoming 2023 Stockbridge Concert Series by visiting stockbridgeamp.com or in person at the ticket office located at 4650 North Henry Blvd. Thursday – Saturday from 1pm – 5pm.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Ford noted COVID-19 is still on the rise and encouraged everyone to get their vaccinations and boosters to stay healthy as the flu season approaches; noted Costco is having their grand opening at the Bridges of Jodeco on Thursday, November 16th; referenced the Candidate Forum taking place on Tuesday, October 10th with Stockbridge municipal candidates and will be hosted by an AJC journalist; and reminded everyone about the upcoming Free BridgeFest event and to get your ticket to secure seating.

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Blount. The motion passed 3-2 Alexander, Blount and Gantt Approved; Barber and Thomas Opposed.

Motion to reconvene the meeting made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed 3-0. Alexander, Blount and Gantt Approved; Barber and Thomas were not present for the vote.

Motion to transfer properties: 108 First Street, 142 Wilson Avenue and 4498 North Henry Blvd. to the URA made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Alexander. The motion passed 3-0. Alexander, Blount and Gantt Approved; Barber and Thomas were not present for the vote.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Alexander. The motion passed 3-0. Alexander, Blount and Gantt Approved; Barber and Thomas were not present for the vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.