



## COUNCIL MEETING ACTION MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 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 called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- II. **Invocation** – Kerri Stevens, ARC
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Recited by all in attendance except Councilman Alexander.
- IV. **Roll Call** – All members were present.
- V. **Motion to amend the Agenda to Remove Item #6** made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Blount. The motion passed 4-0.
- VI. **Motion to amend the Agenda to Replace Item #6** with a request for use of the Merle Manders Conference Center for a Christmas event requested by State Representative Angela Moore made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barber. The motion passed 4-0.
- VII. **Motion to adopt the Agenda as amended** made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barber. The motion passed 4-0.
- VIII. **Review of the Minutes**
  1. Council Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023
  2. Work Session Minutes September 26, 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.

There were no public comments.

Councilman Alexander joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

3. Resolution in support of the award of the DD RLF Application by the Downtown Development Authority of Stockbridge for the downtown project located at 132 MLK Senior Heritage Trail, Stockbridge, GA 30281 on behalf of the NOLA Bistro and Daiquiri Bar LLC.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

4. Council consideration to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Stockbridge and the Citywide Development Authority. Presented by: Fredirick Gardiner, City Manager and Quinton Washington, City Attorney  
Motion to Table to hear following Executive Session made by Councilwoman Gantt; seconded by Councilman Blount. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.
5. Council consideration to approve submission of a grant application for the Recreational Trail Program for restroom facilities at the west end of Reeves Creek Trail off Flippen Road. The City of Stockbridge will submit a grant application for the Recreation Trail Program with an estimated total project cost of \$450,000. The grant will require a minimum 20% (\$90,000.00) match. The City will commit to a 50% (\$225,000.00) match using SPLOST V funds which will be reimbursed by the grant. The grant application states that if a City commits to more than a 20% required match, the applicant will receive additional scoring points. So the City will commit to a 50% match. Presented by: Jeremy Goodwin, Assistant Public Works Director  
Motion to approve made by Councilman Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barber. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.
6. Council consideration to approve request from Brentwood Parks HOA Board that the 51% approval of all homeowners to install speed humps be waived and speed humps installed at locations along Brentwood Pkwy and a designated lined crosswalk installed in the amenities area to enable pedestrians to safely cross the road. Homeowners in each individual subdivision along Brentwood Pkwy can still individually petition the city to install speed bumps with 51% homeowner approval per the City of Stockbridge regulations.

Presented by Decius Aaron, Public Works Director

This item was removed from the Agenda and replaced with the item below.

Council consideration to approve a request for use of the Merle Manders Conference Center facility only, with no cost to the City, for a Christmas event requested by State Representative Angela Moore, to take place on Saturday, November 25, 2023.

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

7. Council consideration to approve request from The Winding Creek Subdivision HOA for the City to assume the responsibility of paying the monthly streetlight bill for the subdivision's street lights effective January 1, 2024. The cost is \$1,476.97 per month, \$17,723.64 annually.

Presented by: Decius Aaron, Public Works Director

Mayor Pro Tem Barber requested the city's Streetlight Policy Analysis as discussed at the Retreat.

Point of Order made by Councilman Blount – upheld by Mayor Ford.

Motion to amend the Agenda to discuss the Streetlight Policy made by Mayor Pro Tem Barber; seconded by Councilman Thomas, voting to Approve; Councilman Alexander and Councilwoman Gantt Opposed; Councilman Blount Abstained. Mayor Ford voted to Oppose. The motion failed 2-3-1.

Motion to task staff to bring the Streetlight Assessment to the November 28, 2023 Work Session meeting made by Councilman Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barber. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to approve Item #7 made by Councilman Alexander; seconded by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

8. Council consideration to authorize the Mayor to sign the Transmittal for the update of 2028 City of Stockbridge Comprehensive Plan and submit to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review.

Presented by: Ryan Anderson, Interim Community Development Director

Motion to remove the Item from the Agenda due to the incorrect verbiage uploaded by department staff and replace with the correct verbiage as referenced below made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Council consideration to approve a Resolution for the adoption of the 2024-2028 Five-Year City of Stockbridge Comprehensive Plan Update and submit to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Presented by: Ryan Anderson, Interim Community Development Director

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

9. Council consideration to adopt Sanitation Collection Senior Discount Program for qualified senior citizens. Qualifying seniors will receive a 75% reduction in the annual sanitation fees for their place of residence. To qualify, seniors must: (1) Be age 70 or older; (2) Be the owner and a resident of a single-family dwelling where the discount is requested; (3) The annual household income for the applicant's residence from all sources does not exceed \$57,200.00. Income must be confirmed by the most recent tax return; and (4) submit income documentation to the City on or before May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Mayor Pro Tem Barber requested the Cafeteria List of Exemptions to include Septic that was scheduled to be presented at today's meeting.

Point of Order made by Councilwoman Gantt – upheld by Mayor Ford.

Staff was tasked with bringing the Cafeteria List of Exemptions to the Council at the November 28, 2023 Work Session meeting.

Motion to approve with the age lowered to 65 and must apply for rebate by January 31, 2024 to receive a discount for 2023 sanitation fees and apply discount by May 15<sup>th</sup> to receive a rebate for 2024 sanitation fees made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barber. The motion passed 5-0.

## **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. (Nov 2)
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting, 2nd Friday of each month – Welcome Center located at 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail at 9am (Nov 10)
- City Council Meeting, 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chamber (Nov 13)
- Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 2nd Monday of each month - City Hall Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Nov 13)
- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Nov 14)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month Welcome Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (Nov 21)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Nov 21)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber 4th Thursday of each month– (TBD)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council (Nov 28)

## **UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES**

- Join Mayor Ford in partnership with S.H.E. 4 Women Veterans Inc. for the S.H.E. Factor Women Veterans Expo & Summit, Saturday, November 4th from 11am - 4 pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center
- Calling all Veterans! Join the City of Stockbridge for the Annual Veterans Day Luncheon on Friday, November 10th from 11am – 1pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center as we honor those who have served and continue to serve this great nation. Please RSVP to: [events@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov](mailto:events@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov) by Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Join Councilman Blount for Bingo Bash, Wednesday, November 15th 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, November 27th from 10am – noon. Please contact Rosalynd Rawls to schedule an appointment at 678-833-3348 or via email at [rrawls@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov](mailto: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](mailto:rrawls@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov)

Early voting is underway at the Merle Manders Conference Center located at 111 Davis Rd. Stockbridge, GA from 7am - 7pm through November 3rd. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th. Please be reminded that election day voting only takes place at your neighborhood polling precinct. Please check your election day voting location at [MVP.SOS.GA.GOV](http://MVP.SOS.GA.GOV)

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Ford wished everyone a safe and Happy Halloween tomorrow; noted COVID-19 is still with us and encouraged everyone to get their vaccinations and boosters to stay healthy; and notified everyone that Costco is having a ribbon cutting and grand opening on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.

Councilman Alexander noted Costco Gas is opening on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate, and Litigation made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilwoman Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session to sign an Affidavit and with no action regarding Agenda Item #4 made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barber. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to reconvene the meeting made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Councilman Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Blount; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barber.  
The motion passed unanimously 5-0.