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STOCKBRIDGE

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Alicia Barney-Duck - Chair

Deron Johnson – Vice-Chair

Karen Charmaine

Angela Jenkins

Vacant – Board Member

**ETHICS COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
July 31, 2024 6:30 PM**



STOCKBRIDGE CITY HALL

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STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281

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AGENDA
ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024 6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve June 25th Meeting Minutes

II. Closed Session – O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3

4. Ethics Complaint 05162024-01 Filed by Councilwoman Yolanda Barber against Mayor Anthony S. Ford.

III. Adjourn



ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES June 25, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alicia Barney-Duck - Present	Calandra Dallas – Absent
Angela Jenkins - Present	Karen Charmaine - Present
Deron Johnson - Present	

The meeting was called to order by Committee Member Barney-Duck at 6:41 p.m.

Roll call by Committee Member Barney-Duck. Members present: Barney-Duck, Jenkins, Johnson, and Charmaine. Members absent: Calandra Dallas

Motion to approve the Agenda made by Committee Member Johnson; seconded by Committee Member Jenkins. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

New Business

- Accept the resignation of Ms. Calandra Dallas and declare a vacant seat on the committee.

Committee Member Barney-Duck read the resignation letter dated June 17th, 2024, from Ms. Calandra Dallas.

Committee Member Johnson Motioned to accept Calandra Dallas's resignation and to declare a vacant seat on the committee; seconded by Committee Member Jenkins. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Closed Session - § 50-14-3

Motion to convene the Closed Session under Code § 50-14-3 for discussion of the following complaints made by Committee Member Jenkins; seconded by Committee Member Charmaine. The motion passed unanimously 4-0

- Ethics Complaint 05162024-01 Filed by Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Mayor Anthony S. Ford.

Motion to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene the meeting was made by Committee Member Jenkins at 7:59 p.m.; seconded by Committee Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Committee Member Barney-Duck noted the Agenda would need to be amended to add a 5-minute impact statement made by parties present.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add a 5-minute impact statement made by parties present made by Committee Member Jenkins; seconded by Committee Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Chair Barney-Duck asked the complainant to provide their statement to the committee.

Councilmember Yolanda Barber provided a verbal statement to the committee and spoke about the issues she had encountered when asking for the independent audit, financial report, and engagement letter from Mauldin & Jenkins. She highlighted her concerns about the delays in obtaining the independent audit, financial report, and engagement letter despite her multiple requests and follow-ups. During her statement, Councilmember Barber raised her concerns about the mayor's responsibility to oversee the delivery process. She mentioned that she did not receive any help from the mayor in getting the independent audit, financial report, and engagement letter from Mauldin & Jenkins.

She detailed the ten-month delay in receiving the requested information and the steps she had to take, such as filing an open records request and contacting the Georgia Department of the Attorney General's Office, to finally obtain the independent audit, financial report, and engagement letter from Mauldin & Jenkins.

Councilmember Barber emphasized the importance of transparency in the city's financial processes and stressed that all council members must have access to financial information to fulfill their responsibility to the taxpayers.

She expressed her decision not to blindly approve anything without asking for the necessary information and reiterated her commitment to providing transparency, accountability, and responsibility with taxpayer dollars. She also mentioned concerns that were not applicable to this ethics complaint and then concluded by thanking the committee.

Chair Barney-Duck thanked the complainant for her statement and invited the respondent to provide their statement to the committee.

Mayor Anthony S. Ford provided a verbal statement to the committee commenting that he believes the issues brought up by Councilmember Barber are more procedural than ethical. He expressed confidence in the staff, saying he does not believe they would intentionally hide anything from any council member. Additionally, Mayor Anthony S. Ford mentioned that council members can address their concerns about operating procedures directly to the city manager, as the staff reports to him. Further citing that there may be a need to perform an internal assessment if processes are not appropriately handled. He emphasized that Councilmember Barber's complaint is an internal procedural matter and questioned why this complaint raised by Councilmember Barber would be considered an ethics charge. Mayor Anthony S. Ford included responses to other concerns raised by Councilmember Barber that did not apply to this ethics complaint and concluded by thanking the committee.

Chair Barney-Duck thanked the respondent for his statement.

Chair Barney-Duck informed both parties that the ethics committee would take into advisement all items and verbal statements presented.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Committee Member Jenkins at 8:24 p.m.; seconded by Committee Member Charmaine. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Cassandra Lester, Deputy City Clerk, in the absence of the appointment of a Secretary.