



## WORK SESSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 6:00 P.M.**

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### **Mayor & City Council**

Mayor Anthony S. Ford At-Large  
Mayor Pro Tem Kyle Berry – Council District 3  
Councilmember Elton Alexander – Council District 5  
Councilmember Yolanda Barber – Council District 4  
Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt – Council District 1  
Councilmember Alphonso Thomas – Council District 2

### **Administration**

Frederick Gardiner – City Manager  
Vanessa Holiday – City Clerk  
Cassandra Lester – Deputy City Clerk  
Lakeisha Gaines – Interim 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.

Invocation by Mayor Ford at 6:17 p.m.

Invocation by: Mayor Pro Tem Berry

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

City Clerk, Vanessa Holiday was asked to proceed with a verbal roll call. All members were present.

Motion to amend the Agenda to convene Executive Session following Public Comments was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to adopt the Agenda was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES – No Action**

1. Review of the August 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Review of the August 21, 2024 Budget Retreat Meeting Minutes

Review of the August 22, 2024 Budget Retreat Meeting Minutes

Review of the August 23, 2024 Budget Retreat Meeting Minutes

Review of the August 27, 2024 Council Work Session Meeting Minutes

Review of the September 9, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

(Councilmember Gantt exited the meeting at 6:50 p.m. due to illness.)

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and sign an Affidavit with No Action was made by Councilmember Thomas; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Motion to reconvene the meeting was made by Councilmember Alexander seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **2. Park System Plan – Schematic Presentation**

Presented by: Decius Aaron, Public Works Director and Peyton Peterson and Anna Shoji of TSW

Mr. Aaron introduced staff from TSW to present the Schematic Design for Clark Community Park, Gardner Park, and Memorial Park, noting the community themes of the MLK Sr. History, Tye St. Neighborhood History, Railroad Heritage, Downtown History, Brush Creek, Reeves Creek, Upper Ocmulgee River Basin, Quarry History and Panola Mountain Piedmont Granit Outcrops; referenced the framework for each of the parks with enhanced programming, viewsheds, pedestrian circulation, splash pad and additional parking; noted improvements to connectivity, trail extensions and natural play areas, noting the water source for the splash pad would need to be brought in with the option of recycling or flow through; noted the signage would be the same as the current proposed

Mayor Ford (The full presentation is on file in the Clerk's Office).

Motion to approve the Grand Master Parks Plan with the contingency to bring a condensed 1–5-year Phase I plan with funding source for Council approval to the November 19, 2024 Work Session Meeting was made by Councilmember Thomas; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **3. A. Council consideration to approve the use of the Merle Manders Conference Center for the Police Department Annual Awards Gala**

B. Council Consideration for the approval of Lichty Commercial Construction, Inc. contract for Court Renovation.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 3a and 3b was made by Mayor Pro Tem Berry; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

4. Council consideration to approve a new position: Accountant II and the reclassification of Senior Accountant to Accounting Manager.  
Presented by: Lakeisha Gaines, Interim City Treasurer and Renee Wheeler, Human Resources Manager  
Ms. Gaines amended the request to include a second new position: Property Tax Specialist.

Ms. Gaines reviewed the job description of the proposed Accountant II position, noting the role and responsibilities; reviewed job description and responsibilities of the reclassified position for the Accounting Manager; and reviewed the role and responsibilities of the proposed Property Tax Specialist position.

Councilmember Thomas noted the City's Charter states job descriptions shall be approved by Governing Body for approval.

Motion to approve the Accountant II position and the reclassification of the Senior Accountant to Accounting Manager was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Councilman Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Motion to develop the job description for the Property Tax Specialist position for Council approval at the October 14, 2024 meeting was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Councilmember Alexander inquired about the upcoming Homestead Exemption Referendum and townhalls for the public.

Mr. Gardiner stated there will be two townhall meetings regarding Homestead Exemptions, and the application to apply will go live on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**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 or visit the website [www.stockbridgega.org](http://www.stockbridgega.org) for updates.

- Community Meeting to discuss the Stockbridge Trails Plan on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 7:30pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center 111 Davis Rd.
- Community Zoning and Information Meeting: Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber (Oct 2)
- 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 3)
- Youth Council Meeting 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Oct 7)

- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.- City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Oct 8)
- The Main Street Advisory Board Meeting on the 2nd Friday of each month at 9am – Location is the Downtown Connection Center 130 M L King Sr. Heritage Trail. (Oct 11)
- City Council Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Oct 14)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month Stockbridge Downtown Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (Oct 15)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.- 3rd Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Oct 15)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber - (Oct 17)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, Last Tuesday of each month: Tuesday, July 30th at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Oct 29)

#### **UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES**

- Join Councilwoman LaKeisha Gantt in partnership with Atlanta Food Truck Park for Night Market at the Stockbridge Amphitheater Parking Lot from 6pm – 9:30pm – September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 11<sup>th</sup>, and November 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be vendors, Food Trucks, Activities, Games, Music, and Vibes. Contact Tan Bowers at [thepeaceofmine@gmail.com](mailto:thepeaceofmine@gmail.com) for registration and additional information.
- Join the City of Stockbridge for the Annual BridgeFest Event! The City of Stockbridge Government is hosting this annual event for the COMMUNITY on Saturday, September 28, 2024! We will have a live concert, food trucks, vendors, and more! Get ready for fun at the Stockbridge Amphitheater.
- Join Councilman Alexander for the District 5 Hudson Bridge Rd. Community Cleanup on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 11am. Please park in the Walmart parking lot.
- Please come out and enjoy the Cops & Clergy Softball Game during Faith & Blue Weekend on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am - 12pm, JP Moseley Park, 1041 Millers Mill Rd. Stockbridge
- Join Councilman Alphonso Thomas for the monthly Senior Bingo Bash on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 12pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Rd. for raffles, prizes, games, snacks and fun!
- Join the City of Stockbridge for the 50 Shades of Pink Love Walk to highlight breast cancer awareness and survivors at Clark Community Park 111 Davis Rd. on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am – 1:00 p.m.
- Join Councilwoman Lakeisha Gantt for the Annual Fall Festival at Clark Community Park 111 Davis Rd. on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 4:00 p.m.
- Join Mayor Anthony Ford for the monthly *Meet the Mayor* on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am – noon at Stockbridge City Hall.
- 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. Please contact Rosalynd Rawls to schedule an appointment for *Meet the Mayor* and for more information on Council Initiatives and events at 678-833-3348 or via email: [rrawls@stockbridgega.org](mailto:rrawls@stockbridgega.org)

#### **2024 Stockbridge Amphitheater Summer Concert Series**

- Saturday, October 5th featuring Monica, Tamar, and Sevyn Streeter with a Salute to the Ladies of the Divine 9, (Rescheduled Show)
- Saturday, October 12th featuring That Girl Lay Lay and Friends Youth Concert
- Sunday, October 13th Kings, and Queens of Southern Soul Show featuring King George, Tucka, Sir Charles Jones, Pokey Bear, TK Soul, West Love and Derek "The Change Man" Smith

- Sunday, October 20, 2024, (Rescheduled Show) featuring Charlie Wilson with Special Guest El DeBarge
- Saturday, October 26, 2024, Boney James Slow Burn Tour with Special Guest Damien Escobar.
- Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dirty South Throwback Hip Hop Fest featuring Eastside Boys, DJ Holiday, 95 South, Tray Bills, Raheem the Dream, DJ Unk, MC Shy D and Kilo Ali.

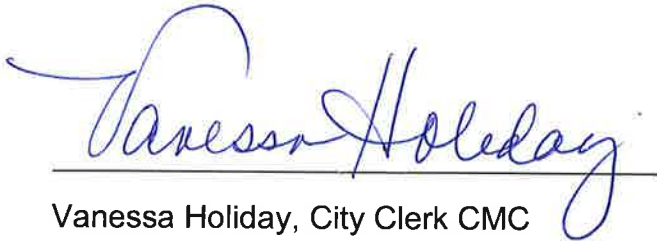
Stockbridge Main Street Tiny Tent Concert Series - This event has ended for 2024.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

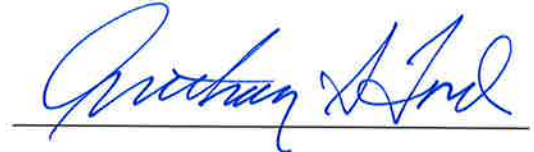
Mayor Ford noted fall has arrived, and that it is cold and flu season, and encouraged everyone to get the flu shots and COVID vaccinations to remain healthy; and noted the last day to register to vote in the November 5<sup>th</sup> election is October 7<sup>th</sup> and that early voting begins October 17<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to exercise their constitutional right to vote. Flu and COVID shots are available; noted it is football season and to cheer on your favorite team; and invited everyone to come out and attend the Stockbridge Amphitheater concerts before the 2024 season ends.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Councilmember Thomas. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Vanessa Holiday", written over a horizontal line.

Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk CMC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony S. Ford", written over a horizontal line.

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor