



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

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

Administration

Frederick Gardiner – City Manager
Vanessa Holiday – City Clerk
Vacant – City Treasurer
Quinton Washington – City Attorney
Samantha Embry – 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.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ford at 6:13 p.m.

Invocation by Principal Christian, Henry County Schools

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 remove Item #12 to be heard at the March 4, 2024 meeting made by Mayor Pro Tem Berry; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to adopt the Agenda made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

1. Review of the January 8, 2024 Work Session Meeting Minutes; no action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to remove the Johnson Controls contract renewal from the Consent Agenda made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously. 5-0.

2. **Consent Agenda** - Council consideration to adopt the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWP) Model Litter Control Ordinance.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

3. Council consideration to approve the renewal of contract No. 2019-0032P, Johnson Controls, Security Solutions, LLC (Tyco Integrated Security, LLC) for Facility Equipment Systems and Services in the amount of \$100,000.00. Funding source is from Government Buildings budgeted funds.

Staff were asked to elaborate on what was covered under the contract.

Mr. Gardiner noted Johnson Controls is the city's vendor for the security system and keycard access control.

Mr. Arron noted the city's conference center now has access cards similar to what is used for hotel rooms, and that additional upgrades have been made throughout city hall and the Amphitheater.

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

PRESENTATION

4. Henry County Board of Education Update
Presented by: Dr. Elizabeth Davis, Superintendent and Mr. Cemon Robinson, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Davis and Mr. Robinson presented the Henry County Schools District Update and introduced the Stockbridge Cluster Team; noted the tagline "Winning for Kids...Every, Kid, Every Minute, Every Day; referenced the following statistics: Enrollment of 42,963 for 2023-2024, 8th Largest District in Georgia, 1.3% Increase in Enrollment From 2022-2023, 52 District Schools, including 2 Academies, Approximately 6,000 employees and Graduated 3,424 in class of 2023; referenced the following Advancing Academic Opportunities: Furniture replacement for (3) elementary schools, CTAE equipment and supplies, Talent Development in Elementary – 2,000 more students identified for gifted services, Advanced Mathematics in 3rd grade – New in 2023-2024, Increased enrollment in 4th and 5th grade Advanced Mathematics, Twice as many middle school students earning high school course credit, Every high school offers increased course offerings along with increased enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, World languages to be offered at all elementary schools within three years; noted the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) school, located in the City of Stockbridge, is planned to open 2026-2027; noted the school system will be Advancing the Arts with Fine

Arts equipment and supplies, Band and orchestra equipment, Band uniform replacement schedule, Orchestra at every middle and high school over the next three years, Visual arts equipment and supplies, Choral programs at all schools, and Theatre programs at many elementary schools; noted the Board of Education has made a \$33 million Campus Security Investment with structural changes and improvements that layer security prevention tools on school campuses

Members of the Governing Body thanked Dr. Davis and Mr. Robinzine for the presentation; noted the Henry County Schools system was a factor in moving to the area, requested reporting from school clusters where city of Stockbridge students reside; inquired about bus driver shortages and student pickup/drop off delays; inquired about the criteria for the STEM School and becoming a Partner in Education, inquired about the Arts in schools and the correlation to academic performance, and inquired about number of students in schools as it relates to overcrowding.

Dr. Davis noted there have been improvements regarding the bus driver shortage with better compensation and incentives being offered and the efforts are recruitment ongoing; noted there is an Advisory Board overseeing the STEM School selection process; noted (4) four Henry County Schools that include both Dutchtown and Eagles Landing High Schools who had improvements in SAT/ACT scores; and that seven years ago there was not an Arts teacher, and now there is great focus on Arts in schools giving students exposure and agreed there is a strong correlation to academics; and noted Henry County Schools are at 76% capacity, noting there are hot spots that are monitored for projections for the upcoming school year, and noted there are 11 schools being added through the E-SPLOST that will eliminate the 69 trailers.

5. Economic Development Strategic Plan (Draft Presentation)
Presented by: Kim Allonce, Economic Development Director, and KB Advisory Group Staff: Geoff Koski, Tate Davis, and Gabrielle Oliverio
KB Advisory Group presented the Draft Economic Development Strategic Plan; noted the hospital was added via the annexation and that housing for professionals was essential for the medical hub; noted the challenges of the railroad and the bridge in the downtown area; suggest the City Go Big and preserve its history and pursue the TAD; referenced the city of Douglasville as an example that if you don't go in that direction, you will fall behind as a city; and noted the deadline for comments and feedback is February 9, 2024 with the final adoption at the February 27, 2024 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

6. VETO of Ordinance OR24-553 – To Amend the City of Stockbridge Charter, Article II, Section 3.11 (B), Regarding the appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem.
Presented by: Mayor Anthony S. Ford
Mayor Ford read Section 3.23 and the Veto Letter. There was no motion to override. The Veto of OR24-553 stands.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Council consideration to approve a Resolution to establish a systematic approach for the appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem in the City of Stockbridge.
Presented by: Samantha Embry, City Attorney
Motion to approve made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed 3-2 (Alexander, Berry and Gantt In Favor); (Barber and Thomas Opposed).
8. Council consideration to adopt the Model Findings Resolution on the proposed Local Amendment to Plumbing Code for water efficiency code requirements by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
Presented by: Jeremy Goodwin, Assistant Public Works Director
Motion to approve made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.
9. Council consideration to approve the annual contract (RFP 2020-0026) with Site Engineering, Inc. for on-call water & sewer emergency & operational repair/maintenance and construction services in the amount of \$400,000.00 as approved in the FY2024 Stormwater budget. The account number is 510-42500-542515 (Stormwater Repair).
Presented by: Decius Aaron, Public Works Director
Mr. Aaron referenced problem areas along Mays Rd, noting this vendor has been the city's on-call repair and maintenance vendor for a number of years, and prior to his employment with the city, and noted there have been no complaints or issues with the vendor.

Councilmember Barber inquired about the original contract, noting contracts should be re-bid periodically to encourage competition.

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Barber Abstained citing the absence of the original contract between the City of Stockbridge and Site Engineering as referenced by Mr. Aaron prior to his employment with the City).
10. Council consideration to approve the purchase of (2) Ford Transit F-250 Cargo Vans from Lithia Springs Ford at the lowest quoted price. Not exceeding \$99,500 as an emergency exception to the city's procurement code. FUNDING SOURCE: Budget Transfer/Fund Balance.
Presented by: Frank Trammer, Police Chief
Chief Trammer noted the vehicles will replace vehicles involved in (3) three accidents and totaled, noting two were not at fault, one at fault; and that the primary purchase is for CSI who currently use pickup trucks, and the pickup trucks will be used by patrol officers.

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

Councilmember Alexander asked Chief Trammer about arrests for refusal to sign citations.

Chief Trammer noted, the state law currently allows for an arrest for refusal to sign, however the City of Stockbridge does not practice custodial arrests.

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed 3-2. (Alexander, Berry and Gantt In Favor); (Barber and Thomas Opposed).

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and approve an Affidavit for Personnel made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

11. Council Consideration to approve an Ordinance to allow hiring/firing authority to Council-Appointed staff and non-appointed Department Heads and Directors for respective departments.

Presented by: Samantha Embry, City Attorney

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Thomas; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

12. Ordinance to approve the revised provisions to the State Zoning Procedure Law.

Presented by: Ryan Anderson, Chief Planner

Item Tabled to the March 4, 2024 meeting.

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 or visit the website www.stockbridgega.org 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. (Feb 1)
- Council Retreat – February 6 – 8 from 9am – 5pm. Location Sandy Springs, GA.
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting 2nd Friday of each month - Welcome Center/Main Street Offices located at 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail at 9am (Feb 9).
- URA (Urban Redevelopment Agency) Meeting Monday, February 12th at 5:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Feb 12)

- City Council Meeting 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Feb 12)
- Youth Council Meeting 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Feb 12)
- City Wide Development Authority 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Feb 13)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber - (Feb 15)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month Welcome Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (Feb 20)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 3rd Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Feb 20)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Feb 27)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Join Councilman Thomas and the Stockbridge Youth Council on February 10th for the installation of the Adopt-A-Road Sign on Tye Street. More information to follow.
- Join Councilman Thomas the monthly Senior Bingo Bash on Wednesday, February 21 from 10am - 12pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Rd. for raffles, prizes, games, snacks and fun! For more information, please contact Rosalynd Rawls at 678-833-3348 or rrawls@stockbridgega.org
- Join Councilman Alexander for the Quarterly Town Hall on Thursday, February 22nd at 7pm - Location: TBD
- Join Councilman Thomas for the 13th Annual African American Heritage Celebration, Saturday, February 24th from 5pm – 7pm at the Merle Manders Conference.
- Join Mayor Ford for the monthly *Meet the Mayor* on Monday, February 26th from 10am – noon. Please contact Rosalynd Rawls to schedule an appointment at 678-833-3348 or via email at rrawls@stockbridgega.org
- 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@stockbridgega.org

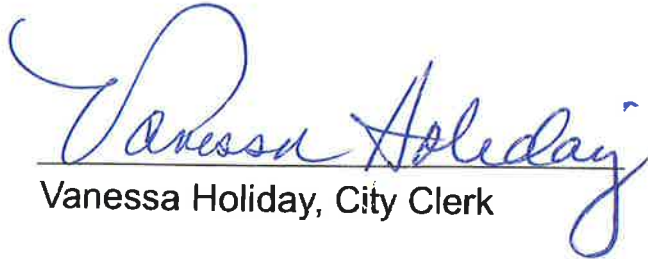
MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Ford offered condolences to the families of the three Army Reserve soldiers recently killing in a drone attack in Jordan, who were identified as: Sergeant Williams Rivers, Specialist Breona Moffett and Specialist Kennedy Sanders; and noted they were from Carrollton, Savannah, and Waycross, and noted the President of the United States, Joe Biden, has also personally reached out to the families and offered condolences and support and asked that everyone keep the families in prayer; noted COVID-19 and RSV are still with us, and encouraged everyone to get their flu shots and boosters to try to

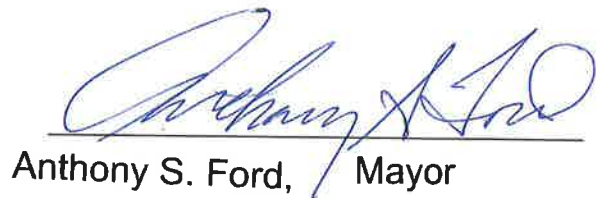
remain healthy; and referenced the GMA Cities United Summit where officials attended for training and networking opportunities.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. made by Mayor Pro Tem Berry; seconded by Councilmember Thomas. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by:



Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk



Anthony S. Ford, Mayor