



WORK SESSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 6:00 P.M.

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
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 6:08 p.m.

Invocation by Mr. Michael Harris, Henry County Tax Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Deputy City Clerk, Cassandra Lester was asked to proceed with a verbal roll call. All Members were present except Councilman Thomas.

Motion to adopt the Agenda made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Review of the February 12, 2024 Minutes – No Action.

1. Council Meeting Minutes February 12, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

INFORMATIONAL

2. Henry County Tax Commissioner - Homestead Exemption Information
Presented by: Michael C. Harris, Henry County Tax Commissioner
No Action

PRESENTATION

3. Main Street Program – Renaming Downtown Building
Presented by Kira Harris Braggs – Main Street Program Manager, and Board Members Anika Potts and Camille Reynoso Mason, Ms. Potts gave an overview of the Main Street Program and Mission and referenced the members of the Main Street Advisory Board.

Ms. Harris-Braggs reviewed the history of the Ted Strickland Community Center and its use prior to renovating the building for the Economic Development, Main Street and DDA Offices; referenced the options the Board narrowed down to rename the building, noting the placement of a plaque with the offices and a plaque honoring Mr. Strickland, with Council approval.

Motion to approve the renaming of the former Ted Strickland Community Center as “Stockbridge Downtown Connection Center” using Channel Lettering in White or Grey; add plaque outside of the building referencing the Departments/Offices; add a wall-mounted plaque on the breezeway wall honoring Mr. Ted Strickland made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Council Consideration to fill a vacancy and appoint a Main Street Advisory Member for a Two-Year Term – Crystal Park – Angie’s Beauty Supply

Council Consideration to fill an unexpired term and appoint a Member to the Citizens Police Advisory Council - District 4 – Paige Jones III.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Council consideration to approve the FY2025 LMIG (Local Maintenance Improvements Grant) List.

Presented by: Decius Aaron, Public Works Director

Motion to approve the FY2025 LMIG List was made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6. Council consideration to approve the City of Stockbridge Economic Development Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028.

Presented by: Kim Allonce, Economic Development Director, and KB Advisory Group Staff: Geoff Koski

Mr. Allonce presented the Stockbridge Economic Development Strategic Plan, recommending approval.

Councilmember Gantt noted she had received a request from the Citywide Development Authority to defer approval until their Board had an opportunity to review the plan.

Mr. Allonce noted he presented the plan to the Citywide Development Authority at their last Board meeting, and that the City is under contract with KB Advisory Group who has already extended the deadline since January.

Councilmember Alexander noted the Council, and the Boards are independent of each other.

Mr. Allonce agreed, noting the Economic Development Strategic Plan is based on the City's vision and the strategic plan is to have the City and the Boards all on one accord.

Motion to approve the City of Stockbridge Economic Development Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028 was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

7. Motion to appoint Council Liaison to the Downtown Development Authority.
Motion to appoint Elton Alexander as the Council Liaison to the Downtown Development Authority was made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Alexander, Berry, Gantt Approved); (Barber Abstained citing DDA Board Members had previously requested that she be appointed as the DDA Liaison prior to the establishment of Districts, and noted the downtown area of the city encompasses her District and wants to make sure the residents and businesses of District 4 are represented.
8. Motion to appoint Council Liaison to the Citywide Development Authority.
Motion to appoint LaKeisha Gantt as the Council Liaison to the Citywide Development Authority made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.
9. Motion to appoint Council Liaison to the Youth Council Advisory Committee.
Motion to appoint Kyle Berry as the Council Liaison to the Youth Council Advisory Committee made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

DISCUSSION

10. ORDINANCE TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL LICENSES AND LOCATIONS IN THE CITY FOR SEVERAL TYPES OF BUSINESSES.

Consideration of an ordinance to amend the City of Stockbridge's Code of Ordinances relating to dealers in distilled spirits, pawn shops, tire shops, used car dealerships, and precious gems, so as to clarify the number of licenses available, and to provide a process for allowing additional licenses based upon Census data. Planning Commission Recommendation -- Approval. Staff recommendation -- Approval. Presented by: Ryan Anderson, Chief Planner

Mr. Anderson noted with the increased population as a result of the Annexation Referendum effective January 1, 2023, the City is required to increase the number of certain businesses allowed, noting most are covered by the City's UDC (Unified Development Code); however, Liquor Stores are subject to a Lottery Process. Mr. Anderson reviewed the map of the current location of the (4) four current liquor store locations and presented the criteria of the available locations.

Councilmembers discussed the City's Ordinance and the proposed locations and tasked staff with conducting further research to determine locations and present the item to City Council at the next Public Hearing 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.

- City Council Meeting ****SPECIAL DATE**** Monday, March 4th at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Mar 4)
- 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. (Mar 7)
- 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 (Mar 8).
- Youth Council Meeting 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Mar 11)
- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.- City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Mar 12)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month Welcome Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (Mar 19)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 3rd Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Mar 19)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber - (Mar 21)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Mar 26)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Join Councilman Alexander for the Annual Women's History Month Event on Sunday, March 3rd from 3-6 PM at the Merle Manders Conference Center.
- Join Councilman Thomas for the monthly Senior Bingo Bash on Wednesday, March 27th from 10am - 12pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Rd. for raffles, prizes, games, snacks and fun!

- Join Mayor Ford for the monthly *Meet the Mayor* on Monday, March 25th from 10am – noon.
- 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.

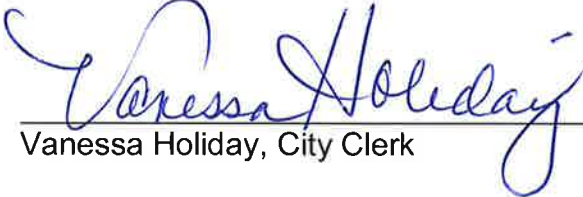
Please contact Rosalynd Rawls to schedule an appointment for Meet the Mayor and any information on Council Initiatives at 678-833-3348 or via email: rrawls@stockbridgega.org

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Ford reminded everyone that COVID-19 is still with us and encouraged everyone to get their boosters and flu shots to remain healthy.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. was made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by:


Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk


Anthony S. Ford, Mayor