



WORK SESSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 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 6:04 p.m.

Invocation by Mayor Ford

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 except Councilmember Gantt.

Motion to amend the Agenda to remove Items B, C, D and E from the Consent Agenda and add under New Business Items No. 5, 6, 7 and 8 made by Councilmember Thomas; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Councilmember Gantt joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add Items 9 --- Resurfacing Section of Eagles Landing Parkway under Discussion made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. A - Council Consideration to approve a Resolution to fill vacancies on the Youth Council Advisory Committee to fill an unexpired 2-year term. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and appoint Valerie Richmond-Reese and Kaitlynn Nash as recommended made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Ordinance to allow additional licenses and locations in the City for several types of businesses: Council 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, Community Development Director
Mr. Anderson presented a map of the proposed liquor store locations and referenced Section 9.040.090 of the city's Code of Ordinances; noted Council District 3 is the only district in the city without a liquor store. Mr. Anderson noted the staff's recommendation was to repeal 9.040.090 and 9.01.120, noting liquor stores are governed by the city's UDC (Unified Development Code) and require a Special Use Permit approved by the City Council.

During discussion, the Council recommended amending the Code to include allowing liquor stores in mixed use developments, requiring a minimum of 6,000 sq. feet stores, and not to repeal Sections 9.04.090 and 9.01.120; and referenced the (5) five locations that have been identified with restrictions in place, and proposed one of the stores at Jodeco.

Mr. Anderson noted the Code requires a lottery process for different businesses based on the city's population as it increases in 5,000 increments; and noted he consulted with the city's Zoning Attorney regarding a liquor store in Council District 3 who advised you cannot preclude one are of the city; and confirmed the distance requirements for churches and schools are mandated by the State.

Motion to approve moving forward with the Lottery process with the following requirements for Liquor Stores: Minimum store size shall be 6,000 sq. feet; amendment of the Code to allow for liquor stores in Mixed-Used developments; applicants must file a Special Use Permit and received approval of the City Council; and meeting all requirements in the city's (UDC) Unified Development Code made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

4. UDC (Unified Development Code) Mailed Notice Requirement. Council Consideration of an amendment to the Stockbridge Unified Development Code (UDC) to change the provisions of the "mailed notice requirement" pertaining to zoning cases to be heard at public hearings.
Presented by: Ryan Anderson, Community Development Director
Mr. Anderson referenced the request for staff to research the distance for the Mailed Notice Requirement whereas (20) twenty municipalities were polled, with 13 responses and in consultation with the city's Zoning Attorney, the recommendation is 500 feet; and noted the recommendation would be submitted to the city's Planning Commission as a Text Amendment for approval and returned to the Council for final approval.

Motion to approve the 500 feet Mailed Notice Requirement as recommended by staff and the city's Zoning Attorney was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

5. Council consideration to approve a Resolution to enter into an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) between the City of Stockbridge and Henry County for Patrick Henry Parkway road improvements. The City's total cost share is not to exceed \$540,000.00.
Presented by: Frederick Gardiner, City Manager
Mr. Gardiner noted the work has been completed as agreed upon, and this item is a housekeeping item to ratify the action.

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

6. Council consideration to approve a Resolution to create a Police Department Code of Ethics Policy for all civilian employees.
Presented by: Renee Wheeler, Human Resources Manager and Chuck Groover, Police Department Accreditation Manager
Ms. Wheeler introduced Mr. Groover, the Accreditation Manager brought on board by the Police Department who reviewed the city's Ethics policy and needs to make amendments to the policy in order to receive state and national accreditation.

Mr. Groover noted that upon review of the current policy, there are necessary amendments for the state and national accreditation standards.

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

7. Council consideration to approve a Resolution to update the City's Employee Manual and Handbook with general housekeeping items to keep current policies updated.
Presented by: Renee Wheeler, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Wheeler referenced the city's Employee Manual noting there are (3) three Sections being amended. Section 3.70.000 – Vacancies – Approved Exceptions for Vacancy Announcements: No. 6 – Internal promotions are similar to position upgrades and likewise “may” not require external job postings unless no qualified applicants apply; Section 690.000 – Additional Pay for Exempt and/or Non-Exempt Employees: No. 1 – This policy allows for special compensation for work performed by Exempt/Non-Exempt employees over and beyond their normal job responsibilities, and would return to their normal compensation once the vacancy is filled; Section 9.00.00 – Holidays No. 1 Update to add Veterans Day to the city's approved holidays.

Councilmember Alexander suggested reviewing filling the vacancy in a department and combining departments in a cost-saving effort.

A Point of order was made by Councilmember Barber to remain on topic, upheld by Mayor Ford.

Motion to approve the updates as recommended by the City's Human Resources Manager was made by Councilmember Thomas; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion passed unanimously 4-0-1 (Alexander Abstained).

8. Council consideration to approve a Resolution to accept federal funding in support of the Youth And Senior Center Project.
Presented by: Frederick Gardiner, City Manager

Mr. Gardiner noted the Congressional visit in 2023 did have the Arts Center as the primary project, however, during the meeting with Congressman Scott in 2023 he specifically stated that the facility would not receive funding if Arts, Cultural Arts, or Performing Arts was included in the verbiage, noting it would not pass through Appropriations; noted there has been an expense with the drafting of the Conceptual Design of the Youth and Senior Center and would show the legislatures that the City has put some skin in the game; and noted that the current Resolution, if approved, would be submitted to Senator Ossoff, Senator Warnock, and Congressman Scott.

Councilmember Thomas requested the following statement be included in the record:

To be clear, I have been an advocate for the Youth and Senior Center from day one. In 2019, I hosted a Town Hall at Smith Barnes Elementary School to get input from Stockbridge citizens on what they wanted to see in a Youth and Senior Center. I placed a Survey online and received more than 500 responses from the community for programs for the center. I advocated for the land to be purchased and earmarked to build the Youth and Senior Center. So let me put to rest any and all notions that I am not in favor of the Youth and Senior center. I support this project 100%. I certainly support any assistance that Congressman David Scott,

and any and all agencies, and grants that can assist the City with funding to bring this project to fruition. However, I do have questions.

The Resolution attached to this item says the City of Stockbridge has already allocated funds for the preliminary conceptual design and has established a construction budget for the Youth and Senior Center. When did the Council vote to approve that? Where is the funding coming from?

Please include in your response to this email when the City Council approved a budget for the Youth and Senior Center and when the funding was approved for conceptual design, engineering, and construction. Also, please include in your response the SPLOST List that is referenced indicating the amount of funding to go towards this project. How much funding is being allocated? My recollection is that TSW presented a rendering of the Cultural Arts center with all the bells and whistles that we asked for, and then presented a rendering of a \$30 + plus million-dollar design of the Youth and Senior Center with a pool, and indoor walking track and the entire room went silent after hearing the price tag.

Yes, we all want to see the Youth and Senior center. Yes, we want the Congressman's office to assist us with funds to help to build the facility. I am on board with that and offer my full support. But we cannot exclude the Arts. I want to remind the Council that at the last retreat in February of this year, we all agreed on a campus that would be called the CAMPUS CONNECTION that would be a combined faculty that would include the Arts as well as the Youth and Senior Center. That seems to have been omitted from the resolution and it needs to be included.

During my entire tenure on the City Council, I have been a true advocate for the Youth, the Seniors, and the Arts for this City.

I have been a strong proponent advocating and recognizing the youth of this community for years including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, instrumental in facilitating Eagle Scout projects, the Gates Millennial Scholars, Musicians, Dancers, and Vocalists who have been able to showcase their talents at various initiatives over the years. During the upcoming week, I will Honor more than eighty elementary, middle, and high school ("Young & Gifted Honors") students throughout the various Stockbridge school clusters for their outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements.

I wholeheartedly support and recognize that our children and adults need a community center where they can go to participate in physical activities, as well as how the Arts will advance their knowledge and growth, and career opportunities.

I say that to say this, I have been an advocate for youth not only highlighting their academic accomplishments, but also highlighting their artistry in music, dance, and dramatics. As was confirmed by the Associate Superintendent of the Henry County Schools who presented to the City Council, music and the Arts have a profound positive impact on students and the correlation to their academic success.

I ask this Council for your support to amend the Resolution to include the Arts as discussed and approved by unanimous consent for the Campus Connection at the February retreat.

Councilmember Thomas made a motion for Arts to be included in the Resolution verbiage. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A Point of order was made by Councilmember Alexander to remain on topic, upheld by Mayor Ford.

Councilmember Gantt made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented; seconded by Councilmember Alexander.

Councilmember Barber stated that it was her intent to second the motion once the Mayor called for a second.

Mayor Ford acknowledged that he did not hear, or call for a second to the motion, and asked the attorney to provide a legal opinion if he is required to do so.

Attorney Embry was asked to provide a legal opinion as to whether or not the Presiding Officer is required to solicit a second to a motion. Attorney Embry opined that it is not required.

Councilmember Alexander noted the proposed Resolution is being submitted to show support for federal funding of \$15 - \$18 million dollars to go towards building a Youth and Senior Center in the city of Stockbridge; and asked Councilmember Thomas to withdraw his motion.

Mayor Ford noted the motion failed, and withdrawal of the motion would not be necessary.

Councilmember Barber stated that she attended Councilmember Thomas' Town Hall in 2019 regarding the Youth and Senior Center; and noted that in 2020 she questioned why the Council had selected the Youth and Senior center as the Priority project #3 instead of #2 behind the Amphitheater, noting she supports both projects, but viewed the Youth and Senior Center as a more immediate need and could not garner support at that time; and supports the Resolution to be submitted to the Congressional legislature for federal funding for the Youth and Senior Center, noting federal funding for the Arts Center has not been offered.

Councilmember Gantt noted that based on the statement referenced by the City Manager, Mr. Gardiner, that it would not be advisable to include the Arts verbiage in the Resolution, noting that doing so could put the funding of \$15 - \$18 million dollars at risk and this funding is critical with assisting the city to fund the Youth and Senior Center, further noting the loss of potential funding would be financially detrimental to the City, and made a motion to approve a Resolution to accept federal funding in support of the Youth And Senior Center Project; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

DISCUSSION

9. Council discussion of resurfacing a section of Eagles Landing Parkway, noting safety concerns near Piedmont hospital.

Presented by: Councilmember Elton Alexander

Councilmember Alexander referenced the joint road improvement project with Henry County to resurface Eagles Landing Pkwy. in the year 2025, noting the section of the road near Piedmont Hospital that needs to be resurfaced sooner as a safety concern; noting the patching of the potholes have not remedied the problem.

Mr. Gardiner noted staff will find out the cost of the resurfacing of the proposed area and bring it back to the Council for approval along with the funding source. Mr. Aaron recommended an Engineer do an analysis, noting it would not be beneficial to repair and the City/County project go in and tear out that section of the road in 2025.

Motion to task staff with obtaining an Engineering Assessment of the cost to resurface a section of Eagles Landing Parkway was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

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. (Apr 4)
- City Council Meeting, 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Apr 8)
- Youth Council Meeting 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Apr 8)
- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.- City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Apr 9)
- Main Street Advisory Board Meeting 2nd Friday of each month – Stockbridge Downtown Connection Center located at 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail at 9am (Apr 12)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month Welcome Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (Apr 16)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. -3rd Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (Apr 16)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber - (Apr 18)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (Apr 30)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Join Councilman Alphonso 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!
- Councilman Alphonso Thomas will be honoring *Young and Gifted* students on Thursday, March 28th at the Merle Manders Conference Center from 5pm – 7pm. This is a FREE event.
- Join Mayor Anthony Ford for the monthly *Meet the Mayor* on Monday, April 15th from 10am – noon.
- Join Councilman Alphonso Thomas for the monthly *Senior Bingo Bash* on Wednesday, April 17th from 10am - 12pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Rd. for raffles, prizes, games, snacks and fun!
- Join Councilwoman Yolanda Barber in partnership with JJ Smiles for the *2024 Annual Cookout & Fundraiser* for donations of Backpacks and School Supplies for K-12 students on April 20th at Clark Park from 2 – 6pm. This is a FREE Event.
- Join Councilwoman Yolanda Barber for the *2nd Annual Mother's Day Tea Brunch* on Sunday, April 21st from 2pm to 5pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center. This is a FREE event *honoring mothers and the grace they carry*.
- Join Mayor Anthony Ford for the *Annual State of the City Address* on Tuesday, April 23rd in the City Hall Council Chamber at 6:00 p.m.
- 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

Note: All City Offices will be closed on Friday, March 29, 2024 for Good Friday.

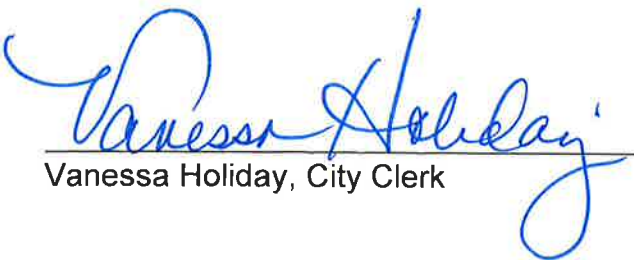
Please contact Rosalynd Rawls to schedule an appointment for *Meet the Mayor* and for more information on Council Initiatives and events at 678-833-3348 or via email: rrawls@stockbridgega.org

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Ford noted Spring is here, and COVID-19 is still with us and encouraged everyone to get their boosters and flu shots to remain healthy; and wished everyone a Happy and Safe Easter holiday.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made by Mayor Pro Tem Berry; seconded by Councilmember Gantt. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by:



Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk



Anthony S. Ford, Mayor