



WORK SESSION MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 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
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.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ford at 6:01 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 except Councilmember Gantt.

Councilmember Gantt joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Motion to amend the Agenda to remove Item No. 5 at Staff's Request to be deferred to the May 13, 2024 Council meeting was made Mayor Pro Tem Berry; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Alexander Abstained).

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

Review of the April 8, 2024 Minutes – No Action.

QUARTERLY REPORTING

2. First Quarter Transportation Update – Eniel Gonzalez
Stockbridge Representative – Henry County Advisory Group

Mr. Gonzalez provided an update of the ongoing transportation projects in and around Stockbridge; was tasked with following up on tentative bus routing through the city with dates and times of bus operations; and was asked to inquire about an Amphitheater concert schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Alexander requested Item A and Item B to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. C) Request for use of the Council Chamber and Levi Meeting Room for the Annual Youth Council Senior Ceremony and Banquet. The Youth Council will select a date when both spaces are available.
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander.
The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

A) Request for use of the Merle Manders Conference Center on Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 2pm - 5pm for a Father's Day Event hosted by Councilmember Yolanda Barber.
Presented by Councilmember Yolander Barber
Councilmember Barber noted the Council Initiative Calendar was approved by the Council and included June 8th for the Father's Day Initiative event, however, the Events Staff failed to confirm the scheduled date and has accepted another reservation for that date, and this request is to change the date of the Father's Day Initiative from Sunday, June 8th to Sunday, June 2nd.

Councilmember Alexander noted he supports use of the facilities, and asked Mr. Gardiner for the cost and impact for the free events, noting the transfer of funds annually for the conference center expenses.

Mr. Gardiner noted the impact of using the facility is minimal, noting municipal facilities operate at a loss; and that every event brings people to the facility and puts the venue on the map for potential rentals.

Mayor Ford referenced recent events held at the Merle Manders Conference Center including Town Halls, the First Readers Luncheon, and Piedmont Henry.

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

B) Request for use of the Amphitheater Green Room on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 from 4pm - 9pm for a Broker's Open Event hosted by the Citywide Development Authority.
Presented by Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt

Councilmember Gantt noted the request is for the 2nd Broker's Open event where Real Estate Brokers and Developers come in to discuss real estate opportunities in the City.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Council consideration to approve the Amphitheater Parking Map for Free and Paid parking locations and Rideshare location(s).

Presented by: Frederick Gardiner, City Manager

Mr. Gardiner displayed the current Amphitheater Parking Map, noting the Municipal Court Building has been designated as the Rideshare location.

Councilmember Barber requested the 3-acre lot across from City Hall to be designated on the map as free parking with signage to access the area from Harrell St. and Ward St.

Mayor Ford noted there needs to be Quiet Zone signage, and agreed there should be specific signage indicating the free parking.

Mr. Gardiner confirmed, noting there will be no parking on the lot when rain is forecast, or the grass is wet.

Councilmember Alexander referenced the 91 additional free parking spaces on N. Lee St. and noted drivers will no longer be able to access the 3-acre lot from East Atlanta Road and will need signage directing entrance via Harrell St. to Ward Street.

Councilmember Thomas referenced the area along M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail and the storage previously used by the railroad for additional parking.

Mr. Gardiner noted staff has contacted the railroad to discuss leasing the space for parking similar to the fenced downtown area in Locust Grove.

Motion to approve the Amphitheater Parking Map with the following revisions: 1) Notate on the map the Municipal Court Building to be identified as the Rideshare - Uber/Lyft pickup and drop-off location, with signage. 2) Expand the blue boxes on the map to indicate free parking on the 3-acre site across from city hall 3) Install signage at all designated Free Parking areas was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Councilmember Thomas. The motion Passed unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Council consideration to approve Georgia Power Lighting Agreement for streetlight enhancement for (59) Lights for Walt Stephens Rd. in the amount of \$24,214.00/yr., (46) Lights for Valley Hill Rd. in the amount of \$18,878.00/yr., (25) Lights for Jodeco Rd. in the amount of \$18,855/yr., (22) Lights for Davis Rd. in the amount of \$9,338.00/yr., and (19) Lights for Shields Rd. in the amount of \$8,892/yr., for a total of \$79,927.00.

Funding source from FY2024 department budget.
Presented by Decius Aaron, Public Works Director
Item Deferred to the May 13, 2024 Council Meeting.

6. Council Consideration to approve Invitation To Bid (ITB) 2024-002, Walter Way, Pine View and Memorial Park Lift Station Rehabilitations to SOL Construction, LLC. Funding Source: SPLOST V \$1,000,000.00; Sewer Fund Balance \$1,404,086.87; Sewer Impact Fee \$300,000.00 for a total amount of \$2,704,086.87

Presented by: Decius Aaron, Public Works Director

Mr. Aaron noted the request is for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Collections System and will generate \$5.5 million dollars in Impact Fees. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

7. Council consideration to approve the purchase of JCB Backhoe under Sourcewell contract number 020223-JCB with Westpro-JCB in the amount of \$130,748.83. Funding source is from Public Works Department budgeted funds.

Presented by: Al Barnes, Public Works Operations Manager

Mr. Barnes noted the Public Works Department is seeking funding to replace a 20-year-old backhoe.

Councilmember Barber noted Budget Worksheet indicates the item was requested in the 2023 Budget, and asked if there was a backhoe purchased in 2023, noting 2023 actuals have not been presented to the Council to compare. Mr. Barnes noted the purchase was not made in 2023.

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

8. Council consideration to approve the purchase of Kubota Utility Cab Tractor under Sourcewell contract number 031121-KBA with Mason Tractor & Equipment Co., Inc. in the amount of \$55,885.26. Funding source is from Public Works Department budgeted funds.

Presented by: Al Barnes, Public Works Operations Manager

Mr. Barnes noted the Bush Hog will be used to cut along the roadway primarily in the newly annexed areas and take the strain off of the zero turn mowers.

Mayor Pro Tem Berry asked if the equipment would be used along roadways with deep drop offs.

Mr. Barnes noted the crews will continue to use weed eaters along the embankments and the Bush Hog will be used along wide right away areas, with plans to purchase a Broom Mower in the 2025 budget.

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

9. Council consideration to piggyback on a contract with Galls Inc., as outlined in Henry County Resolution 23-268 and Bid Number 24.01 up to a maximum amount of \$100,000 for uniforms and equipment.

Presented by: Richard Godfrey, Police Major

Major Godfrey noted the request is to raise the threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and piggyback on the County's contract, noting specialized equipment for K-9 unit, and a 2nd K-9 officer, the four newly hired Public Safety Officers and other uniforms and equipment; and noted the request does not include additional funding and the request is not for a budget amendment.

Councilmember Thomas noted the documents included in the Agenda Packet reference a Budget Amendment and note the funding source is General Fund, and the Council relies on the correct information to make informed decisions.

Major Godfrey apologized that the documentation in the packet was not correct.

Mayor Pro Tem Berry asked Major Godfrey if the uniform budget for Fiscal Year 2024 remains the same. Major Godfrey confirmed.

Motion to approve with express statement of no additional funding from general funds and no budget amendment was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

10. Council consideration to approve an Ordinance to Deannex from the Corporate Limits of the City of Stockbridge the following parcels located in the Manderlay Subdivision 013A01128005, 013A01132000, 013A01061000, 013A01051000, 013A01060000, 013A01059000, 013A01058000, 013A01057000, 013A1127000 and 013A0113800.

Presented by: Frederick Gardiner, City Manager

Mr. Gardiner noted the city had received a De-Annexation request Henry County relating to ten homeowners in the Manderlay subdivision; noted the application was in compliance within State code and meet the State law and recommends the Council approve the request.

Councilmember Alexander asked Mr. Gardiner to explain the law and questioned how ten parcels out of 74 can de-annex.

Mr. Gardiner noted the State Legislature have the right to the County with the new law, and noted the Annexation Referendum that passed was not 100%, and there are no thresholds to deny; and noted the Council should prepare for the next wave of ten.

Councilmember Gantt noted she was aware of a petition circulating to de-annex from the city, and will follow the law, noting there will be boundary issues relating to public safety, and city/county roads.

Motion to approve the de-annexation made by Councilmember Gantt; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

11. Council consideration of the Ethics Re-Certification Ordinance

Presented by: Quinton Washington, City Attorney

Attorney Washington noted the City is required to submit a Resolution to recertify as a Georgia Municipal Association City of Ethics every four years, and submit any changes made; noting the Resolution to the policy regarding Censure and Reprimands will be submitted to GMA with the re-certification. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add Item #12 to Discuss Amphitheater Operations, Ticketing, Ticket Pricing and Potential Ticketing Discounts was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion Passed 3-2 (Alexander/Barber/Berry in Favor); (Gantt/Thomas Opposed).

Motion to amend the Agenda to add Item #13 to Review Financial Reporting of Alcohol Sales at the Amphitheater was made by Mayor Pro Tem Berry; seconded by Councilmember Barber.

Mayor Ford read the Action Minutes from the April 25, 2025 Special Called Meeting related to the Alcohol Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Berry withdrew the motion.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

12. Council discussion of Amphitheater Operations, Ticketing, Ticket Pricing and Potential Ticketing Discounts

The City Council reviewed the Fresh Tix Report for the tickets sold for the 2024 Concert Series.

During the discussion, Attorney Washington advised Council to reserve the discussion until after Executive Session due to potential litigation.

There was further discussion or action taken on this item following the Executive Session.

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. (May 2)
- The Main Street Advisory Board Meeting 2nd Friday of each month at 9am – Location is the Downtown Connection Center 130 M L King Sr. Heritage Trail. (May 10)
- City Council Meeting, 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (May 13)

- Youth Council Meeting 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Levi Meeting Room (May 13)
- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.- City Hall Levi Meeting Room (May 14)
- Planning Commission Meeting, 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber - (May 16)
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month Welcome Center 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (May 21)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.-3rd Tuesday of each month Levi Meeting Room - City Hall (May 21)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (May 28)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Join Mayor Pro Tem Kyle Berry for the Annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2nd in the City Hall Council Chamber at 6:30 p.m.
- Join Councilman Alphonso Thomas for the monthly Senior Bingo Bash on Wednesday, May 15th from 10am - 12pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center, 111 Davis Rd. for raffles, prizes, games, snacks and fun!
- Join Mayor Anthony Ford for the monthly Meet the Mayor on Monday, May 20th from 10am – noon at Stockbridge City Hall.
- Join the City of Stockbridge for the Annual Memorial March on Monday, May 27th at the Merle Manders Conference Center as we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Stay tuned to the city's website and social media platforms for more information to participate or contact the Events Team at 770-389-5982.
- 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.
- There will be a Henry County/City of Stockbridge Joint SPLOST VI Meeting to be conducted with the public to discuss potential projects and collaborations, on Thursday, May 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Merle Manders Conference Center 111 Davis Rd. Stockbridge.
- Food Truck Tast Tuesday is back, beginning Tuesday, May 7th from 5:30 – 8:00 pm at Clark Community Park in Stockbridge. Join us for live music, great food, free games for the kids.

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

2024 STOCKBRIDGE AMPHITHEATER CONCERT SERIES

- Saturday, May 11th – Mother's Day Concert featuring Tyrese, Eric Benet, and Isiah Tatum
- Saturday, May 25th – Funk Party featuring Zapp, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Rose Royce, and Rick James' Stone City Band

- Saturday, June 8th – TLC Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the “CrazySexyCool” Album, with Special Guest Brownstone
- Saturday, July 13th and Sunday, July 14th – A Night with Kem, and Special Guest Leela James
- Saturday, July 20th – Ladies Night Out featuring Jodeci, Johnny Gill, and Silk
- Saturday, July 27th – 70’s Soul Jam featuring the Chi-Lites, the Manhattans, The Legendary Blue Notes, Bloodstone and Peaches & Herb

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Ford wished all the mothers a Happy Mother’s Day and invited everyone to participate in the city’s Memorial Day March on May 27th; noted the Mayor’s State of the City can be viewed on the city’s website.

Councilmember Thomas noted there is an announcement at every meeting requesting pictures of fallen service members to be submitted, and with Memorial Day approaching, the request is being amplified to highlight those who have perished.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Councilmember Gantt recused herself from Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. and exited the meeting.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and approve an Affidavit with No Action, was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Berry. The motion Passed 4-0.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Thomas. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by:


Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk


Anthony S. Ford, Mayor