



CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025 6:00 P.M.

Mayor & City Council

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

Administration

Vacant – City Manager
Vanessa Holiday – City Clerk
Frank Milazi – 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 6:06 p.m.

Invocation by: Councilmember 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 the members were present except Councilmember Thomas.

Motion to amend the Agenda to defer Public Hearing Item #2 – Special Use Permit Case #SP-2024-03 for 30 days at the Applicant's request was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Councilmember Barber noted she has made the request that she be made aware of District 4 activities, and that she was not notified or informed of the request to Defer Item #2 from tonight's Agenda.

Motion to amend the Agenda to Defer Item #7 – FY2024 Budget Amendment Ordinance to be heard at the May 27, 2025 Work Session Meeting at the City Treasurer's request was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Motion to adopt the Agenda to add Item #8 – Soccer Association Project was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

Motion to amend the Agenda to add a Discussion of a 6-month moratorium on development in Northeast Council District 4 to conduct a Master Plan for infrastructure improvements and from Professional Services was made by Councilmember Barber; The motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add a Discussion to task Falcon Design to design a Beautification Project for GA Hwy. 138 and identify funding was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add a Discussion of a request from the Citizen Police Advisory Council to allow the installation of painted concrete tables for Checks/Chess at Clark and Memorial parks was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

CEREMONIAL REVIEW

Mayor Ford referenced the Proclamations presented for Mother's Day, National Public Works Week, Public Service Week, National Asian-Pacific Islander Month, National Day of Prayer, Mental Health Awareness Month and Professional Municipal Clerks Week

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Coren Randazzo made comments regarding the noise/disrespect regarding the Amphitheater.
- Ms. Sunny Randazzo made comments regarding the noise levels at the Amphitheater, and the non-budgeted spending of \$6.8 million dollars at the Amphitheater.
- Mr. Paul Turner made comments regarding the Amphitheater being over budget and questioned payments in 2024 to Amphitheater vendors.
- Ms. Gladys Williams-Tillmon (AFLAC) made comments in support of Mr. Harold Young.
- Mr. Charlie Cook (30-year resident) made comments about developments in District 4 and raised questions about the number of developments approved and the percentage of occupancy.
- Ms. Donie Hogan (Alexander Ballroom) noted her business operates catering at the Amphitheater and has updated the LLC as required by the City and stands by her service and has all the required credentials.
- Ms. Jeanese Crowell made comments in support of Mr. Harold Young and Donie Hogan.
- Mr. Sammy Mumphery (Amphitheater Security) made comments in support of Mr. Harold Young.
- Mr. Harold Young noted he has been in the entertainment business for 30+years and wanted to correct misinformation stated about the operations of the Amphitheater.
- Mr. Robert Schuhl noted the area along Shields Road is dangerous with speeder and that he has asked staff and the police department for speed humps and has not been given an answer on how to resolve the safety concerns.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the April 14, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes, April 21, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes and the April 29, 2025 Work Session Meeting Minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor Ford read the Public Hearing Rules

2. SPECIAL USE PERMIT CASE #SP-2024-03. (Property is located in Council District 4.)
Consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to allow a personal care home to operate on property at 270 Shields Road. Applicant/Agent: Shona John. The property is located in Land Lot 70 of District 12, and it contains 1.47 +/- acres.
Item Deferred to the June 9, 2025 Meeting at the Applicant's request.
3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT CASE #CP-2025-02. (Property is located in Council District 4.)
Consideration of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Parcel #029-01011001, located between North Henry Boulevard and Old Atlanta Road, south of Valley Hill Road, for the purpose of changing the property's future land use designation from "Low-Density Mixed-Use" to "High-Density Mixed-Use" to allow for the development of townhomes and office space.
Applicant: Templar Development Group, LLC. Agent: Battle Law, P.C.
The property is located in Land Lot 90 of District 12, and it contains 9.90 +/- acres.
Presented by Ryan Anderson, Community Development Director
Mr. Anderson made a request to Council to Defer the item to the June 9, 2025 Meeting at the Applicant's request.

Motion to defer as requested was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

4. REZONING CASE #RZ-2025-03. (Property is located in Council District 4)
Consideration of a Rezoning for Parcel #029-01011001, located between North Henry Boulevard and Old Atlanta Road, south of Valley Hill Road, for the purpose of rezoning the property from 'C-3' (Heavy Commercial) and 'PMU' (Parkway Mixed-Use) Overlay District to 'PUD' (Planned Unit Development) Master Plan and 'PMU' (Parkway Mixed-Use) Overlay District to allow for the development of townhomes and office space.
Applicant: Templar Development Group, LLC. Agent: Battle Law, P.C.
The property is located in Land Lot 90 of District 12, and it contains 9.90 +/- acres.
Presented by Ryan Anderson, Community Development Director

Mr. Anderson made a request to Council to Defer the item to the June 9, 2025 Meeting at the Applicant's request.

Motion to defer as requested was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Council Consideration to adopt an Ordinance authorizing the Henry County Elections Board to conduct elections, and the City may request the Elections Board to perform any or all duties of a Superintendent of Elections as specified under Chapter of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated with the exception of the Qualification of Candidates. Presented by Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Ms. Holiday noted the Clerk's Office received notice from the Henry County Elections Office notifying all Henry County Municipal Clerks that the Board of Elections recently passed a motion to update the Intergovernmental Agreements between the Henry County Board of Elections and Voter Registration and municipalities, and referenced the SDS Agreement in place whereas Henry County will conduct the city's municipal elections; and noted that in accordance with the recommended guidelines, the Board requests that the City of Stockbridge update its Ordinance, and execute the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement which outlines the responsibilities of the City as well as those of the Board; and submit the signed agreement back to the County Elections Office no later than May 30, 2025.

Motion to approve the adoption of an Ordinance authorizing the Henry County Board of Elections to conduct Municipal Elections for the City of Stockbridge was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6. Council Consideration to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Henry County, Georgia, the Henry County Elections Board of Elections and Registration and the City of Stockbridge, Georgia relating to Municipal Election Services. Presented by Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Stockbridge and Henry County Board of Elections to conduct the city's Municipal Elections was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

7. Council Consideration to approve the FY2024 Budget Amendment Ordinance.
Item Deferred to the May 27, 2025 Work Session Meeting at the City Treasurer's request.
8. Council Consideration to approve support to move forward with the Southern Crescent Soccer Association (SCSA) partnership of constructing two soccer fields in the Eagles Landing Park, contingent upon the SCSA securing a \$100,000 grant and the City of Stockbridge will pledge of an in-kind donation contribution of \$100,000 for site prep; include the Minutes to reflect that the city is contributing at least \$100,000 of in-kind work to support the grant; no money is being asked for; A letter of support from

the Mayor; and a basic rendering of the park showing the two fields; and SCSA will continue to research similar grants.

Presented by Gerald Sanders, Economic Development Director and Eric Morrison, President of the Southern Crescent Soccer Association

Mr. Sanders noted the proposed soccer fields would be located in the Eagles Landing park in Council District 5, and that as referenced in the email distributed to the Mayor & Council on Friday, the Southern Crescent Soccer Foundation is seeking support from the City to move forward with an application for \$100,000.00.

Mr. Morrison noted the SCSA is attempting secure a GA 100 grant for \$100,000 that has a submission deadline of next Thursday May 15, and that there are several U S Soccer Federation and GA 100 grants available to offset most of the associated construction costs; and that part of the grantor's requirement is to demonstrate a commitment of matching funds or in-kind support equal to \$100,000.00. Mr. Morrison referenced the soccer fields in Ellenwood and Hampton and noted the SCSA partnered with the City of McDonough in a Public/Private Partnership deal to complete the soccer field that city; and that the idea is to attract Atlanta United, and other professional teams to these soccer fields.

Councilmember Alexander thanked Mr. Morrison for the presentation, noting the bar needs to be set high, based on the city's Mission and Vision Statements, and wants the fields to be used by the entire region and boost tourism.

Councilmember Barber noted the fiscal responsibility of the city, and asked Mr. Morrison funding wise, what is being requested of the city, and asked are if there money requests attached the ask from the city, or is the in-kind donation that is referenced in the letter going to be the land that the city will perhaps donate be the in-kind that the association is looking for.

Mr. Morrison's response was there has not been a discussion regarding the donation of land, but rather a lease, and described the City of McDonough soccer field project, noting the \$300,000 project where the SCSA raised \$125,000 in donations, the City of McDonough paid \$75,000 and Atlanta United kicked in \$100,000. Mr. Morrison noted the maintenance of the fields is expensive and estimates the proposed soccer fields would be estimated at \$400,000, and that it will take the SCSA more than a year to raise money; and that the City of Stockbridge would help to maintain the fields at \$15,000 - \$20,000 per year, and the SCSA would provide the programming.

Councilwoman Barber noted support of programming for youth activities, however, there is a concern regarding the funding source for this project, and asked Mr. Sanders if he had met with the City's Treasurer to determine the funding. Mr. Sanders stated he had not.

Mr. Milazi confirmed the project is not a budgeted item, and that funding would need to be moved from another area of the budget.

Councilwoman Barber asked who is to pay for the Concept Plan designed by TSW and asked for the cost; and asked if the city's Master Park Plan had to be amended to incorporate the soccer fields, and will there be a cost, noting Mr. Aaron is not here to answer those questions at this time.

Mr. Sanders stated it is his understanding that the proposed soccer fields fit into the Master Park Plan.

Councilwoman Barber asked who would be responsible for the prep work, and what is the estimated cost.

Mr. Morrison referenced the City of McDonough project where the \$75,000 paid was to prep the field, noting he is unsure of the cost to prep the proposed two soccer fields, and is looking for various grants.

Councilwoman Barber reiterated support of the soccer fields and youth programs, however, cannot blindly support the project without a funding source in place.

Councilman Alexander reminded staff of the conversations where it was determined that SPLOST VI would be used as the funding source, noting there is funding allocated in the Park Improvement Line Item.

Councilwoman Gantt noted this would be a wonderful opportunity for tournaments to come to the area and is pleased to hear that the SCSA is not asking for money, and that the funding has been identified in the SPLOST VI Budget Line Item.

Councilman Berry echoed the sentiments of much needed youth programming here in the city, noting this will be a great attraction where there is currently a void, and the city should seize the moment and make the investment, and looks forward to more partnerships throughout Henry County.

Motion to approve as presented utilizing SPLOST VI Park Improvements funding was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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.

- Citywide Development Authority Meeting 2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 6:00 p.m. – at City Hall in the Levi Meeting Room (May 13)
- Community Zoning Information Meeting – Wednesday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber (May 14)

- Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Downtown Connection Ctr 130 M L King, Sr. Heritage Trail (May 20)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Levi Meeting Room (May 20)
- Planning Commission Meeting, ****SPECIAL MEETING DATE**** Thursday, May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber - (May 22)
- City Council Work Session Meeting held on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. - City Hall Council Chamber (May 27)

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Food Truck Tasty Tuesdays are happening at Clark Park from 5:30 pm – 8pm. Join us for great food and lots of fun!
- Join Councilman Thomas & Councilman Berry in partnership for the monthly Bingo Bash on Wednesday, May 21st from 10am – noon at the Merle Manders Conference Center. Lots of fun to be had by all.
- Join Mayor Anthony Ford for the monthly Meet the Mayor - Monday, May 19th from 10am – noon at City Hall. Meetings are by appointment.
- Join the City of Stockbridge for the Annual Memorial March on Monday, May 26, 2025, from 9 am to 11 am. The Memorial March is FREE and OPEN to all. We encourage groups and organizations to join us as we honor those who have fallen. The march will begin at the Merle Manders Conference Center to Memorial Park and return to the Conference Center.
- Councilwoman Barber presents the Classic Father Annual Father's Day Luncheon on Sunday, June 8th from 3-5pm at the Merle Mander Conference Center. Nomination criteria: Must be a Father and reside in Henry County, cannot be an elected official or serve on a board/committee; actively contributes/volunteers his time and/or talents and efforts to positively impact others in Henry County; and must be available on Saturday, May 24th (10am-noon) and Sunday, June 8th (3-5pm). Please submit nomination for an extraordinary father to ybarber@stockbridgega.org . The deadline to submit is Monday, May 19th. Let's celebrate the heart and dedication of fathers who uplift our community.
- 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.
- 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.
- Sign Up for real-time alerts about severe weather, road closures and emergencies on the Regroup App. Visit the city's website or social media pages for more information on how and where to sign up. Stay Safe!

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

2025 CONCERT SEASON SCHEDULE

- Saturday, May 24th – Memorial Day Weekend – Dirty South Yeek Crunk Fest featuring Pastor Troy, MC Shy'D, D J Raheem the Dream, Mook B Trillville, Eastside Boyz
- Saturday, May 31st – Parti-Gras Tour featuring Bret Michaels and Special Guests Lupe Fiasco and Chapel Hart
- Saturday, June 14th – Ladies of the 80's- featuring Regina Belle, Karyn White, Deniece Williams, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Shanice, and Beverly Crawford with Special Guest Appearance by: The Silver Fox Squad
- Sunday, June 15th – Anthony Hamilton & Friends
- Saturday, June 28th – Ledisi & Kindred The Family Soul
- Saturday, July 12th – The All-White party Tribute to Frankie Beverly featuring The Maze Band, Jubu Smith, Eric Benet, Dave Hollister, Christopher Williams, Mike Phillips & Vivian Green

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Ford noted the school year was coming to a close and encouraged everyone look out for the safety of students; asked that everyone be safe as they take vacations; and to remain healthy with check-ups, boosters, and vaccinations.

Motion to convene Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate and Litigation was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Councilmember Barber exited Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and sign an Affidavit was made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

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

Mayor Ford read a Letter of Admonition into the Record regarding Councilmember Yolanda Barber. Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed 3-0. (Alexander, Berry, Gantt). Councilwoman Barber did not participate in the vote.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor