



Where Community Connects

STOCKBRIDGE

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Alicia Barney-Duck - Chair

Angela Jenkins – Vice-Chair

Mary Scott – Secretary

Karen Charmaine - Member

Vacancy – Member

MEETING LOCATION:

COUNCIL CHAMBER

2ND FLOOR

6:30 P.M.

**ETHICS COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
October 22, 2025 6:30 PM**



STOCKBRIDGE CITY HALL

4640 NORTH HENRY BLVD.

STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281

Website: www.stockbridgega.org

Phone: 770-389-7900

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AGENDA
ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 6:30 PM

- I. Call to Order**
 - 1. Roll Call
 - 2. Approve Agenda
 - 3. Approve July 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- II. New Business**
 - 4. Ethics Committee Discussion/Updates
- III. Adjourn**



ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES July 23, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alicia Barney-Duck - Absent	Karen Charmaine - Present
Angela Jenkins - Present	Mary Scott - Present
Vacant	

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Angela Jenkins at 6:30 p.m.

Roll call by Vice Chair Angela Jenkins with Committee members Charmaine, Jenkins, and Scott present; Barney-Duck was absent.

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Committee Member Scott and seconded by Committee Member Charmaine.

The motion to approve the June 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes was made by Committee Member Charmaine; seconded by Committee Member Scott.

Old Business

- Ethics Complaint 05022025-01 Filed by Phedra Thomas against Councilman Elton Alexander
- Ethics Complaint 05092025-01 Filed by Michele Battle against Councilmember Yolanda Barber
- Ethics Complaint 05162025-01 Filed by Councilmember Barber against City Attorney Quinton Washington
- Ethics Complaint 05162025-02 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Mayor Anthony S. Ford

- Ethics Complaint 05162025-03 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt
- Ethics Complaint 05162025-04 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Councilmember Kyle Berry Sr.
- Ethics Complaint 05162025-05 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Councilmember Elton Alexander
- Ethics Complaint 05202025-01 Filed by Councilmember Barber against City Attorney Quinton Washington
- Ethics Complaint 05202025-02 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Mayor Anthony S. Ford
- Ethics Complaint 05202025-03 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt
- Ethics Complaint 05202025-04 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Councilmember Elton Alexander
- Ethics Complaint 05202025-05 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Councilmember Kyle Berry Sr.
- Ethics Complaint 05212025-01 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Mayor Anthony S. Ford

Vice Chair Jenkins referenced Ethics Complaint 05022025-01 filed May 2, 2025 by Phedra Thomas against Councilman Elton Alexander, and read into the record the Recommendation Letter of the Ethics Board regarding the above referenced complaint:

July 23, 2025

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor
LaKeisha T. Gantt, Councilmember
Alphonso Thomas, Councilmember
Kyle D. Berry, Councilmember
Yolanda Barber, Councilmember
Elton Alexander, Councilmember
4640 North Henry Boulevard
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281

RE: Recommendation of Ethics Board to Mayor and City Council as to the following:

2025 05092025-01 Phedra Thomas against Councilmember Elton Alexander,
Filed May 2, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

On May 2, 2025, the Stockbridge Ethics Board was referred a complaint filed by Phedra Thomas against Councilmember, Elton Alexander. Our Board had a public meeting on June 11, 2025, and both parties were in attendance. The Board recessed to a closed session to further review the complaint.

Upon conclusion of our review of the herein stated complaint and all supporting documentation submitted by the parties, the Board determined the complainant, Ms. Thomas, failed to cite any "Specific Law Violated" of the City's Code of Ordinances under the Ethic's Code within this Board's jurisdiction. By unanimous vote, the Board determined said complaint failed to substantiate facts sufficient to invoke the disciplinary jurisdiction of the City Council via the Ethic's Code. Therefore, it is the Board's recommendation that said complaint be dismissed pursuant to Code Section 2.40.070 (C). This is the Board's final decision regarding the herein referenced complaint. Notwithstanding this finding, the complaining party may pursue any other action such party might have at law or in equity against the named city official.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Barney-Duck, Esq.
Chairman
Stockbridge Ethics Board

A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Committee Member Scott and seconded by Committee Member Charmaine.

Vice Chair Jenkins referenced Ethics Complaint 05212025-01 Filed by Councilmember Barber against Mayor Anthony S. Ford, and read into the record the Recommendation Letter of the Ethics Board regarding the above referenced complaint:

July 23, 2025

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor
LaKeisha T. Gannt, Councilmember
Alphonso Thomas, Councilmember
Kyle D. Berry, Councilmember
Yolanda Barber, Councilmember
Elton Alexander, Councilmember
4640 North Henry Boulevard
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281

RE: Recommendation of Ethics Board to Mayor and City Council as to the following:

2025 05212025-01 Yolanda Barber against Mayor Anthony Ford Filed May 21, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

On May 21, 2025, the Stockbridge Ethics Board was referred a complaint filed by Councilmember, Yolanda Barber, against Mayor Anthony Ford. Our Board had a public meeting on June 11, 2025, wherein the Board recessed to a closed session to further review the complaint.

Upon conclusion of our review of the herein stated complaint and all supporting documentation submitted by the parties, the Board determined the complainant failed to cite any "Specific Law Violated" of the City's Code of Ordinances under the Ethic's Code within this Board's jurisdiction. Moreover, Councilmember Barber did not provide any evidence as to how Mayor Ford's non-compliance with Ordinance Section 2.18, regarding the timeframe for

recommending candidates for the vacant City Manager position, violated an ethical standard for this Board to consider. As such, by unanimous vote, the Board determined said complaint failed to substantiate facts sufficient to invoke the disciplinary jurisdiction of the City Council via the Ethic's Code.

Therefore, it is the Board's recommendation that said complaint be dismissed pursuant to Code Section 2.40.070 (C). This is the Board's final decision regarding the herein referenced complaint. Notwithstanding this finding, the complaining party may pursue any other action such party might have at law or in equity against the named city official.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Barney-Duck, Esq.
Chairman
Stockbridge Ethics Board

A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Committee Member Scott and seconded by Committee Member Charmaine.

Vice Chair Jenkins referenced Ethics Complaint 05092025-01 Filed by Michele Battle against Councilmember Yolanda Barber, and read into the record the Recommendation Letter of the Ethics Board regarding the above referenced complaint:

July 23, 2025

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor
LaKeisha T. Gannt, Councilmember
Alphonso Thomas, Councilmember
Kyle D. Berry, Councilmember
Yolanda Barber, Councilmember

Elton Alexander, Councilmember
4640 North Henry Boulevard
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281

RE: Recommendation of Ethics Board to Mayor and City Council as to the following:

2025 05092025-01 Michele Battle against Councilmember Yolanda Barber
Filed May 9, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

On May 9, 2025, the Stockbridge Ethics Board was referred a complaint filed by Michele Battle against Councilmember, Yolanda Barber. Our Board had a public meeting on June 11, 2025, with both parties in attendance. Each party addressed the Board, providing statements and answering questions posed by the board for clarification of information submitted. The Board recessed to a closed session to further review the complaint.

Upon conclusion of our review of the herein stated complaint, the Board determined by unanimous vote, said complaint failed to substantiate facts sufficient to invoke the disciplinary jurisdiction of the City Council via the Code of Ethics and is thus dismissed pursuant to Code Section 2.40.070 (C). While the complainant cited a violation per Code Section 2.40.055 B(5), this Board found insufficient evidence to support the claim. There was no information presented to support that Councilmember Barber attempted to unethically influence or coerce any relevant party with her presence or statements at a referenced Stockbridge Planning Committee meeting. Based on statements made, there was some miscommunication that could have been addressed prior to any complaint being filed. This Board would suggest greater efforts by both parties to communicate notice going forward.

Given the aforementioned, the Board did not find any violation of the City Ordinance within our preview that would invoke the disciplinary action against Councilmember Barber. This is the Board's final decision regarding the herein

referenced complaint. Notwithstanding this finding, the complaining party may pursue any other action such party might have at law or in equity against the named city official.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Barney-Duck, Esq.
Chairman
Stockbridge Ethics Board

A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Committee Member Charmaine and seconded by Committee Member Scott.

Vice Chair Jenkins referenced Ethics Complaints

05202025-01 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against City Atty. Quinton Washington

05202025-02 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Mayor Anthony Ford

05202025-03 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt

05202025-04 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Elton Alexander

05202025-05 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Kyle Berry, Sr., and read into the record the Recommendation Letter of the Ethics Board regarding the above referenced complaint:

July 23, 2025

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor
LaKeisha T. Gantt, Councilmember
Alphonso Thomas, Councilmember
Kyle D. Berry, Councilmember
Yolanda Barber, Councilmember
Elton Alexander, Councilmember
4640 North Henry Boulevard

Stockbridge, Georgia 30281

RE: Recommendation of Ethics Board to Mayor and City Council as to the following Complaints filed May 20, 2025:

2025 05202025-01 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against City Atty. Quinton Washington

2025 05202025-02 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Mayor Anthony Ford

2025 05202025-03 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt

2025 05202025-04 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Elton Alexander

2025 05202025-05 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Kyle Berry, Sr.

Dear Mayor and Council:

On May 20, 2025, the Stockbridge Ethics Board received an ethics complaint filed by Councilmember Yolanda Barber against the individuals referenced above. In accordance with our responsibilities under the City's Ethics Code, the Board convened public meetings on May 28, 2025, and June 11, 2025 to review the complaint. All parties involved were duly notified and invited to participate.

During these sessions, the Board addressed those present and recessed into executive session to thoroughly examine the complaints and the supporting documentation provided by both the complainant and the respondents.

Upon completing our review, the Board determined that the volume of information presented was so extensive that we believe it prudent to request a third-party review of the complaint. This independent evaluation will offer an objective decision on how best to move forward, ensuring the integrity and fairness of the process.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Barney-Duck, Esq.

Chairman
Stockbridge Ethics Board

A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Committee Member Charmaine and seconded by Committee Member Scott.

Vice Chair Jenkins referenced Ethics Complaints

05162025-01 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against City Atty. Quinton Washington

05162025-02 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Mayor Anthony Ford

05162025-03 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt

05162025-04 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Kyle Berry, Sr.

05162025-04 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Elton Alexander, and read into the record the Recommendation Letter of the Ethics Board regarding the above referenced complaint:

July 23, 2025

Anthony S. Ford, Mayor
LaKeisha T. Gantt, Councilmember
Alphonso Thomas, Councilmember
Kyle D. Berry, Councilmember
Yolanda Barber, Councilmember
Elton Alexander, Councilmember
4640 North Henry Boulevard
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281

RE: Recommendation of Ethics Board to Mayor and City Council as to the following Complaints filed May16, 2025:

2025 05162025-01 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against City Atty. Quinton Washington

2025 05162025-02 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Mayor Anthony Ford

2025 05162025-03 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember LaKeisha Gantt

2025 05162025-04 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Kyle Berry, Sr.

2025 05162025-04 Councilmember Yolanda Barber against Councilmember Elton Alexander

Dear Mayor and Council:

On May 16, 2025, the Stockbridge Ethics Board received an ethics complaint filed by Councilmember Yolanda Barber against the individuals referenced above. In accordance with our responsibilities under the City's Ethics Code, the Board convened public meetings on May 28, 2025, and June 11, 2025 to review the complaint. All parties involved were duly notified and invited to participate.

During these sessions, the Board addressed those present and recessed into executive session to thoroughly examine the complaints and the supporting documentation provided by both the complainant and the respondents.

Upon completing our review, the Board determined that Councilmember Barber's complaint failed to cite any specific violation of the City's Code of Ordinances or Ethics Code that falls within this Board's jurisdiction. Her complaint referenced only Resolution #R20-1239, which pertains to the issuance of censures or reprimands, asserting that she was not afforded a hearing before being censured on May 12, 2025.

It is important to clarify that the Ethics Board does not have authority over the functionality or enforcement of resolutions passed by the City Council—particularly when there is no accompanying allegation of an ethics code violation. Moreover, the response submitted by Attorney Quinton Washington, on behalf of himself and the respondents, directly challenges the enforceability of the cited resolution and provides substantial background on the rationale behind the censure.

The Board concludes that the matters raised, including questions of due process, lie outside the scope of the Ethics Board's jurisdiction. If Councilmember Barber believes her due process rights were infringed upon, her proper course of action is to seek remedy through a judicial or other appropriate venue.

Final Determination:

By unanimous vote, the Stockbridge Ethics Board finds that the complaint does not substantiate any facts sufficient to invoke the disciplinary jurisdiction of the City Council and is therefore dismissed pursuant to Code Section 2.40.070(C). This letter constitutes the Board's final decision regarding this matter. However, nothing in this determination precludes the complainant from pursuing any legal remedies that may be available in law or equity.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Barney-Duck, Esq.
Chairman
Stockbridge Ethics Board

A motion to accept this recommendation was made by Committee Member Charmaine and seconded by Committee Member Scott.

The move to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. was made by Committee Member Scott; seconded by Committee Member Charmaine.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Mary Scott, Ethics Board Secretary