



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SUMMARY MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025 6:00 P.M.**

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**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**

Shawn Edmondson – City Manager  
Frank Milazi – City Treasurer  
Vanessa Holiday – City Clerk  
Quinton Washington – City Attorney  
Megan McCullough – Associate 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 6:06 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 members were present except Councilmember Thomas.

Motion to amend the Agenda to remove Item #3; to hear Item #4 following Executive Session; and to add a discussion item under New Business for the Mortgage Burning City Event was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander.

Councilmember Barber asked Mayor Pro Tem Gantt to amend the motion to add the Budget Amendment that Mr. Milazi stated during the September 30, 2025 meeting that would be presented at this meeting. Mr. Milazi stated there would not be a Budget Amendment presented today.

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.

Mayor Ford stated the City of Stockbridge will continue to recognize its diverse community, DEI programs and initiatives, and reviewed the proclamations for Red Ribbon Week, Fire Prevention Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Women's Small Business Month, Domestic Violence Prevention & Awareness Month, and First Responders Month; and issued the Oath of Office to DDA member Tariq Collins.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Councilmember Alexander asked that there be no political comments be made.

Mr. Willie Carter commented on the budget amendment of \$32.9 million dollars; requested more fiscal responsibility with the FY2026 budget; stated the city needs to pivot with the management of the Amphitheater and use an outside source for management; stated the Ethics Board issued a recommendation to the City Council for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit that has gone unanswered; and asked for an update from the City Manager on the \$6 million dollar Tye Street improvements.

Mr. Paul Turner stated this is business and not personal; referenced his attendance at the city's budget retreat and stated the city's General Fund has only collected \$14 million dollars in 2025, and that the Amphitheater budgeted \$2.6 million dollars and spent over \$3 million dollars, and added another free event, and the 2025 budget will require another budget amendment to fund entertainment; asked why the city is still using Harold Young's team for Amphitheater services; referenced an Affidavit drafted by the City Attorney that favors the artist and not the city; displayed a picture of Harold Young and the City Attorney in the VIP section of the Amphitheater; displayed a picture of Harold Young in the Amphitheater Green Room, after the termination of his contract.

Mr. Pieter Friedrich referenced SB375 and the controversy around Hindu phobia; noted the history of Martin Luther King, Sr. and the association with the City of Stockbridge as his birthplace, noting he left Stockbridge and went to Atlanta; and referenced Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who spoke about civil rights, and that SB375 promotes bigotry directed at the Indian culture; noted Georgi's SB 375 was introduced in April 2025, and asked the City Council to pass a Resolution to protect free speech, and/or make a public statement in opposition.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

1. Approval of the September 8, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes  
Approval of the September 30, 2025 Council Work Session Meeting Minutes  
Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

2. Council consideration to approve the annual contract (RFP 2025-0004) for on-call sidewalk repairs and replacement to CGS, LLC in the amount of \$300,000.00. Funding from SPLOST VI. Contract to begin January 1, 2026.  
Presented by: Decius Aaron, Public Works Director  
Motion to Table and bring back to the October 28<sup>th</sup> Work Session meeting was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed 3-1 (Alexander Opposed, citing tabling the item will delay the repair of sidewalk projects).

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

3. Short-Term Work Program/Capital Improvements Element (STWP/CIE) for 2026-2030. (Citywide) Consideration of a Resolution to adopt the proposed City of Stockbridge Short-Term Work Program / Capital Improvements Element (STWP/CIE) for 2026-2030.

Item was Removed from the Agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

4. Appeal Case #AP-2025-02. (Council District 4)  
Appeal of the denial of an application for an alcohol license by Reynell Hay, per City of Stockbridge letter dated September 5, 2025. The applicant proposed locating a package store at 110 Rock Quarry Road (Parcel #S33-01011002). Applicant: Reynell Hay. Agent: Law Firm of Smith, Welch, Webb & White. Presented by: Ryan Anderson, Community Development Director  
Attorney McCulloch stated the applicant has requested a 60-day deferral.

Motion to Defer Appeal Case No. AP-2025-02 was made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

5. Council consideration to approve the purchase of eight (8) Harris XL-200P portable radios from Loudon Communications at a total cost of \$60,798.10, as a sole source procurement.  
Presented by: Richard Godfrey, Assistant Police Chief  
Assistant Chief Godfrey presented the request for the purchase of radios for the Police Department.

Councilmember Barber asked for confirmation that Loudon Communications is a sole source vendor.

Mr. Milazi confirmed Loudon Communications is a sole source.

Motion to approve the sole source Loudon Communications in the amount of \$60,798.10 was made by Councilmember Berry seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6. Council consideration to approve the purchase of two (2) 2025 Ford Mustang Mach-E electric vehicles and two (2) 2025 Ford F-150 Police Responder pickup trucks from Allan Vigil Ford at a cost of \$214,499.00, and five (5) 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe PPVs and one (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickup truck from Hardy Automotive Group at a cost of \$329,922.80, through State Contract.  
Presented by: Richard Godfrey, Assistant Police Chief

Assistant Chief Godfrey presented the request for the purchase of multiple vehicles for the Police Department, noting due to maintenance, repairs, breakdowns, collisions and recalls, there are no additional vehicles available and on hand due to vehicles being out of service.

Mayor Ford asked about the EV Chargers for the Police Department. Assistant Chief Godfrey noted there is an anticipated grant coming in from Georgia Power in the amount of \$40,000.00 for EV Charging Stations.

Councilmember Barber requested the piggyback contracts be read into the record.

Assistant Chief Godfrey referenced Allan Vigil Contract No. SPD-0000183-0005, and Hardy Contract No. SPD-0000183-0002.

Councilmember Barber asked for confirmation that the request went through the city's procurement process.

Assistant Chief Godfrey confirmed.

Mayor Pro Tem Gantt noted that when vehicles when they are totaled or recalled, the city's insurance company pays for the vehicle, which will allow the vehicle to be replaced, and if there are recalls, the vehicles are repaired and put back into the fleet; and noted she has requested a list of vehicles that have been in accidents, or totaled, and has yet to receive the report; and asked if the vehicles that are being requested are wants or needs, and asked if RedSpeed is the funding source.

Assistant Chief Godfrey stated there are zero cars in reserve.

Motion to approve with utilizing contract SPD-0000183-0005 and contract SPD-0000183-0002 with RedSpeed funding was made by Councilmember Barber seconded by Councilmember Alexander. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Alexander, Barber, Berry Approved) (Gantt Abstained, citing she has not received a vehicle report that has been requested).

7. Council consideration to approve the Amphitheater Mortgage Burning Event. Presented by: Shawn Edmondson, City Manager

Mayor Ford referenced previous conversations he had with the former Amphitheater Manager, Harold Young, and planning was in the works for a celebration of paying off the Amphitheater.

Mr. Edmondson noted a Save the Date was put out, noting that staff is following the recommendations of the Council, and wants to get formal approval to lock in the details and move forward with the planning of the event.

Mayor Pro Tem Gantt asked for confirmation that this will be a ceremonial event, similar to issuing proclamations and that there would not be a concert.

Mr. Edmondson confirmed would not be a concert and noted there would be a local band with refreshments, and a video highlighting Amphitheater events over the years in a celebratory atmosphere.

Mayor Pro Tem Gantt noted this is a great accomplishment that needs to be celebrated, as the Amphitheater was paid off in four years, and that public comments made were untrue; and asked why this request is being made for Council approval and referenced an upcoming reception to honor a councilmember that does not require City Council approval.

Councilmember Barber stated that she just learned of the Mortgage Burning event on the city's Facebook social media page and asked what the budget is for this event.

Mr. Edmondson stated the event would not cost more than \$14,000.00; and asked for clarity, noting that since he has joined the city, there has been chaos, and keeps hearing about rules and policies, whether written or unwritten, and this makes his job extremely difficult when things are unclear, noting he does not operate in chaos, and that we owe it to ourselves and our residents to have clear guidance, noting this is another case where things are not clear; noted his review of the city's ordinances, and finds a number of things don't get questioned here; noted staff will follow the guidance and commit to that, but there needs to be clear guidance from Council, noting the absence of that causes drama and chaos, and it does not need to be that way, and noted he is leaning on the Council for that clear guidance, knowing some tasks are specified, and others may be unspecified and understands that; noting he is regulatory – either it's in the ordinance, or it's not, either it's written, or it's not; and cannot be judged or held accountable for something that is not written or unaware of, and will ask where is the policy or written so that he can act accordingly, noting there is a standard that has been put out there for someone in his shoes.

Councilmember Berry made a motion to give staff leeway to proceed with the historic Mortgage Burning Event for all to commemorate this event at the VyStar Amphitheater at the Bridge, for the community to celebrate and enjoy with a budget of \$14,000.00; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt. The motion passed 3-1 (Alexander/Berry/Gantt Approved) (Barber Opposed citing that she supports the event, but not the budget, noting the Council agreed to support and adhere to the city's CFO and the city's Financial Advisor recommendation of a 2–3-year plan to reduce the city's expenditures, as this event is not essential, and if the cost was half of what has been stated, the event would have her support, and based on that, she opposes the event).

Mr. Edmondson stated he has heard of the 2–3-year financial plan from the city's CFO and Financial Advisor, and does not have a copy, and requested that he be given a copy as it is important for the City Manager to have the plan that was approved and supported by the City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Gantt stated that she does not want to cause confusion and agrees it is on the Council to provide guidance.

Councilmember Alexander stated it the City Council's fault that there is chaos and confusion, noting it is not fair to the City Manager, and stated that when there are questions about Agenda items, officials can call ahead of the meeting.



## 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](http://www.stockbridgega.org) for updates.

- Citywide Development Authority Meeting, Second Tuesday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Oct 14)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee Meeting \*Date Change\*, Third Thursday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. City Hall Levi Meeting Room (Oct 16)
- Planning Commission Meeting, Thursday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m. City Hall Council Chamber (Oct 16) Cancelled
- Downtown Development Authority Board Meeting, Third Tuesday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. at the Downtown Connection Center, 130 M L King Sr. Heritage Trail (Oct 21)
- Ethics Board Meeting, Wednesday, October 22nd in the Levi Meeting Room at 6:30 p.m. (Oct 22)
- City Council Work Session Meeting, Last Tuesday of each month, October 28th at 6:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chamber (Oct 28)

## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- Join Councilman Thomas & Councilman Berry in partnership for the monthly Bingo Bash on Wednesday, October 15th from 10am – noon at the Merle Manders Conference Center. Lots of fun to be had by all.
- Join the City of Stockbridge for the annual Breast Cancer Love Walk, Saturday, October 18th from 10:00 am to noon at Clark Park. For more information, contact the Events Department at [events@stockbridgega.org](mailto:events@stockbridgega.org)
- Join Mayor Pro Tem Gantt for the FREE Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25th at Clark Park with Candy, Food Trucks, Games, Costume Contest, Prizes and More!
- Join Councilmember Berry for a Combined District 2 & 3 Town on Tuesday, October 21st at Global Impact Christian Ministries 125 Red Oak Rd. at 7pm.
- Join Mayor Pro Tem Gantt for the FREE Line Dance Classes on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Merle Manders Conference Center from 6pm – 8pm.
- Join Mayor Anthony Ford for the monthly Meet the Mayor — Monday, October 27th from 10am – noon at City Hall. Meetings are by appointment.
- Stockbridge Main Street is hosting a Diabetes Awareness Walk and Health Fair on Saturday, November 1st. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. the 5k walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Clark Park; the Health Fair will take place from 10am - noon at various locations throughout the park (weather permitting) or at the Merle Manders Conference Center lower level.
- Join Councilman Alexander for the District 5 Community Cleanup on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9am - 11am. Please gather at the COSTCO parking lot on Jodeco Rd.
- Join Councilmember Barber for a District 4 Community Town Hall on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Merle Manders Conference Center at 6:30 pm.

- The Economic Development Department hosts a FREE Business Health Clinic on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 9am – 12pm at the Stockbridge Connection Center, 130 M L King Sr. Heritage Trail. Check the Health of Your Business with the FREE Clinic.
- 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](mailto:rrawls@stockbridgega.org)

#### 2025 CONCERT SEASON SCHEDULE

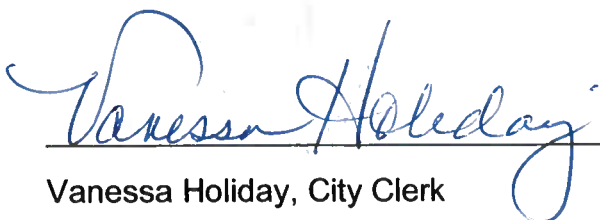
- Saturday, October 18th, Detroit Gospel Legends featuring Fred Hammond, Le'Andria Johnson, Anthony Brown, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Lisa Page-Brooks, Carvin Winans and Bryon Cage

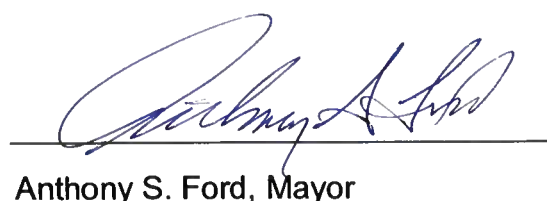
Mayor Ford commented that he is looking forward to the city's historic mortgage burning event for the Amphitheater, noting H.J. Russell, the construction company, and TSW the architects, will be present for the celebration; noted it is October and that means cold and flu season, and encouraged everyone to get flu shots, and boosters during the winter months; and wished everyone good luck with their support of their favorite football team; and wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

Motion to convene Executive Session for Real Estate matters was made by Councilmember Alexander. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. was made by Councilmember Barber; seconded by Councilmember Berry. The motion failed 2-2. (Barber/Berry Approved); (Alexander/Gantt Opposed). Mayor Ford voted to adjourn. The motion passed 3-2.

Respectfully submitted by;

  
Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

  
Anthony S. Ford, Mayor