



Where Community Connects

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SUMMARY MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

Mayor & City Council

Mayor Jayden L. Williams At-Large
Mayor Pro Tem LaKeisha Gantt – Council District 1
Councilmember Antwan Cloud – 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.

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Councilman Kyle Berry led the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance

Deputy City Clerk, Cassandra Lester conducted the roll call with Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Gantt, Councilmember Cloud, Councilmember Berry, Councilmember Barber, and Councilmember Alexander all present, confirming a quorum.

Motion to amend the agenda to add a resolution requesting the Office of Congressman David Scott and the Henry County Federal Delegation to request federal funding and assistance for the City of Stockbridge Multigenerational Recreation Center Project, as well as the Henry County bond delegation made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to amend the agenda to add the transfer of funds from the Cultural Arts Center Project to the Recreation Center Project made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Williams requested to amend the agenda to add an executive session at the start of the meeting to review personnel matters related to organizational appointments. Mayor Pro Tem Gantt seconded the motion.

Councilmember Alexander asked for clarification. City Attorney Quinton Washington advised that there were thirteen candidate applicants who wish to serve on various boards and in any role. He explained if only one applicant applied per vacant seat, the council could appoint immediately; but because there are multiple candidates per seat, the agenda item would warrant discussion in executive session.

Mayor Pro Tem Gantt suggested appointing only council liaisons and tabling other committee appointments due to incomplete applications. Councilman Elton Alexander emphasized the necessity of appointing some members to the planning commission, to ensure its functionality.

The motion to amend the agenda to move Executive Session for personnel reasons to the beginning of the meeting, made by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt; motion failed for lack of a second.

The motion was recalled and restated by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Barber. Motion passed 4-1-0 (Gantt opposed).

The amended agenda was adopted unanimously.

CEREMONIAL REVIEW

Mayor Williams announced that prior to the city council meeting, he had sworn in members of the Main Street Advisory Board, Youth Council Advisory Committee, and Downtown Development Authority. He also presented proclamations for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and recognized the Stockbridge Middle School football team for their undefeated season.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

City of Stockbridge resident Marion Calhoun expressed her dissatisfaction at not receiving an acknowledgment or a thank you for her support of Mayor Williams' campaign. She continued to make several comments that became personal in nature, prompting Councilmember Alexander to cite a point of order. Mayor Williams reminded her of the public comment rules, which prohibit defamation and personal attacks. After continued comments, Councilmember Alexander made a motion to end the comments, citing them as defamatory and outrageous. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Berry. Motion passed 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter Executive Session for personnel, litigation, real estate, and cybersecurity matters, made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Councilmember Barber. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to adjourn Executive Session, made by Councilmember Berry; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to reconvene the Council meeting, made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt. Motion passed 5-0.

From Executive Session, City Attorney Quinton Washington presented a resolution authorizing a settlement agreement in the matter involving Girishkumar Patel and GRP LLC. Councilmember

Councilmember Barber inquired whether the settlement involved a monetary payment. Attorney Washington clarified that the settlement relates to a liquor license permit and is in lieu of future litigation.

A motion to approve the settlement agreement, made by Councilmember Alexander; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt. Motion passed 4-1-0 (Barber opposed).

ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

A. City Council Appointment of the Municipal Court Solicitor

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to appoint Julia Kirk as the Municipal Court Solicitor.

Second: Councilmember Berry

Vote: Approved unanimously

Mayor Williams administered the oath of office to Julia Kirk, who thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve for another year.

B. City Council Appointment of the City Clerk

Motion: Councilmember Alexander moved to appoint Cassandra Lester as the interim City Clerk for 2026.

Second: Councilmember Cloud

Vote: Approved 4-1, with Councilmember Barber opposing

C. City Council Appointment of the City Treasurer

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to appoint Frank Milazi as the City Treasurer.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

D. City Council Appointment of the Executive Assistant to Mayor & Council

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to appoint Mrs. Rosalynd Rawls as the Executive Assistant to Mayor & Council.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

E. City Council Appointment of the City Auditor

Before the vote, Councilmember Barber questioned City Treasurer Milazi about the city's contract with Mauldin and Jenkins. Stating she recalled he mentioned in 2025 that the city auditor contract would be put out for bid. Mr. Milazi explained that although the contract is valid until 2028, it is approved annually by the governing body. Barber asked whether the contract would put out for bid, and Mr. Milazi confirmed it would.

She inquired about the specific quarter in which this would take place, and Mr. Milazi stated that he would coordinate with the city manager and provide an update at the next work session.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to appoint Mauldin and Jenkins as the City Auditor.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved 4-1, with Councilmember Barber opposing

F. City Council Appointment of the City Attorney

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to appoint the Washington Law Firm with Quinton Washington as the lead attorney.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved 4-1, with Councilmember Barber opposing

G. City Council Appointment of the Mayor Pro Tem

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to appoint Councilmember Elton Alexander as Mayor Pro Tem.

Second: Councilmember Cloud

Vote: Approved 4-1, with Councilmember Barber opposing

Councilmember Alexander thanked the Council for the appointment, noting that the position rotates to give each councilmember an opportunity to serve. He emphasized the need for unity and cohesion among the Council and expressed his commitment to advancing the city's 2025 agenda, particularly getting the Recreation Center built.

H. City Council Appointment of the Council Liaison to the Main Street Advisory Board

Willie Hopkins, Chair of the Main Street Advisory Board, was invited to speak. He explained that the Main Street Advisory Board recommends Councilmember Yolanda Barber as the liaison since the downtown area is in her district.

Councilmember Barber made a motion to appoint herself as liaison. The motion died for lack of a second.

Motion: Councilmember Alexander moved to appoint Councilmember Antwan Cloud as the Council Liaison to the Main Street Advisory Board.

Second: Councilmember Berry

Vote: Approved 4-1, with Councilmember Barber opposing

I. City Council Appointment of the Council Liaison to the Citywide Development Authority

Motion: Councilmember Alexander moved to appoint Councilmember Lakeisha Gantt as the Council Liaison to the Citywide Development Authority.

Second: Councilmember Berry

Vote: Approved 4-1, with Councilmember Barber opposing

J. Mayor's Committees

Mayor Williams proposed establishing several committees in accordance with the city charter, citing sections 2-04-210, 2-04-220, and 2-04-230. The proposed committees are:

1. Finance Committee: The finance committee will provide financial oversight, planning and policy advice, ensuring physical health by reviewing the city budget, monitoring spending, and recommending financial policies.

Chaired by Councilmember Barber with Councilmembers Berry, Cloud, and the City Attorney

2. Education Committee: The education committee advises the local government on school policy, funding, and operations, and acts as a liaison between the schools, parents, and the community.

Chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Gantt with Councilmembers Alexander, Berry, and the Economic Development Director

3. Information Technology Committee: The IT committee will guide technology strategy ensuring that IT aligns with the city goals, approving major projects, setting policies for security, security, procurement, and data protection.

Chaired by Councilmember Cloud with Councilmembers Alexander, Gantt, and the IT Director

4. Public Works Committee: Public works committee will serve as an advisory body to the city council, reviewing, discussing, and recommending policies to ensure essential infrastructure and services like streets, water, sewer, parks, and flood control remain operational.

Chaired by Councilmember Alexander with Councilmembers Cloud, Barber, and the Public Works Director

5. Building Committee; Oversees new construction and major renovations acting as their advisory body that review plans to ensure the city is in compliance with codes and guides projects to its completion.

Chaired by Councilmember Berry with Councilmembers Gantt and Barber

Mayor Pro Tem Gantt raised the question if the Mayor could assign councilmembers to committees and also asks if such committees were necessary given the city's size.

Councilmember Barber asked Mayor Willaims to read the codes outloud for further clarification.

Mayor Williams read each charter sections 2.04.210, 2.04.220, and 2.04.230.

Councilmember Barber asked Mayor Willaims to read the code 2.04.210 into the record.

Mayor Willams read into record code 2.04.210 of the City of Stockbridge Charter - Appointment of committees. At the first regular meeting of the mayor and council for any calendar year, committees shall be appointed to serve for the ensuing year.

Attorney Washington requested time to research and provide a definitive interpretation of the charter provisions regarding committees.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to table the Mayor's Committees until the next work session.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

2. To Approve a Resolution Authorizing A Settlement Agreement of the Matter: Girishkumar Patel and GRP LLC, A Georgia Limited Liability Company v. City of Stockbridge, Georgia

This agenda item was addressed following executive session where Attorney Washington presented a resolution to settle litigation with Girishkumar Patel by granting a liquor store permit that had previously been denied by the Council. He explained this was on legal advice to avoid potential liability.

Councilmember Barber expressed her opposition, stating she did not want another liquor store in her district. She noted that two years ago, the planning commission had presented to the Council that, due to population growth, the state required a lottery for two additional package stores. The planning commission had recommended Rock Quarry Road in Council District 3, but the Council chose her district instead, which she had objected to.

Motion: Councilmember Alexander moved to approve the resolution authorizing the settlement agreement with Girishkumar Patel and GRP LLC.

Second: Councilmember Berry

Vote: Approved 4-1, with Councilmember Barber opposing

NEW BUSINESS

3. Council Consideration to re-appoint Shomari Furtch to the Main Street Advisory Board

Motion: Councilmember Barber moved to reappoint Shomari Furtch to the Main Street Advisory Board for a term expiring 12/31/2027.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

4. Council Consideration to appoint the following member(s) to the Planning Commission

Motion: Councilmember Cloud moved to appoint Sharonda Gardner to the Planning Commission for District 2.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

Motion: Mayor Williams moved to appoint Lisa Glenn from Council District 5 to the Planning Commission's at-large seat.

Second: Councilmember Berry

Vote: Approved unanimously

The appointments for Districts 1, 3, and 4 were deferred to the work session on January 22, 2026.

5. Council Consideration to appoint member(s) to the Citywide Development Authority

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to table this item until the January 27th, 2026 work session.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

6. Council Consideration to appoint member(s) to the Ethics Board

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to table this item until the January 27th, 2026 work session.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

7. Council Consideration to appoint member(s) to the Public Facilities Authority

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to table this item until the January 27th, 2026 work session.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

8. Council Consideration to appoint member(s) to the Youth Council Advisory Committee

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to table this item until the January 27th, 2026 work session.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

9. Council Consideration to appoint a member Council on Aging

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt moved to table this item until the January 27th, 2026 work session.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

Items Added/Amended to the Agenda

A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Stockbridge, Georgia Requesting The Office Of Congressman David Scott And The Henry County Federal Delegation To Request Federal Funding And Assistance For The City Of Stockbridge Multigenerational Recreation Center Project; And For Other Purposes

Motion: Councilmember Alexander moved to approve a resolution requesting federal funding from Congressman David Scott and the Henry County Federal Delegation for the City of Stockbridge Multi-Generational Recreation Center Project, and for other purposes.

Second: Councilmember Berry

Vote: Approved unanimously

Councilmember Barber commented that while she wished this request wasn't necessary, she believed it was necessary due to mismanagement of funds in previous years. She mentions she is glad to have the support of our Henry County delegation as well as congressman Davis Scott 's office to assist in the funding of this community center and noted that wants to see a long-term plan for its maintenance, financing, liabilities, and programming.

Councilmember Alexander noted this was a monumental step toward building a recreation center. He mentioned that city officials met with legislators and all are excited about the project. He thanked voters for approving \$10 million in SPLOST funding and with the proposed transfers, he said the city would have \$24 million available for the facility, with additional state and federal funding potentially allowing construction to begin by the end of the year.

A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Stockbridge, Georgia Authorizing The Transfer Of Bond Proceeds In The Amount Of Fourteen Million Dollars (\$14,000,000.00) From The Cultural Arts Center Bond Project To The Multigenerational Recreation Center Project; And For Other Purposes.

Motion: Councilmember Barber moved to approve a resolution authorizing the transfer of bond proceeds in the amount of \$14 million from the Cultural Arts Center Bond Project to the Multi-Generational Recreation Center Project.

Second: Councilmember Alexander

Vote: Approved unanimously

Councilmember Barber noted that she had requested this transfer a couple of years ago and was pleased to now have support from her fellow council members.

A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Stockbridge, Georgia Requesting The Henry County Legislative Delegation To Pursue Eight Million Dollars (\$8,000,000.00) In State Funding For The City Of Stockbridge Multigenerational Recreation Center Project; And For Other Purposes.

Motion: Councilmember Berry moved to approve a resolution requesting the Henry County Legislative Delegation to pursue \$8 million in state funding for the City of Stockbridge Multi-Generational Recreation Center Project.

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Gantt

Vote: Approved unanimously

OATHS OF OFFICE

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-17-8(a)(3), City Attorney and Notary Public Quinton Washington administered the oath of office to Mayor Jayden L. Williams, Councilmember Antwan Cloud (District 2), and Councilmember Lakeshia Gantt (District 1).

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Williams welcomed everyone to 2026 and expressed excitement about serving the city in the new year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Williams called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm,

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Councilmember Alexander

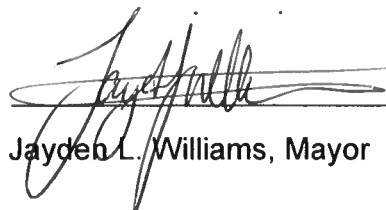
Second: Councilmember Cloud

Vote: Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:



Cassandra Lester, Interim City Clerk



Jayden L. Williams, Mayor