



Stockbridge City Council

4640 North Henry Boulevard
Stockbridge, GA 30281

REVIEWED

INFORMATIONAL ITEM (ID # 1639)

Meeting: 01/27/15 06:00 PM

Department: Administration

Category: Council Discussion

Prepared By: Michael Harris

Initiator: Michael Harris

Sponsors: Councilwoman Regina Ward

DOC ID: 1639

Stockbridge Citizens Academy

Councilwoman Ward recently provided staff with information concerning the creation of a Citizens Academy, for the purpose of familiarizing citizens in the community with Stockbridge City Government. The proposed program would consist of eight (8) sessions, each focusing on a different component of Stockbridge government. The sessions would be facilitated by City staff members, as well as members of the Henry County Police and Fire Departments. The principle goals of this program will be to educate the public on the functions of their local government, and increase citizen awareness and interest in city government. The estimated annual cost to fund this program is \$1,200.00, which would include course materials (paper, binders, etc.), light refreshments, and graduation materials. Funds are currently available in the Council's budgeted administration line item



From: R Lewis Ward *RLW*
To: City of Stockbridge Mayor and Council;
City Manager
Date: December 15, 2014
Subject: Proposed Stockbridge Citizens Academy

Community leadership programs have been developed across the country within various cities to provide citizens an opportunity to interact with elected officials and city directors to learn the inner workings of local government. The proposed Stockbridge Citizens Academy is a free public information program. The purpose of the Citizens Academy is to familiarize citizens in the community with Stockbridge City government. The program will include the function of City departments, explain the relationship between the County Commission and City Administration; allow an insight of the budgetary process and it will provide an outlet for citizen input. The Citizens Academy is an interactive program that is open to anyone interested.

Goals of the Academy

- To educate the public on what their local government does for them.
- To improve and increase citizen awareness and interest in local government.
- To develop citizen understanding of their role in city government.
- To provide an opportunity for citizens to become involved in civic democracy and to see how tax dollars work to improve quality of life for all residents.
- To provide an inside look at the operations of the City of Stockbridge.
- To help identify issues and areas of concern; for citizens to help develop/implement the City's plans.
- To encourage citizens to become involved in their local government.
- To demonstrate what is provided by the local property tax and utility rates.

Structure of the Academy

- The program convenes once a year
- Approximately twenty-five (25) students per class.
- Eight (8) sessions, approximately 2 hours each.
- Attendance at one (1) public meeting.
- Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. beginning June 4, 2015 through July 23, 2015. Participants will hear from representatives of more than 10 city departments.
- Upon successful completion of the classes, participants will be recognized by the Mayor and City Council at (TBD) City Council Meeting.
- The Stockbridge Citizen Academy is free to the participants.

Benefits

- Create informed citizens who will become involved in community activities, who will volunteer for Council appointed boards and tasks forces.
- Obtain feedback from citizens regarding governmental programs and services.

Eligibility

- At least 18 years old
- Resident of Stockbridge
- Owner of business located in Stockbridge

Costs:

- Printed course materials
- Water and snack for each session
- Trinkets for class participation
- Meal and certificate for graduation ceremony

Information about other Citizens Academy:

The Savannah Citizens Academy

The City of Savannah Citizens Academy is a 10-session program intended to immerse residents into the workings of their City government. The academy includes on-site visits, presentations by key City officials, and other hands-on activities. Interested citizens must be willing to commit to attend all of the once-a-week classes, which generally run 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. A maximum of 25 students will be accepted each year for the academy, which will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. A \$5 nonrefundable entrance fee is required.

Lakeland Florida

Citizens Academy is a free, hands-on, interactive public information program that allows citizens an insight into City services and the functions of City departments. The class size is limited to the first 30 residents that sign-up because of the interactive nature of the program. The Citizens Academy program will consist of six (6), two (2) hour evening sessions, every Thursday, beginning on February 26, 2015. All sessions, unless otherwise noted, are from 6-8 p.m. and will be held in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 228 South Massachusetts Avenue (Arrive a little early to enjoy pizza and refreshments). During the course, several sessions will meet away from City Hall.

Griffin, GA

The Citizens Government Academy is a free program designed to give citizens a working knowledge of the City of Griffin and will teach them how to better understand the intricacies of local government. The 10 week academy meets every Thursday night from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Each night, we will meet with city staff to discuss areas of city operation including finance, water, electricity, garbage collection, public safety, economic development, and more.

Goodyear, AZ

In early 2015, the City of Goodyear will host its "Citizen Academy," community leadership program. The course provides city residents the unique opportunity to interface with elected officials, city management and department directors to learn how the City of Goodyear operates. Specifically, the course delves into the city's organizational chart, providing in depth information on critical departments and services such as Public Safety, Public Works, Engineering, City Court, Economic Development and many others. The seven-week course begins Tuesday, January 13, 2015 and concludes Tuesday, February 24, 2015. Each session begins at 6:00 p.m. and runs between 90 minutes and 2 hours. Class size is limited to 40. Registration is free and includes course materials and snacks for the evening.

Citizens Academy

Course Outline

Proposed Sessions

Session 1: Government Structure

- A) Welcome/Introductions
- B) Course Overview
- C) Legislative
- D) Administrative
- E) Judicial
- F) Support Agencies

Session 2: Community Development

- A) Planning & Zoning
- B) Livable Centers Initiative
- C) Code Enforcement
- D) GIS

Session 3: Economic Development/Tourism

- A) Main Street Program
- B) Merle Manders & Ted Strickland Centers

Session 4: Public Works I

- A) Maintenance Dept.
- B) Sanitation Dept.
- C) Stormwater Dept.
- D) Parks Dept.

Session 5: Public Works II

- A) Water Dept.
- B) Water Treatment Dept.

Session 6: Administration

- A) Finance
- B) Clerk's Office
- C) Human Resources
- D) Court

Session 7: Public Safety

- A) Police Services
- B) Fire Services
- C) E911

Session 8: Graduation Ceremony

Vanessa Holiday

From: Regina Ward
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 8:19 PM
To: Vanessa Holiday
Subject: Work Session Agenda

Please add the following to the Jan. 27, 2014 work session:

1) Stockbridge Citizen's Academy

Regards,
Regina Lewis Ward, Councilmember
City of Stockbridge, GA

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<http://www.cityofstockbridge.com>

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RESOLUTION NO. R15-626

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE STOCKBRIDGE CITIZENS ACADEMY

WHEREAS, the City of Stockbridge ("City") is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia and is charged with being fiscally responsible concerning the use and expenditure of all public funds, and

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish a program which will help to educate its citizens on the various functions and duties of the Stockbridge City government; and,

WHEREAS, this program would consist of a series of weekly sessions, facilitated by staff members, each focusing on a different component of Stockbridge government, and;

WHEREAS, funding for this initiative would come from the administrative line items of the Governing division of the adopted budget.

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1. Establishment of the Stockbridge Citizens Academy. The Stockbridge Citizens Academy is hereby established and the City Manager is authorized to coordinate with the staff to develop and commence this program, using administrative funds from the Governing Division of the budget.

SECTION 2. Public Record. This document shall be maintained as a public record by the City Clerk and shall be accessible to the public during all normal business hours of the City of Stockbridge.

SECTION 3. Approval of Execution. The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

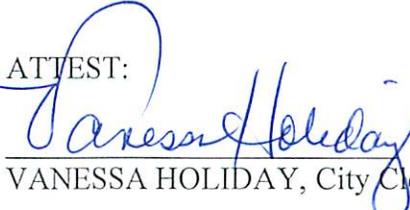
SECTION 4. Attestation. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any documents which may be necessary to effectuate this ordinance, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Stockbridge as provided in the City Charter.

SO ORDAINED this 9th day of February, 2015.


TIMOTHY L. THOMPSON, Mayor

ATTEST:


VANESSA HOLIDAY, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


MICHAEL WILLIAMS, City Attorney

