

STATE OF GEORGIA
HENRY COUNTY
CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE, GEORGIA

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE, GEORGIA, TITLE 5 (PUBLIC WORKS), CHAPTER 5.04, ARTICLE I, BY ESTABLISHING SECTION 5.04.170, ENTITLED “STREET AND PUBLIC FACILITY RENAMING PROCEDURES”; TO PROVIDE A UNIFORM PROCESS FOR THE NAMING AND RENAMING OF PUBLIC STREETS, PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES; TO INCORPORATE AND CROSS-REFERENCE THE CITY FACILITIES, PARKS, AND STREETS NAMING POLICY AND SECTION 16.10 OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE; TO ESTABLISH PETITION THRESHOLDS, NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING REQUIREMENTS, REVIEW STANDARDS, AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES; AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Stockbridge desires to facilitate responsible community growth and provide housing and care options that meet the needs of residents; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section II, Paragraph IV of the Georgia Constitution empowers the governing authority of each county and of each municipality to adopt plans and exercise the power of zoning; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stockbridge is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stockbridge is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia and is authorized by its Charter and general law to regulate and control the naming and renaming of public streets, rights-of-way, and City-owned or City-maintained facilities within its corporate limits; and

WHEREAS, the naming and renaming of public streets and facilities affect residents, property owners, businesses, emergency services, navigation, and the historical and civic identity of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council find that a transparent, deliberate, and uniform legislative process is necessary to ensure consistency, public participation, and protection of the public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The Code of Ordinances of the City of Stockbridge, Georgia, Title 5 (Public Works), Chapter 5.04, Article I, is hereby amended by establishing a new Section 5.04.170, entitled “Street and Public Facility Renaming Procedures,” to read as follows:

Sec. 5.04.170. – Street and Public Facility Renaming Procedures.

(a) Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this section is to establish a clear, equitable, and uniform process for the naming and renaming of public streets, parks, buildings, and other public facilities, recognizing the long-term impacts such actions have on the community, public safety, and historical preservation.

(b) Applicability.

1. This section applies to:
 - a. All publicly dedicated streets, roads, alleys, and rights-of-way accepted for maintenance by the City; and
 - b. All parks, buildings, structures, complexes, and facilities owned, operated, or maintained by the City of Stockbridge.
2. No street or public facility shall be named or renamed except by ordinance adopted by the Mayor and City Council in accordance with this section.

(c) Relationship to Unified Development Code Section 16.10 and City Naming Policy.

1. **Unified Development Code Coordination.**

Street naming standards applicable to new streets and subdivisions, including spelling conventions, suffixes, duplication limitations, and sign requirements, shall be governed by Section 16.10 (Street Names and Sign Requirements) of the Unified Development Code.
2. **Distinction of Authority.**
 - a. Section 16.10 shall apply to the initial naming of streets during subdivision and development review.
 - b. This Section 5.04.170 shall apply exclusively to the renaming of existing streets and public facilities following dedication, acceptance, or public use.

3. Consistency Requirement.

Any proposed street renaming under this section shall comply with the technical and public safety standards of Section 16.10, including avoidance of duplication, emergency response compatibility, and sign requirements.

4. City Facilities, Parks, and Streets Naming Policy.

a. The City Facilities, Parks, and Streets Naming Policy, as adopted and amended by the Mayor and City Council, is hereby incorporated by reference for guidance and substantive review criteria.

b. In the event of a conflict between this section and the policy, this Code of Ordinances shall control.

(d) Initiation of Requests.

A proposal to rename a street or public facility may be initiated by:

1. The Mayor;
2. Any member of the City Council;
3. The City Manager or designee; or
4. A citizen initiated petition meeting the requirements of this section.

(e) Citizen Initiated Street Renaming — Petition Threshold.

1. Any citizen-initiated request to rename an existing street or portion thereof shall require a petition signed by not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the property owners whose property abuts the affected street segment, as reflected in the most recent Henry County tax digest.
2. The petition shall include:
 - a. The existing street name and proposed new name;
 - b. A map identifying the affected street segment;
 - c. Printed names, property addresses, and signatures of qualifying property owners;
 - d. A written statement explaining the basis for the request.
3. Petitions failing to meet the required threshold shall not proceed to public hearing.

(f) Public Facility, Park, and Building Renaming.

1. Proposals to rename public facilities may be initiated by City Council or by written request submitted to the City Manager.

2. No fixed numerical petition threshold shall apply; however, the Mayor and City Council shall determine whether sufficient public interest and community support exist to warrant consideration.
3. Facilities named by deed restriction shall not be eligible for renaming.

(g) Prohibitions and Limitations.

1. No street or public facility shall be named or renamed for private benefit or commercial promotion.
2. No street or public facility shall be named after:
 - a. A seated elected or appointed official; or
 - b. An individual who has been deceased for less than one (1) year, unless waived by a supermajority vote of the City Council.
3. Street names that create duplication, confusion, or public safety concerns shall not be approved.

(h) Notice and Public Hearing.

1. At least one (1) public hearing shall be conducted prior to adoption of any ordinance renaming a street or public facility.
2. Notice shall be provided by mailed, published, and posted notice in accordance with City requirements and applicable law.

(i) Findings and Decision.

In adopting any ordinance renaming a street, the Mayor and City Council shall make a finding that:

The Mayor and City Council find that the proposed street renaming complies with Section 5.04.170 of the Code of Ordinances and the technical naming and sign standards of Section 16.10 of the Unified Development Code.

The Mayor and City Council may approve, deny, or modify any proposed renaming by ordinance.

(j) Appeal of Decision.

1. Right to Appeal.

Any person who is aggrieved by a final decision of the Mayor and City Council approving or denying a request to rename a street or public facility under this section may appeal such decision pursuant to this subsection.

2. Appeal Authority.

Because the approval or denial of a street or public facility renaming is a legislative act adopted by ordinance, appeals shall be limited to procedural and legal compliance and shall be heard exclusively by the Mayor and City Council.

3. Filing of Appeal.

An appeal shall be filed in writing with the City Clerk no later than **thirty (30) calendar days** following adoption of the renaming ordinance. The appeal shall include:

- a. The name and address of the appellant;
- b. Identification of the ordinance being appealed;
- c. A statement of the specific grounds for appeal; and
- d. Any supporting documentation.

4. Scope of Review.

The appeal shall be limited to determining whether:

- a. The procedures set forth in this section were properly followed;
- b. Required notice and public hearing requirements were met; and
- c. The decision was adopted in compliance with applicable provisions of the Code of Ordinances and state law.

5. Hearing on Appeal.

The Mayor and City Council shall consider the appeal at a duly noticed public meeting. No new evidence shall be accepted unless the Mayor and City Council determine that such evidence was unavailable at the time of the original public hearing.

6. Decision on Appeal.

Following consideration of the appeal, the Mayor and City Council may:

- a. Affirm the original decision;
- b. Modify the original decision; or
- c. Remand the matter for additional consideration consistent with this section.

The decision of the Mayor and City Council on appeal shall be final.

7. Judicial Review.

Nothing herein shall be construed to limit any right to seek judicial review as provided by Georgia law.

(k) Implementation.

1. The effective date shall be specified in the adopting ordinance.
2. The City Manager or designee shall coordinate implementation with emergency services, postal authorities, utilities, and other affected agencies.
3. A reasonable transition period recognizing both old and new names may be authorized.

SECTION 2. Severability. To the extent any portion of this Ordinance is declared to be invalid, unenforceable, or non-binding, that shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions. All City Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance shall be repealed.

SECTION 4. Attorney Authorization. The City Attorney, backed by the City's charter and with the explicit endorsement of the City Council, is authorized to make necessary amendments to contracts, ordinances, resolutions, and documents to align them with the intent of the City Council and ensure compliance with all pertinent city laws and regulations.

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

SO ORDAINED,

this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE, GEORGIA

Jayden Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cassandra Lester, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Quinton Washington, City Attorney