



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 13, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Aldерwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, Post 1, Chairman
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Aldерman Detric Leggett, District 2
Aldermen Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Aldерman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice Chairman
Aldерwoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
Aldерman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:
Interim City Manager Patrick C. Monahan
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Assistant City Manager Health Lloyd
Deputy Assistant to the Mayor Marty Johnston
Director of Public Communications Nick Zoller
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

The Special Called Meeting was held at 3:04 p.m. via **ZOOM video**. The invocation was offered by Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter.

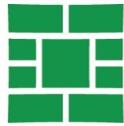
Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:

Mayor Johnson hoped all residents fared well through the severe weather last evening and early this morning. He gave an update of the coronavirus in the coastal health district. He thanked working staff for all the continued work they are doing through this pandemic.

City Manager Monahan gave an update on staff and the status of the latest testing results.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – concerned with participation on the Governor's COVID 19 Taskforce, the financial status of the City, and the receipt of dollars to the City from the Stimulus Package.
- Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter – asked about the letter to the State regarding SPLOST dollars and the letter to be sent to Representative Jackson for two million dollars formerly requested.
- Aldерwoman Miller Blakely – asked when individuals will received money from the Federal Government. She asked Mayor Johnson how many drones will be used throughout the City during the pandemic. She received correspondence from



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SCAD relating to a real estate issue being placed on the Agenda. She asked the City Manager if the Bells Landing Marina will be closed.

- Alderwoman Lanier – asked about the time frame for quarantined residents and how an employee qualifies to receive pay during the quarantine.
- Alderman Leggett – has participated in meetings with neighborhood associations via Zoom Video that went very well. He attended the funeral of employee, Charles Kelly.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – reinforced that we all need to work together during the pandemic. She reported that the City made national news as it relates to the drones. Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked concerning the stimulus package and if the City Attorney could give further explanation on the issue.
- Alderman Palumbo – reported that Landlords need to be considerate of tenants during this time period. He asked the City Manager for any updates as it relates to yard waste.
- Alderman Purtee – reported that District 6 residents are concerned with the Coffee Bluff Marina being closed.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz inquired as to the coronavirus testing and warned the public about scammers as it relates to the stimulus checks they will receive. She would like to see a requirement of local minority and women owned businesses and DBE's to participate as contractors in the County Courthouse \$83 million dollar bond issue.
- Alderwoman Gibson-Carter gave updates on neighborhood association meetings and suggested staff members meet with those associations to keep them updated on City activities. She asked who made the decision to use the drones and why the Aldermen were not informed prior to their use this past weekend. Moving forward she would like the City Council to be informed of any major decisions made which might impact the public.
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely reiterated that all Aldermen should be informed of major decisions before the public is impacted or informed. She asked if there was any way the City will be able to recommend local businesses to participate as sub-contractors as part of the \$83 million dollar bond project for the County Courthouse.
- Alderwoman Lanier asked the City Manager to place organizational structure on the Agenda, possibly a work shop.



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Closing:

Mayor Johnson reported that twenty-four new police officers were sworn in on Friday. Alderwoman Miller Blakely inquired as to the number of African-Americans sworn in at that time.

Mayor Johnson will invite Dr. Davis from the Department of Public Health to the Thursday Meeting for updates on public health as it relates to the coronavirus. He admonished all staff and resident to stay safe.

Mayor Johnson announced the next meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. this Thursday, April 16th via Zoom video.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

The audio recording of the Council Meeting can be found by copying and inserting the below link in your url:

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Xd8LuUJOwIiJ>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____