



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 16, 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
Aldерmen 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
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

The Special Called Meeting was held at 3:11 p.m. via **ZOOM video**. The invocation was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz followed by the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.

Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:

Mayor Johnson introduced Dr. Lawton Davis from the Department of Public Health.

Dr. Davis gave an updated on the statistics of the coronavirus in the coastal health district. He gave information on the testing criteria and how it relates to having blood tests. He reported on the various drugs being used to combat the virus. Per Dr. Davis, we have not had an outbreak in the prisons or nursing homes in the coastal area. He encouraged all to maintain social distancing and continue using safe guards.

City Manager Monahan gave an update on the safety supplies continuously being provided to the employees.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – concerned with the testing, how people can get tested, what is the criteria for getting testing and will there be additional test sites added throughout the Districts.
- Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter – concerned with the lag of time when a patient is diagnosed at the hospital and how long it takes for the County to receive that data. She asked Dr. Davis if an infected person's recent contacts and locations are being followed-up on and notified of the recent case. She questioned if there was any particular pattern as to the number of cases in any area, i.e. East, West, South, or North side of the City.



- Alderwoman Gibson-Carter announced that April is National Domestic Violence Month and since the coronavirus breakup, there has been an uptick in episodes. She encouraged all to support and recognize the importance of preventing domestic violence.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Miller Blakely commended Alderwoman Gibson-Carter for continuing the fight for abused youth and adults.
- Mayor Johnson expressed concern for cases appearing by zip codes, mainly within the City of Savannah. He asked Dr. Davis if there is still a 20% hospitalization of the cases (it is now 23%). He requested information on the number of positive and negative test and the number of outstanding test. Mayor Johnson inquired about the nursing homes and if there is updated information on the testing and number of cases. He asked if the State has taken a position on elective and dental procedures.
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – asked if the Health Department supplied mask to the general public and how can they get them. She also asked if the virus could be transmitted on shoes.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – asked Dr. Davis how should a person tested positive handle their pets and asked how often you should wash the cloth mask.

Closing:

Mayor Johnson admonished everyone to continue to adhere to the safety precautions during the pandemic.

Alderman Purtee moved to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The executive session began at 4:06 p.m.

The executive session ended at 6:17 p.m.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:17 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=2e5beeik0yU>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____