



Special Called Meeting re: Millage Rate

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the City Council work session and City Manager's Briefing was held via Zoom video communications at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderswoman Keshia Gibson-Carter, Post 1, Chairman
Alderswoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2
Alderswoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Alderswoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice Chairman
Alderswoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

ALSO PRESENT:
City Manager Patrick Monahan
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Public Hearing #2 regarding a Millage Rate Increase.

Mayor Johnson provided general information pertaining to the public comment options, as well as the process being considered by the Mayor and Aldermen with respect to the setting of the millage rate.

Mayor Johnson indicated written public comment received by the Clerk of Council has been distributed to the Mayor and Aldermen in advance of the meeting (from Colin W. Brady, Andy Gastley, and Tony Piazza opposing a tax increase). Mayor Johnson then started the public hearing with the following speakers who offered public comment:

- a. Donna Baker – Opposed to impacts on Business owners
 - Concerned with assessed valuation rates
 - Hardship year for businesses
- b. Sarah Thompson – Opposed to tax increase



- Two-minute limit was requested to be waived
 - Spoke regarding assessed values of property within the City of Savannah, taxable retail sales, and the numbers of workers
 - Concerned with school system challenges and closing businesses
 - Memories of Daniel Webster
 - Patriots, conservatives, libertarians, Christians are awake, everywhere and will continue to share grievances as well as help
- c. Donald Evans – Opposed to tax increases
- Seconded everything the previous speaker said
 - Concerned that some streets get paved and others do not
 - Does not want to see any of the police officers being sent home
- d. Steve Magulias – Opposed to tax increases
- Business owner and homeowner in the City of Savannah
 - Since St. Patrick’s Day was stopped, he has been losing money
 - Doesn’t believe the City had a plan, although personnel was going to be reduced at the time, the City Manager planned to cut the operating expenses of things like office supplies and payoff a bond using special funds
 - City should not go into debt
 - As constituent of the 4th District, he communicated with Alderman Palumbo
- Alderman Palumbo
- Clarified fiscal responsibility to Mr. Magulias
 - Important to reduce budget without cutting essential staff and services
- e. TK Burrison – Opposed to tax increase
- People are dealing with a lot right now, especially the elderly
 - She advised what happens to the brain, with respect to stress and the other ancillary impacts
 - There is a rise in suicides due to the financial strains
- f. P. Padget – Opposed to tax increase
- People, like his parents, are on fixed incomes and do not need any additional strains
- g. TJ Burrison – Opposed to tax increase
- He asked questions regarding the notice requirements surrounding the millage rate increase versus a rollback
 - Three meetings are held to maintain the same rate



- He is concerned about taking both paths regarding the setting of the millage rate, instead of choosing one route
- If we went with a rollback from beginning, we would not have had to go both routes.
- He suggested that the City Council get together regarding what the citizens want pertaining to an increase in the millage rate, especially older/elderly people
- He asked the Mayor what the straw poll was for, when the City Manager sought a consensus.

City Attorney Lovett offered an explanation of the City Council's decision to consider two paths at the same time with respect to advertising the millage rate hearings and the related action.

City Manager Monahan added staff met the legal requirement, and the staff also published the recent 5-years of tax levy as required by law. In addition to the legal ad, staff ran a companion ad to explain the two paths that the City Council planned to follow.

Alderman Gibson-Carter addressed Mr. TJ Burrison. She thanked him for his active engagement and what he acknowledged in his public comment correctly. The Mayor did ask for a consensus from Council. The majority of Council at that juncture indicated a rollback, since Alderman Leggett and Mayor Johnson did not participate. Alderman Gibson-Carter consulted with the City Attorney on the number of hearings required in the case of a rollback. Her concern with the two paths was with respect to the advertisement, and her interest to not be grouped with the Council pertaining to tentatively or not supporting a tax increase. Another notice went out stating that the Mayor and Aldermen were considering a property tax increase. Upon her request, City Manager Monahan gave Alderman Gibson-Carter information regarding how the announcements should be projected, and she indicated that the messaging was not consistent with what was announced. Alderman Gibson-Carter advised Mr. Burrison he is the type of citizen that our government needs to hold us accountable. She further stated, now the City is going to hide behind the CARES Act funding to cover shortfalls. Guidelines in the CARES Act say that you cannot use the money to cover shortfalls, so she requested an explanation for that as well. Alderman Gibson-Carter encouraged citizens of Savannah to stay plugged in, wake up, get engaged and hold your government accountable.

Mayor Johnson requested the City Attorney to correctly cite/provide State law. The City Attorney stated for purposes of the record, OGG 48-5-32.1(c)2 provides specific language to be used to advertise and maintain the millage rate where it is. Wording/language gets cut and paste from the Code and placed within an



advertisement. He understands that a side-by-side comparison was also added to explain the precise State law language. The City Attorney agrees language in the Code is not very clear.

Mayor Johnson asked the City Attorney for his legal opinion regarding whether we followed the State law. The City Attorney replied yes.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan stated at work sessions with respect to what was called a straw poll, everybody knows that we cannot vote. So, there was no vote. We all got the opportunity to say what we wanted to happen. For the record, it was a lie. I never said I wanted to increase taxes. My platform is what it is. The Clerk of Council understands that we cannot vote, and if he had said that initially we would not have had this conversation. I have full confidence in the City Manager, and he suggested we would be at a deficit and everybody on the Council said they did not want to cut human services. We were already at a deficit of \$13 million, so to have an additional \$600,000 cut, did not feel right with her. When the City Manager is allowed to do his job, it is effective. We cannot go into the community and put these falsehoods out there when everyone knows it was not a vote. It was a work session and we are discussing it now. When it is time to vote today, the people will know where we always stood. She stands by both recommendations made by the City Manager. Initially we were at a shortfall and now he found the money. We won't have to take that route. Work sessions are about hammering out the things that we want, and it is not final until we take a vote. For the record, she would want Mr. Massey to say there is no voting in a work session. Rather we have discussions where the Council continues to work, until the time comes for a vote. The City Manager has found some money, and he is not going to do anything illegal. The citizens need to know that Linda Wilder-Bryan did not take a vote, we were waiting to get more information. Based on the information, we don't want to increase taxes. When it comes time to vote today, the people of the City will see that we are all in agreement. We held public hearings and listened to what the people said. We were able to participate, and the State legislature deems us to exercise this process.

Mayor Johnson advised we have another public hearing (#3) today at 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the public hearing #2 regarding the millage rate, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session at 11:01 a.m.



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the City Council work session and City Manager's Briefing was held via Zoom video communications at 11:02 a.m. Mayor Johnson then asked Alderman Leggett to offer an invocation.

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

ALSO PRESENT:
City Manager Patrick Monahan
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Arena Update. **(PRESENTED by City Manager Pat Monahan and Bret Bell, Chief Operating Officer)**

A recess/break was taken from 11:04 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session at 1:11 p.m.



City Council Regular Meeting

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held via Zoom video communications at 2:01 p.m. Mayor Johnson requested Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan to introduce Reverend Will Shelburne of First Presbyterian Church of Savannah, who provided the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

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

ALSO PRESENT:
City Manager Patrick Monahan
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Herman
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for August 13, 2020. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting held on July 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 through #6 UNANIMOUSLY)**
3. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing held on July 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 through #6 UNANIMOUSLY)**



4. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on July 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 through #6 UNANIMOUSLY)**
5. Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting - Public Hearing re: Millage Rate Increase held on July 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 through #6 UNANIMOUSLY)**
6. Acknowledgment **(Approval of Minutes)** of a Special Called Meeting for the Purpose of a Closed Executive Session Regarding Personnel held on August 5, 2020 at 9:00a.m. **(APPROVED #2 through #6 UNANIMOUSLY)**

PRESENTATIONS

7. Recognition of Parker's for Recently Being Named the 2020 Convenience Store Chain of the Year by CStore Decisions, Earning the Convenience Store Industry's Top Award. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Mr. Gregory Parker, Founder and CEO, Parker's)**

CONSENT AGENDA - This section shall include all routine items for which it is anticipated there will be no debate or requests for public input. Any Alderman can remove consent items for discussion or separate consideration.

8. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Services to Install 20 Groundwater Monitoring Wells from Advanced Environmental Management, Inc. in the Amount of \$89,900 (Event No. 7983). **(APPROVED #8, #10 and #11 UNANIMOUSLY)**
9. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Two Contracts for Surveying and Drafting Services with Coleman Company (Primary) and EMC Engineering (Secondary) for up to \$75,000 (Event No.7686). **(APPROVED #9, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no)**
10. Notification of the Emergency Procurement of a Perimeter Fence from Guaranteed Fence in the Amount of \$47,750 (Event No.7975). **(APPROVED #8, #10 and #11 UNANIMOUSLY)**
11. Notification of the Emergency Procurement of a Decontamination Machine from Aeroclave, LLC in the amount of \$29,528 (Event No. 7976). **(APPROVED #8, #10 and #11 UNANIMOUSLY)**



PURCHASING ITEMS

12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 3 with AECOM/Hunt to Approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the New Arena in the Amount of \$147,583,181 (Event No. 6096). **(APPROVED #12, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no)**
13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Renewal for Lift Station Parts and Pumps with Xylem Water Solutions USA for up to \$800,000 (Event No. 6490). **(APPROVED #13, #14 and #16 UNANIMOUSLY)**
14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 2 for up to \$100,000 and the Annual Renewal (FY2021) for up to \$211,400 for HVAC Maintenance for City Facilities with Edge Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (Event No. 4836). **(APPROVED #13, #14 and #16 UNANIMOUSLY)**
15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Engineering Design and Construction Overview Services with Hussey, Gay, Bell, and DeYoung, Inc. for up to \$356,990 (Event No. 7867). **(HELD #15, as requested by staff for two weeks)**
16. Authorize the City Manager to Approve an Agreement for a Fleet Services Assessment with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. in the Amount of \$121,750 (Event No. 7964). **(APPROVED #13, #14 and #16 UNANIMOUSLY)**
17. Authorize the City Manager to Procure an Electronic Citation System from Tyler Technologies, Inc. in the Amount of \$407,504 (Event No. 7985). **(APPROVED #17, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

18. Approval to Renew the 2020 – 2022 Annual Maintenance Agreement for Elevator and Escalator Service with Kone, Inc., in the Amount of \$307,752.30. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**



19. Approval to Ratify the Acceptance of Airport Improvement Program Entitlement Grant Offer No. 3-13-0100-063-2020 from the Federal Aviation Administration, in the Amount of \$3,965,942. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**
20. Approval to Ratify the Acceptance of Airport Improvement Program Entitlement Grant Offer No. 3-13-0100-064-2020 from the Federal Aviation Administration, in the Amount of \$908,124. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**

21. Approval to Procure One 4x4 Cab Tractor with Front Loader from Hendrix Machinery, Inc., in the Amount of \$55,584. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**

22. Approval to Procure Two Jetpower Ground Power Units from John Bean Technologies, in the Amount of \$81,043. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**

23. Approval of Part 2 COVID-19 Emergency Marketing Fund to Stimulate Air Travel in Partnership with Visit Savannah, Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau, and Golden Isles Visitors Bureau, in an Amount for up to \$600,000. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**

24. Approval to Participate in the 2020 Visit Savannah Co-Op Digital Advertising Campaign, in the Amount of \$200,000. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**

25. Approval of a Co-Op Advertising Partnership with the Hilton Head Island Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, Official Vacation Planner Guide, in the Amount of \$28,196.28. **(APPROVED #18 through #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**

ALCOHOLIC LICENSE HEARINGS

26. Approval of Class E (Beer, Wine)(By the Package) Alcohol License to Bijalkumar Patel for Wheaton BP at 1300 Wheaton Street (Aldermanic District 3). **(POSTPONED/CONTINUED #26 UNANIMOUSLY for two weeks)**



27. Approval of Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales for Matt Lipman of The Lakehouse at 275 Fort Argyle Road (Aldermanic District 5). **(No speakers. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING and APPROVED #27 UNANIMOUSLY)**
28. Approval of Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Brett Parker for AMF Savannah Lanes at 115 Tibet Avenue (Aldermanic District 6). **(No speakers. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING and APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY)**
29. Approval of Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Richard Kessler for JW Marriott Savannah-Plant Riverside District-Add FAC Pavillon1 District at 300-500 West River Street (Aldermanic District 1). **(No speakers. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING and APPROVED #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
30. Approval of Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Richard Kessler for JW Marriott Savannah-Plant Riverside District-Add FAC Pavillon 2 District Smokehouse at 300-500 West River Street (Aldermanic District 1). **(No speakers. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING and APPROVED #30 and #31 UNANIMOUSLY)**
31. Approval of Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Richard Kessler for JW Marriott Savannah-Plant Riverside District-Add FAC Pavillon 3 Riverside Biergarten and Sushi at 300-500 West River Street (Aldermanic District 1). **(No speakers. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING and APPROVED #30 and #31 UNANIMOUSLY)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

32. Public Hearing #3 Regarding the 2020 Millage Rate. **(CONDUCTED EARLIER IN THE MEETING)**
- a. **Steve Magulias – Opposed to tax increase and Inventory tax**
 - b. **Sarah Thompson – Opposed to tax increase**
 - c. **Dominique Box – Opposed to tax increase and supports a long-term care facility for trafficking victims**
 - d. **Stanley Mosley – Opposed to tax increase, and concerned about no free parking anymore, and OPEB funding reductions**



- e. **Deb Broderick – Opposed to tax increase, and concerned about fund balance, sales tax stabilization funds, nonprofit organizations not paying taxes and BLM signs affecting tourism**

ZONING HEARINGS

33. Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Microbrewery, Wine Specialty Shop, Bar/Tavern, Retail Consumption Dealer, Craft Distillery, Winery, Meadery, and Cidery at 2400 Bull Street (PIN: 20074 01019), Petition of Josh Yellin (Agent) on behalf of 2400 Bull Street LLC, Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 20-002539-ZA). **(Speaker: Marcus Lotson. Josh Yellin and Guy Davis were also available. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING)**
34. Approval of the Petition of Bridget Lidy on behalf of The Mayor and Aldermen for Ezik Haydar, Owner, to Rezone 0.31 acres at 118 Roberts Street (PIN: 20717 05006) from C-P (Conservation-Park) to RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6), Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 20-003003-ZA). **(No speakers. Bridget Lidy was available. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING)**
35. Approval of a Petition of Harold Yellin, Agent, on behalf of Pier Rock Hwy 17 LLC, Petitioner, to rezone 69.235 acres at 4704 Ogeechee Road (PINs 20097 01001) from B-C (Community- Business) to I-L (Light-Industrial), Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 20-002971-ZA). **(No speakers. Harold Yellin, Jeff Jepson, Barbara Bacon, Bobby Redding, Stacey Purvis, David Gustovich, David Paddison, Mr. Hodge, Chris Rowland and Chris Tokarski were available. CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING)**

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

36. Approval of the Petition of Bridget Lidy on behalf of The Mayor and Aldermen for Ezik Haydar, Owner, to rezone 0.31 acres at 118 Roberts Street (PIN: 20717 05006) from C-P (Conservation-Park) to RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6), Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 20-003003-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #36 UNANIMOUSLY)**
37. Approval of a Petition of Harold Yellin, Agent, on behalf of Pier Rock Hwy 17 LLC, Petitioner, to rezone 69.235 acres at 4704 Ogeechee Road (PINs 20097 01001) from B-C (Community- Business) to I-L (Light-Industrial), Aldermanic



District 1 (File No. 20-002971-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #37 UNANIMOUSLY)**

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

38. Approval to Amend the 2020 Revenue Ordinance, Adopt the 2020 Property Tax Millage Rate, and Adopt the Special Service District Tax Rate for the Water Transportation District. **(Upon closing the Public Hearing #32, APPROVED #38 UNANIMOUSLY)**

RESOLUTIONS

39. Resolution to Adopt the Canal District Master Plan. **(ITEM #39 WAS DELAYED, since the work session discussion was unable to happen due to time)**

AGREEMENTS

40. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with Live Oak Landing LP for Live Oak Landing Phase One. **(APPROVED #40 UNANIMOUSLY)**

41. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with Savannah GA Owner, LLC for Eastern Wharf - Block D Hotel. **(AUTHORIZED #41, #42, #43 and #44 UNANIMOUSLY, per the City Manager's recommendation)**

42. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Corde Wilson of Beacon Builders for Apache Apartments. **(AUTHORIZED #41, #42, #43 and #44 UNANIMOUSLY, per the City Manager's recommendation)**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

43. Denial of a Request to Declare Surplus 1113 Felder Street – Petition #200127. **(AUTHORIZED #41, #42, #43 and #44 UNANIMOUSLY, per the City Manager's recommendation)**

44. Denial of a Request to Declare Surplus 1425 West Gwinnett Street – Petition #200128. **(AUTHORIZED #41, #42, #43 and #44 UNANIMOUSLY, per the City Manager's recommendation)**



CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

45. Settlement #1: (**AUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT #45, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voting no. Authorization was given to the City Attorney to settle the case of Mr. Luther Roberts, a motorcyclist who was injured when he was accidentally clipped by a Savannah police officer in his marked police cruiser)**)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

46. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Terms and Conditions Agreement. (**APPROVED #46, #47 and #48 UNANIMOUSLY, as amended**)
47. Approval of an Amendment to the 2020 Budget Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Implement Fund 217 – COVID19 Response Fund. (**APPROVED #46, #47 and #48 UNANIMOUSLY, as amended**)
48. Confirmation of Budget Plan to Provide Eviction Prevention and Utility Payment Assistance to Savannah Residents with CARES Act Funds; Agreement With United Way For Qualifying and Funding Distribution Through United Way Agencies; Agreement With SBAC For Qualifying and Funding Distribution For Small Business Loans and Grants and Reimbursement For Qualified City Expenditures Related to COVID-19. (**APPROVED #46, #47 and #48 UNANIMOUSLY, as amended**)

Mayor Johnson announced that Governor Kemp withdrew his lawsuit against the City of Atlanta challenging the city of Atlanta's mask mandate and coronavirus restrictions. He will likely issue another order.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.