



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 4:02 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz offered the invocation, as requested by Mayor Johnson.

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:
Acting City Manager Michael B. Brown
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Hearing to Receive Public Comment on the 2021 Property Tax Millage Rate.
(**PRESENTED** by **Acting City Manager Michael Brown** via a slide presentation)

There were no citizens present during the hearing to speak concerning the millage rate via Zoom, nor inside of Council Chambers, so the hearing was closed at 4:26 p.m.

Written comment(s) received:

- **Peter A. Robyn – OPPOSED**
 - **Sarah Thompson - OPPOSED**
2. Executive Session (CLOSED) for the purpose of discussing Personnel matters.
(**PRESENTED** by **Mayor Johnson**)



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Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the work session and conduct a closed Executive Session regarding personnel, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Session began at 4:27 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to exit the Executive Session, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier. The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Session ended at 5:09 p.m.

Whereupon Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session.



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Leggett to introduce Pastor Charles O’Berry of the House of Freedom Worship Center Savannah, who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderman Kesha 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:
Acting City Manager Michael B. Brown
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for July 22, 2021. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Approval of Minutes for the Special Called Meeting (Closed Executive Session re: Personnel) held on July 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3 and #4 UNANIMOUSLY)**



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3. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing held on July 8, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3 and #4 UNANIMOUSLY)**
4. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on July 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3 and #4 UNANIMOUSLY)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

5. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Tod Whitaker for Wright Square Cafe, A Restaurant at 21 W. York Street, Between Whitaker St. And Bull St. in District 2. No Concerns Noted by Police Department or Neighborhood Association. No Issues with Littering or Loitering at Location. Distance Measurement Met. (Existing Business/New Owner)

Speaker(s):

- **Michael Higgins – SUPPORTED but did not speak (speaker card)**

CLOSED HEARINGS for #5, #7 and #8.

(APPROVED #5 UNANIMOUSLY)

6. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) and Class A (Wine)(Caterer) Alcohol License to Robert Evangelista for Bellwether House, A Hotel at 211 E. Gaston St., Between Abercorn and Lincoln St. in District 2. No Concerns by Police or Issues with Littering or Loitering. Distance Measurement Met. (New Owner/Location) Request Continuance to 08/12 Meeting to Discuss Neighborhood Concerns.

(CONTINUED #6 to the August 12, 2021 Meeting)

7. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Daniel Bathon III for the Phoenix, a Restaurant at 1006 E. Broad St. Between E. Waldburg St. and E. Bolton St. in District 2. No Concerns by Savannah Police Department. Neighbor Agreement Signed by Neighborhood Association and Applicant. Distance Measurement Met. (New Owner/New Location)

No Speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #5, #7 and #8.

(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY)



8. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine)(By the Package) Alcohol License to Mark Johnson for Tru by Hilton Savannah Airport, a Hotel at 90 Stephen W. Green Dr. Between I-95 and Clyde Martin Dr. in District 1. No concerns by Savannah Police Department or Issues with Littering or Loitering at Location. No Active Neighborhood Association. Distance Measurement Met. (New Existing Business/New Request)

No Speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #5, #7 and #8.

(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Approval to Submit a Resolution Transmitting the Draft Chatham County – Savannah 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the Coastal Regional Commission and to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Plan provides a unified, long-term vision for Savannah and the unincorporated Chatham County in the topics of land use, housing, economic development, transportation, natural resources, and quality of life.

No Speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARING for #9.

(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, in draft form)

ZONING HEARINGS

10. Petition of Dana Braun (Agent) on behalf of 42/43 LLC (Owner) for a Special Use Permit to Allow Alcohol Sales by the Drink in Association with a Restaurant at 9 West 43rd Street (PIN 20074 24002), in the Starland Area in Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-002668-ZA). MPC recommends approval with conditions (Hours of Operations form 7am-10p.m and overflow parking area for a minimum of five spaces.

(CONTINUED #10 and #17 to the August 12, 2021 Meeting)

11. Petition of Krishan Gandhi on behalf of HOS Management (Property Owner/Petitioner) to Amend the Zoning Map for 815 Wheaton St (PIN 20033 12033) from IL (Light Industrial) to IL-T (Light Industrial-Transition). MPC



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recommends approval with conditions - No bar; tavern; nightclub; substance recovery; pawnshop; check cashing; title pawn; package store; adult-oriented businesses; private club/lodge.

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**

(CONTINUED #11 and #18 to the August 26, 2021 Meeting)

12. Petition of Harold Yellin (Agent) on behalf of Alice Keller (Owner) for a Map Amendment to Rezone Little Neck Road (PINs 21007 01001 and 21007 01002) from R-A-CO (Residential-Agricultural-County) to PD (Planned Development) MPC recommends approval with condition that the applicant enters into an agreement with Chatham County regarding issues related to stormwater, traffic, and canal access.

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**
- **Kerri Bieber – OPPOSED**
- **Travis Burke, engineer – SUPPORTED**
- **Harold Yellin, agent – SUPPORTED**

(CONTINUED #12 and #19 to the September 9, 2021 Meeting)

13. Petition of Bridget Lidy (Agent) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah for a Zoning Text Amendment to Sec. 7.11.14 of the Streetcar Historic Overlay District Pertaining to Density and Height Standards in TC-2 (Traditional Commercial-2) Zoning Districts for Parcels within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Montgomery Street Corridor between Anderson Lane and Victory Drive.

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**
- **Bridget Lidy, Urban Planning & Design Director**
- **Melanie Wilson, MPC Executive Director**

Written comment(s):

- **John R. Bennett, acting Chair of SDRA – SUPPORTED**
- **Jason Combs, VP of the Thomas Square Neighborhood Assoc. – SUPPORTED**

(REFERRED #13 and #20 to MPC for the development of a more detailed plan)



14. Petition of Bridget Lidy (Agent) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to Amend Section 7.10.4 Contributing Resources Map (of the Cuyler-Brownville Historic Overlay District) of the Zoning Ordinance to Include 90 buildings of historic and architectural significance that were not previously included. Both the MPC and the City sent letters of intent to property owners.

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**
- **Bridget Lidy, Urban Planning & Design Director**
- **Leah G. Michalak, MPC Historic Preservation**

CLOSED HEARING for #14. See #21.

15. Petition of Michael Garcia from LS3P Associates, Ltd. (Agent) on behalf of Brent Watts from Cabretta Capital (Owner) to Amend the Zoning Map for 315 W. 38th Street (PIN 20065 25001) from TN-2 (Traditional Neighborhood- 2) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1). MPC Recommends Approval. Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-002322-ZA)

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**
- **Kerri Bieber – OPPOSED**
- **Travis Burke, engineer – SUPPORTED**
- **Harold Yellin, agent – SUPPORTED**

Written comment(s):

- **Jason Combs, VP of the Thomas Square Neighborhood Assoc. – SUPPORTED**

CLOSED HEARING for #15. See #16.

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

16. Petition of Michael Garcia from LS3P Associates, Ltd. (Agent) on behalf of Brent Watts from Cabretta Capital (Owner) to Amend the Zoning Map for 315 W. 38th Street (PIN 20065 25001) from TN-2 (Traditional Neighborhood- 2) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1). MPC Recommends Approval. Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-002322-ZA) **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #16, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan voting no.)**



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17. Petition of Dana Braun (Agent) on behalf of 42/43 LLC (Owner) for a Special Use Permit to Allow Alcohol Sales by the Drink in Association with a Restaurant at 9 West 43rd Street (PIN 20074 24002), in the Starland Area in Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-002668-ZA). MPC recommends approval with conditions (Hours of Operations form 7am-10p.m and overflow parking area for a minimum of five spaces. **(CONTINUED #10 and #17 to the August 12, 2021 Meeting)**

18. Petition of Krishan Gandhi on behalf of HOS Management (Property Owner/Petitioner) to Amend the Zoning Map for 815 Wheaton St (PIN 20033 12033) from IL (Light Industrial) to IL-T (Light Industrial-Transition). MPC recommends approval with conditions - No bar; tavern; nightclub; substance recovery; pawnshop; check cashing; title pawn; package store; adult-oriented businesses; private club/lodge.
(CONTINUED #11 and #18 to the August 26, 2021 Meeting)

19. Petition of Harold Yellin (Agent) on behalf of Alice Keller (Owner) for a Map Amendment to Rezone Little Neck Road (PINs 21007 01001 and 21007 01002) from R-A-CO (Residential-Agricultural-County) to PD (Planned Development) MPC recommends approval with condition that the applicant enters into an agreement with Chatham County regarding issues related to stormwater, traffic, and canal access.
(CONTINUED #12 and #19 to the September 9, 2021 Meeting)

20. Petition of Bridget Lidy (Agent) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah for a Zoning Text Amendment to Sec. 7.11.14 of the Streetcar Historic Overlay District Pertaining to Density and Height Standards in TC-2 (Traditional Commercial-2) Zoning Districts for Parcels within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Montgomery Street Corridor between Anderson Lane and Victory Drive.
(REFERRED #13 and #20 to MPC for the development of a more detailed plan)

21. Petition of Bridget Lidy (Agent) on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to Amend Section 7.10.4 Contributing Resources Map (of the Cuyler-Brownville Historic Overlay District) of the Zoning Ordinance to Include 90 buildings of historic and architectural significance that were not previously included. Both the MPC and the City sent letters of intent to property owners.
(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY.)



ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

22. Approval to Amend the 2021 Revenue Ordinance, Adopt the 2021 Property Tax Millage Rate, and Adopt the Special Service District Tax Rate for the Water Transportation District. [Proposed millage rate of 12.739 mills is unchanged from the final rate for 2020]

Speaker(s):

- **Charles A. Feagain (Lives in District 2 on W. Perry Street) – OPPOSED**
- **Gene Robinson (not a City resident on Blackshell Road - notaxesnow@gmail.com) – OPPOSED**

(Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing closed.)

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

23. Approval to Amend Section 6-1214 of the Alcohol Ordinance Entitled, 'Consumption of Alcohol on City Streets', to Allow the Use of Aluminum Cups on Public Right of Way Within a Specified Boundary Area (See Narrative for Exact Boundaries). Current Ordinance Allows Paper and Plastic Cups Only; One-Per Person; Up to 16 Ounces. Recommend Approval. **(APPROVED #23, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voting no.)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Policy Management and Training System for the Savannah Police Department with LexiPol in the Amount of \$75,246. (Grant-funded; Provides a centralized digital platform for policies with faster updates in response to new state and federal legislation. Also includes online library of training courses and videos to enhance personnel safety). **(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)**

25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Renovations to the John S. Delaware Center, Located at 1815 Lincoln Street, to Johnson-Laux Construction (Local, DBE) in the Amount of \$1,059,162 (Facility is several decades old and in need of improvements. Project includes: installation of new windows, flooring,



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appliances and cabinets; painting; landscaping; and redesign of main entrance).
(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)

26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Sandblasting and Recoating Three Metal Clarifiers, Used to Remove Bio-Solids from Wastewater Through a Sedimentation Process at the President Street Plant, with E and D Coating, Inc. (Local) in the Amount of \$786,639 (Each clarifier holds 1.6 million gallons of water; Plant treats 18 million gallons daily; Work protects structural integrity).
(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)
27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Replacement Parts for the Belt Press Machine at the Crossroads Treatment Plant, to Ovivo in the Amount of \$42,079. Machine used to compact and dewater excess bio-solids from the waste stream. Allows dried transport of sludge. Longer lead times require staff maintain more on-hand part inventory to prevent equipment downtime and permit violations.
(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)
28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Ecosorb Odor Eliminator with OMI Industries in the Amount of \$70,000. The chemical neutralizes industrial odors at the President Street Plant, providing a more friendly environment for the surrounding neighborhoods. **(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)**
29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for the Upgrade of City Works, an Asset Management System used by Public Works Departments to Maintain Water Infrastructure, with Woolpert, Inc. in the Amount of \$75,397.50. Current version of system no longer supported by vendor. Requires upgrade to new version and re-integration with City's billing system. Cost covers both.
(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)
30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Final Close-Out Modification for the Highlands Fire Station, Located at 480 Highlands Boulevard, with Dabbs-Williams General Contractors in the Amount of \$153,959. Modification is needed to cover a net cost increase for additional upgrades, reimbursements, and cancellations necessary for project completion and closeout. [See narrative for itemized list]
(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)



31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for the Parking Access and Revenue Control System (PARCs) for Parking Services from Carolina Time & Aspis Parking in the Amount of \$117,440. System provides barrier gates and pay stations at all City garages, including management software. Modification is needed for additional networking and wiring to properly install system. **(APPROVED #24 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

32. Approval of a Contract with Danton Hydroblasting, LLC for the Runway 10-28 Paint Cleaning and Thermoplastic Sign Replacement Project in the Amount of \$67,066. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**
33. Approval to Procure Services from Allen Enterprises, Inc. for the Airfield Lighting Control and Monitoring System (ALCMS) Upgrade for an Amount Up To \$29,960. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**
34. Approval of Task Work Order No. 14 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for Planning, Design and Construction Phase Services for the North Baggage Carousel Replacement Project, for an Amount Up to \$61,953. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**
35. Approval of a Contract with Twist Aero, LLC for the Passenger Boarding Bridge Pre-Conditioned Air Unit Replacement Project in an Amount Up to \$580,030. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**
36. Approval to Execute a Contract with Johnson-Laux Construction, LLC for the Rental Car Facility Improvements Project, in an Amount Up to \$5,463,647. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**
37. Approval of Change Order No. 2 with Reeves Construction Company for the Site Clearing Areas T, U, V and Parking Improvements Project for an Amount Up to \$100,178. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**
38. Approval of Task Order No. 12 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for the Final Design and Construction Phase Services for the Security Checkpoint Expansion, for an Amount Up to \$841,498. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**



39. Approval of Task Work Order No. 13 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for Final Design Services for the Terminal Concourse Expansion Project, for an Amount Up to \$201,501. **(APPROVED #32 through #39 UNANIMOUSLY)**

RESOLUTIONS

40. Approval of a Resolution to Annually Adopt an Operating and Capital Budget, a Strategic Priorities Plan and Fiscal Capacity Analysis Plan Beginning in 2021 and Each Fiscal Year Thereafter. **(APPROVED #40 UNANIMOUSLY)**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

41. Settlement #1.

Mayor Pro-Tem Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve a personal injury claim involving Bryanne Jenkins in the amount of \$37,000.00, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

(APPROVED #41 UNANIMOUSLY)

MISCELLANEOUS

42. Approval to Add Granite Slab to Chatham Artillery Monument in Emmet Park (Located on the Eastern End of Bay Street) to Commemorate and Honor the Service of Men and Women Assigned to the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, Savannah, Georgia Army National Guard for Their Service in Afghanistan from 2018-2019. Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends approval with condition. **(APPROVED #42 UNANIMOUSLY)**

43. New Item: Appointment of the Savannah City Manager.

Mayor Johnson announced the upcoming departure of Michael Brown as Acting City Manager, effective July 30, 2021, pursuant to receipt of his resignation letter.

Mayor Johnson moved to appoint Heath Lloyd as Acting City Manager, effective July 30, 2021, at the same interim rate of \$20,000.00/month through September 10, 2021, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.



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Mayor Johnson moved to appoint Joseph “Jay” Melder as City Manager, starting September 10, 2021, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

Mayor Johnson advised his motion is contingent on the terms of employment being voted upon at the next City Council meeting and pursuant to a satisfactory background examination.

Lastly, Mayor Johnson thanked Mr. Melder and the entire City Council for their hard work during this process. He thanked the search firm of Developmental Associates and their representatives, Steve and Heather. He thanked the City Attorney for being intrinsically involved and helping the City Council to get to this point. And Mayor Johnson thanked the citizens who came and participated in the forums, and for their patience with the City Council during this process. Finally, he thanked Heath Lloyd whom they are counting on to help lead during the transition, and Michael Brown for being a consummate professional.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.