



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 4:02 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz to offer the invocation.

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 Jay Melder
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. City Manager's 90-Day Action Plan. (**PRESENTED** by City Manager Jay Melder)
2. Presentation of the Savannah Housing Action Plan. (**INTRODUCED** by Mayor Johnson, with a **PRESENTATION** by Brynn Grant and Israel Small, co-chairs of the Savannah Housing Task Force, and Martin Fretty, Housing & Neighborhood Services Director)

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Work Session at 6:01 p.m.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

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 Purtee to introduce Pastor Andre Kicklighter of Mount Herman Baptist Church in Coffee Bluff, 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:
City Manager Jay Melder
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for September 23, 2021. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, as amended to add the following):**
 - **Acknowledgement of a perpetual Proclamation designating the City of Savannah an International City of Peach; and,**
 - **A Resolution honoring the life of an employee, Mr. Harold Robinson, Jr.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing held on September 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3 and #4 UNANIMOUSLY)**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on September 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3 and #4 UNANIMOUSLY)**
4. Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting held on September 13, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3 and #4 UNANIMOUSLY)**

PRESENTATIONS

5. Appearance by SAFE Shelter Representatives to Receive a Proclamation Designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and received by Ms. Toni Marwitz, Chair)**
6. A Proclamation Recognizing September 15, 2021 - October 15, 2021 as Hispanic Heritage Month. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, and received by Hola Savannah Task Force members Myriam Baker, Pastor Samuel Rodriguez, Daniela Rodriguez, Alfonso Ribot, Elizabeth Galarza, Iris Sarria, and Daisy Figueroa)**
 - a. **Acknowledgement of a perpetual Proclamation designating the City of Savannah an International City of Peace. (PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson)**
 - b. **A Resolution honoring the life of Mr. Harold Robinson, Jr. (PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

7. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License to Seshu Kotcherlakota for The Hideaway Cafe, a Cafe at 105 Tibet Avenue, Between Abercorn Street and LaBrea Boulevard in District 6. No Concerns by Police or Issues with Littering or Loitering. Distance Measurement Met. (Existing Business/New Request) (Continued from September 9, 2021)
No speaker(s).
CLOSED HEARINGS for #7 and #8.
(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY)



8. Approval of a Class C (Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Margurite Seckman for Superbloom, A Coffee Shop at 2418 Desoto Ave., Between W. 40th St. and W. 41st St. in District 2. No Concerns by Police or Issues with Littering or Loitering. Distance Measurement Met. (Existing Business/New Request)

Speaker(s) present:

- **Marguerite Seckman – SUPPORTED**

CLOSED HEARINGS for #7 and #8.

(APPROVED #8, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no)

Written comment(s) received by:

- **Marguerite Seckman – provided 15 letters of SUPPORT**

ZONING HEARINGS

9. Petition of Phillip R. McCorkle from McCorkle, Johnson & McCoy, LLP (Petitioner) on Behalf of Whitaker @ Charlton Lane, LLC (Owner) for a Special Use Permit with Conditions to Have a Restaurant at 348 Whitaker Street (PIN 20032 05001). Aldermanic District 2. File No. 21-002772-ZA (Public Hearing Closed on August 26, 2021) [Continued from September 9, 2021 by Petitioner]

Mayor Johnson advised the hearing was closed at the previous meeting.

(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, as conditioned upon the signed September 17, 2021 good neighborhood agreement)

10. Petition of Nathan Pollard on Behalf of Linda B. Morgan and Charles D. Broometo to Amend the Zoning Map with Conditions for 1103 East 69th Street (PIN 20114 19002) from RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6) to O-I (Office Institutional) (File No. 21-003122-ZA). Aldermanic District 3. (Continued from September 9, 2021)

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative**
- **Nathan Pollard, architect representing petitioner – SUPPORTED**
- **Richard Mackin – OPPOSED**

CLOSED HEARING for #10.

(POSTPONED/CONTINUED #10 to the October 14, 2021 City Council Meeting)



ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

11. Petition of Nathan Pollard on Behalf of Linda B. Morgan and Charles D. Broometo to Amend the Zoning Map with Conditions for 1103 East 69th Street (PIN 20114 19002) from RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6) to O-I (Office Institutional) (File No. 21-003122-ZA). Aldermanic District 3. (Public Hearing Held on August 12, 2021 and Item Continued from September 9, 2021). **(HEARD #11 for First Reading Only, as requested by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan)**

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

12. Approval for the Annexation of 5.019 Acres Located off Ogeechee Road near Canebrake Road. Property has been Developed as a Tractor Supply Company Store (Opened in July 202). **(APPROVED #12 and #13 UNANIMOUSLY)**
13. Approval to Amend the Zoning Map for 6078 Ogeechee Road (PIN 11029 05004) Owned by F & A of Savannah, LLC from B-N (Neighborhood Business) to B-N-CO (Neighborhood Business-County) to Support Annexation (File No. 21-004509-ZA) (Tractor Supply Company Store; Opened in July 2021). **(APPROVED #12 and #13 UNANIMOUSLY)**
14. Petition of Bob Isaacson (Agent) on Behalf of Savannah Core (Owner) to Amend the Zoning Map for 527 E. 39th Street (PIN 20075 05010) from TN-2 (Traditional Neighborhood-2) to East Broad Market Lofts Planned Unit Development (PUD). Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-002411-ZA) **(APPROVED #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY)**
15. Petition of Bob Isaacson (Agent) on Behalf of Savannah Core (Owner) to Amend East Broad Market Lofts Planned Unit Development (PUD) to Include 527 E. 39th Street (PIN 20075 05010) with a Special Use Permit Condition for All Uses Except Residential. Located in Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-002377-ZA) **(APPROVED #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY)**



PURCHASING ITEMS

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Consulting Services for an Impact Fee Program with Ross + Associates in the Amount of \$92,800. Services will Include: Preparation of an Impact Fee Methodology Report, Capital Improvements Element, Final Impact Fee Schedule and Ordinance for Council Approval, Assistance with Program Implementation, etc. (Approx. 10 Months). **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**

17. Notification of an Emergency Procurement for the Repair of a Fire Truck with Williams Fire Apparatus in the Amount of \$41,663. Fire Pumper Unit # 4518 Incurred Extensive Damage Due to an Accident. To Avoid Service Disruption, Immediate Repair is Necessary. **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**

18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Fuel Monitoring System with MECO of Savannah, Inc. (Local) in the Amount of \$38,157. System will Serve Approx. 38 Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles Dispatching from the Interim Sanitation Headquarters at 1809 West Highway 80. Facility will be Used by Various Departments During the Design and Construction of the Permanent Facility on Dean Forest Road. **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**

19. Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Payment to S2K Consulting in the Amount of \$75,569.93 for Completion of an Organization-wide Telecom Audit. Company Performed a Comprehensive Audit of the City's Telecommunications Billing Structure to Identify Services No Longer Needed. An Estimated Annual Savings of \$203,350 was Identified. **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**

20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Other Post Employee Benefits with United Healthcare in the Amount of \$1,379,297. Contract will be Used by the Human Resources Department to Provide Group Medicare Advantage Plan with Part D Coverage for Retirees (65 and Older) and Spouses Who are Medicare Primary. Annual Cost is for Approximately 775 Covered Individuals. **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for East Bay Street Stair Repairs with E & D Contracting Services, Inc. (Local,DBE) in the Amount of \$65,540. Contract will be Used to Repair Factors Walk Wall Stairwell Near 316 East Bay Street in Emmet Park. Stairwell has been Closed to the Public Since February 2020. **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for Grounds Maintenance for Public Rights of Way with Samjay Services (Local) in the Amount of \$85,000. Contract is Used to Maintain Grounds on Approximately 70 Miles of Medians and Street Rights of Ways (i.e. Abercorn St., White Bluff Rd., Middleground Rd., W. Bay Street, Derenne Avenue and Ogeechee Road). **(APPROVED #22 UNANIMOUSLY)**
23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Installation of the Foundation and Substructure along with the Assembly of the Pedestrian Bridge at the Enmarket Arena with Johnson-Laux (Local, DBE) in the Amount of \$749,931. The Enmarket Arena is Expected to Open in 2022. (Cost Included in Project Budget, SPLOST VI Funds) **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Two Electric Forklifts & Charging Stations (Internal Use) at the Enmarket Arena with Thompson Lift Truck in the Amount of \$70,188. Equipment will be Used for Heavy Equipment and Materials. Due to Supply Chain Shortages, Expediting Purchase will Ensure Equipment is in Place for Arena Opening. (Cost Included in Project Budget) **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Removal of Diesel and Gasoline Fuel Pumps and Tanks (Including Potential Remediation) at the Old City Lot with Central Industries, Inc. in an Amount not to Exceed \$80,000. Equipment is no Longer Needed at this Location Since Departments Have Relocated Operations to the New Floyd Adams Jr. Complex. (Cost Included in Project Budget) **(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for The Purchase and Installation of a Portable Basketball Floor System at the New Enmarket Arena with



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Connor Sports in the Amount of \$165,612. (Cost Included in Project Budget)
(APPROVED #16 through #21, and #23 through #26 UNANIMOUSLY)

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

27. Appointment of City Manager Jay Melder to Serve on the Following Boards in his Official Capacity: Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC); Pension Board; Visit Savannah; and Savannah Resource Recovery Development Authority.
(APPROVED #27 UNANIMOUSLY)

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

28. Settlement #1.
Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney to settle a worker's compensation claim/matter of John "Corey" Polite, a former employee, in the amount of \$40,000.00. Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
(APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Johnson issued the City's sincere condolences on the passing of former Georgia State Representative Anne Mueller who was 91 years old. Alderman Purtee offered prayers and condolences to her family in recognition of her service on the Southside, where her legacy will live on. The Forest River Bridge is named after her.

Alderman Leggett offered condolences on behalf of City Council to Sara Williams, a member of the Clerk's office, and her family who lost her mother in the last couple of days. She also lost her father recently. Mayor Johnson asked the Clerk of Council to extend condolences on behalf of the City Council.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely offered condolences to the family of Sheila Smalls. She thanked the City Manager for meeting with them to discuss the agenda.



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Aldерwoman Lanier advised the public of activities they will see around the Arena. Work will begin on the bridge which is going to connect to the parking lot, and it will extend across the Springfield Canal. Also, on today's agenda was a purchase of two forklifts which will extend the City's work and movement toward a clean, green, carbon-neutral and sustainable energy. Lastly, clearing and burning of trees for parking will be happening, so do not be alarmed. The Fire Department will be managing it.

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan stated they are still doing free vaccinations on the corner of Pennsylvania and Gwinnett. She encouraged employees from the City, CAT and the Board of Education to go, since there was still about thirty more minutes left. Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan advised she is wearing a shirt due to an incident which happened on May 5, 2017 involving Clarence Fleming and Desmond Lanier who were ambushed and shot down in the third district. This is a cold case, so she encouraged anyone who may have information or have seen something to say something.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz announced a continuation of events on Saturday, October 30th and Sunday, October 31st, with Ms. Shameka Simmons. The 5th District is having a Fall Festival on Sunday in the parking lot of End Time Commission Church across the street from the Liberty City Community Center, and a call-to-action to cleanup the Fifth District on Saturday. She asked everyone to save-the-date since more information will be coming in October, but there will be vaccinations, flu-shots, get-out-the-vote activities, environmental justice information, and activities for young people through the Fire and Police departments, as well as "Trunk-or-Treat."

Aldерman Purtee announced, in conjunction with Aldерman Palumbo, they will be hosting a joint Town Hall meeting on September 30th at 6pm until 7:30pm via Zoom. Also, on September 24th they will both be honored by Georgia Southern University for the 40 Under 40 award and celebration.

Aldерwoman Miller Blakely announced the vigil for SAFE Shelter is on October 1st but is there a time. Mayor Johnson replied at 6pm by the fountain at Forsyth Park. She reminded citizens of an upcoming election for House Seat 165. If they are not registered to vote, she asked them to go to the Voter Registration office



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

on Eisenhower Drive to avoid any issues. Get registered and make sure you vote. COVID is real, make sure you protect yourself, sanitize, wear your mask.

Mayor Johnson asked everyone to get vaccinated. He asked to lift-up the names of Angela Sistrunk and Dr. Frederico Foster, educators who passed away due to COVID. Ms. Sistrunk came out of retirement to help out and Mr. Foster was a 40-year-old, band director.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.