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## **Work Session and City Manager's Briefing**

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Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 12:00 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Linda Wilder-Bryan to offer the 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 Jay Melder  
City Attorney Bates Lovett  
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Fairgrounds Development Project Update. (**PRESENTED by City Manager Jay Melder**)

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Work Session at 12:30 p.m.



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## **Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen**

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Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:00 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson introduced Senior Pastor Da'Henri R. Thurmond Sr. of St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**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 Jay Melder  
City Attorney Bates Lovett  
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for October 14, 2021. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY)**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing held on September 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY)**
3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on September 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY)**



## ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

4. Amend the 2021 City Council Regular Meeting Schedule to Accommodate the November and December Holidays: Thereby Changing the November 11 Meeting to Tuesday, November 9 at 2:00 p.m.; Changing the November 25 Meeting to Tuesday, November 23 at 2:00 p.m.; and Changing the December 23 Meeting to Tuesday, December 21 at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY)**

## PRESENTATIONS

5. A Proclamation Recognizing St. Paul CME's 150th Church Anniversary. The Church is located at 1601 Barnard Street. **(READ into the record and PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Senior Pastor Da'Henri R. Thurmond, Sr.)**
6. An Appearance by Savannah State University President, Kimberly Ballard-Washington, Student Government Association President, Dhruvi Shah, Mister Savannah State, Christian Hill, and Miss Savannah State Ottoria Foremen to Recognize Homecoming 2021. **(READ into the record and PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Savannah State University President Kimberly Ballard-Washington, SGA Vice President Miss Anastasia Stephens, and Homecoming Committee Chair Mr. Moncello Stewart and Co-Chair Ms. Trenace Johnson. This item was heard following agenda item #7.)**
7. A Proclamation Recognizing October 11, 2021, and Every Succeeding 2nd Monday of October Thereafter as Indigenous Peoples Day in Savannah, GA. **(READ into the record by Mayor Johnson. This item was heard following agenda item #46.)**

## ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

8. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License to Arthur Rudy Gaskin for Frosty Frog Express, a Bar/Lounge at 224 W. Factors Walk, Between Barnard St. Ramp and Montgomery St. in Aldermanic District 2. No concerns noted by the neighborhood association or the Savannah Police Department. The applicant plans to operate a bar/lounge. (New Owner/New Location)



**No speaker(s) present.**  
**The Mayor closed the hearing for #8.**  
**(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY)**

9. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Donald McGraw for McGraws, A Restaurant at 14 N. Abercorn St. Ramp, Between E. River St. and E. Bay St. in Aldermanic District 2. No concerns noted by the neighborhood association or the Savannah Police Department. Distance Measurement Met. (New Owner/ Request)

**No speaker(s) present.**  
**CLOSED HEARINGS for #9, #11, #12 and #13.**  
**(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY)**

10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Mary Githens for Mint to be Mojito Bar & Bites, A Restaurant at 12 W. State St., Between Whitaker St. and Bull St. in Aldermanic District 2. No concerns noted by the neighborhood association or the Savannah Police Department. (Existing Business/New Owner).

**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Mary Githens – applicant**
- **Quentin Marlin – representing applicant**
- **Ian Phillips – applicant’s employee**

**The Mayor closed the hearing for #10.**  
**(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY)**

11. Approval of a Class E (Wine)(By the Package) Alcohol License to Carol Sellers for Salt Table, A Package Store at 190 W. Bryan St., Between Barnard St. and Whitaker St. in District 2. No concerns noted by the neighborhood association or the Savannah Police Department. Distance measurement met. (New Location/Existing Owner)

**No speaker(s) present.**  
**CLOSED HEARINGS for #9, #11, #12 and #13.**  
**(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY)**

12. Approval of a Class C (Beer)(By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Edilma A. Martin Lopez for LaFonda, a Restaurant at 310 E. Montgomery Cross Roads, Between Bruce Ave. and Aegean Ave. in District 4. No concerns by the Savannah Police Department or issues with littering or loitering. No active



neighborhood association in the area. Distance measurement met. (New Owner/New Location).

**No speaker(s) present.**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #9, #11, #12 and #13.**

**(APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY)**

13. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine)(By the Package) Alcohol License to Dharmeshkumar Patel for Frank's Corner, a Convenience Store at 3701 Bull St., Between West 54th St. and West 55th St in Aldermanic District 5. No concerns noted by the neighborhood association or the Savannah Police Department. Distance measurement met. (Existing Business/New Owner)

**No speaker(s) present.**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #9, #11, #12 and #13.**

**(APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY)**

## **ZONING HEARINGS**

14. 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 W. 43rd Street (PIN 20074 24002) in the Starland Area, Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-002668-ZA). MPC Recommends Approval w/Condition [Hours 7am to 10pm]

**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative**
- **Dana Braun, representing applicant**
- **Anne Smith, architect**
- **Maria Laprea, applicant**

**CLOSED HEARING for #14 UNANIMOUSLY.**

**(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY, conditioned upon the hours of operation being 7am to 10pm and the permit being nontransferable)**

15. Petition of Jeremy Hammonds for Underdog Brewing on Behalf of J. Scott Vaughn for a Special Use Permit to Operate a Microbrewery at 120 E. 42nd Street (PIN 20074 10009)(PIN 20074 24002) in the Starland Area, Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 21-004011-ZA).

**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative**



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- **Jeremy Hammonds, applicant (brewery expert)**
- **Terry Bailey, representing applicant**

**CLOSED HEARING for #15 UNANIMOUSLY.**

**(APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, condition upon the hours of operation being 7am to 10pm and the permit being nontransferable)**

16. Zoning of 6098 Ogeechee Road (PIN 11029 05014) Owned by Thankful Baptist Church, Inc. from RA (Residential Agriculture) to RA-CO (Residential Agriculture-County) to Support Annexation (File No. 21-005068-ZA).

**No speaker(s) present.**

**CLOSED HEARING for #16 UNANIMOUSLY.**

17. Petition of Harold Yellin (Agent) on Behalf of Alice Keller (Owner) for a Map Amendment to Rezone Little Neck Road (Parcel ID# 21007 01001 and 21007 01002) from R-A-CO (Residential-Agricultural-County) to PD (Planned Development). File No. 20-005235-ZA. (Hopeton Landing Master Plan).

**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Bridget Lidy, Planning & Urban Design Director**
- **Harold Yellin, representing applicant**

**HEARINGS for #17 previously held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Written comments received for #17:**

- **Joseph Darieng – OPPOSED**
- **Diane B. Brannen – OPPOSED**
- **Damon Mullis – OPPOSED**
- **Ben Darieng – OPPOSED**
- **Joni Darieng – OPPOSED**
- **Kerrie Bieber – OPPOSED**
- **Mike Mayhew - OPPOSED**

**ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING**

18. Petition of Harold Yellin (Agent) on Behalf of Alice Keller (Owner) for a Map Amendment to Rezone Little Neck Road (Parcel ID# 21007 01001 and 21007



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01002) from R-A-CO (Residential-Agricultural-County) to PD (Planned Development). (Hopeton Landing Master Plan) File No. 20-005235-ZA. **(FIRST READING HEARD ONLY for #18, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely opposed to the second reading.)**

**ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

19. Approval for the Annexation of 14.585 Acres Located off Ogeechee Road Near Canebrake Road. The Property is currently vacant and no current development is planned. **(FIRST READING HEARD ONLY for #19)**
20. Zoning of 6098 Ogeechee Road (PIN 11029 05014) Owned by Thankful Baptist Church, Inc. from R-A (Residential Agriculture) to R-A-CO (Residential Agriculture-CO) to Support Annexation (File No. 21-005068-ZA). **(FIRST READING HEARD ONLY for #20)**

**ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

21. 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.
- Speaker(s) present:**
- **Richard Mackin – OPPOSED (had trouble connecting via zoom) (APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY, conditioned upon the hours of operation being 7am to 7pm)**
- Written comments received for #21:**
- **Richard Mackin - OPPOSED**

**PURCHASING ITEMS**

22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for the New Hudson Hill Community Center Building (20%DBE /10%LDBE Goal) to Paul S. Akins Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$2,774,827. This Amount Reflects Vendor's



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Original Bid Less Exclusions Necessary to Value Engineer the Project to Meet the Approved Budget. (Expected Completion in Ten Months). **(APPROVED #22 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Tonia Miller, representing Hudson Hill Neighborhood**

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Final Contract Modification for Heavy Equipment Rental and Labor (Dump Trucks, Dozers, Excavators, and Roll-Off Trucks) with Savannah River Utilities (Local) for up to \$420,000. Contract Primarily Used by Sanitation at the Dean Forest Road Landfill When City-Owned Equipment is Down for Repair to Remain Compliant with the Environmental Protection Division. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for the Engineering Agreement with Thomas & Hutton for the Jimmy Deloach Connector 48-Inch Water Main Relocation in the Amount of \$325,600. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**

25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Information Technology (IT) Services and Equipment from Layer 3 Communications, LLC (Local) in the amount of \$249,545. Services and Equipment will be Used to Upgrade the City's Fiber Optic Cabling, Improving Ethernet Speeds at City Facilities. **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**

26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Temporary Staffing Services for the Information Technology Department with Robert Half International, Inc. in the Amount of \$170,000. Services Will be Used to Provide Technical Knowledge and Skill in Specialized Computer Applications for City Staff ~~Through the Remainder of the~~ For a FULL Year to Allow the Department an Opportunity to Fill Vacant Positions. **(APPROVED #26 UNANIMOUSLY)**

27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Arboricultural Consultancy & Reporting Services with Davey Resource Group, Inc. in an Amount up to \$90,000. Services Shall Include Tree Inspections, Tree Risk Assessments, Tree and Landscape Appraisals, Qualified Arborist Reports, Expert Witness Services & Tree Inventories on an as-Needed Basis for Trees Located on Public and Private



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Properties. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**

28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Four Replacement Bar Screens with WSG & Solutions, Inc. in the Amount of \$53,030. Bar Screens Used To Remove Debris From Incoming Stormwater at the DeRenne Pump Station, Allowing Proper Water Flow Through the Conveyance Process. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**
29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for Overhead Door Maintenance and Repair for the Fire Department with Action Overhead Door & Supply for up to \$25,000. Contract is Used to Maintain and Repair Overhead and Bay Doors at Fire Stations. This Modification is Necessary to Continue Quarterly Inspections, Preventative Maintenance and Emergency Repairs. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**
30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification For One-Ton Chlorine Cylinders With JCI Jones Chemicals in the Amount of \$18,180. The Chlorine Disinfects Over 13 Billion Gallons Of Water and Waste Water Annually. This Modification is Due to the Increase in Cost of Raw Material. **(APPROVED #30 UNANIMOUSLY)**
31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Engineering and Design Services for Additions to the City Lot Bulkhead with Hussey Gay Bell (Local) in the Amount of \$80,000. Services are Needed for Bulkhead Wall Additions, to Provide Improved Drainage for the Outfall and to Lay the Groundwork for Future Drainage Improvements into the Carver Village Neighborhood. **(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY)**
32. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Portable Staging and Barricades for the Enmarket Arena with StageRight in the Amount of \$181,709. The Stage will Include Guardrails, Drapery, Barricades and an Access Ramp. Expenditure Included in Project Budget. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**
33. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Point-of-Sale Equipment with Appetize Technologies, Inc. at the Enmarket Arena in the Amount of \$170,000.



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Equipment will be Used to Allow Credit/Debit Card and Cash Transactions, Inventory Tracking, Transaction Security, Transaction Efficiency and Reporting. Expenditure Included in Project Budget. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**

34. Notification of an Emergency Procurement for Two Engine Replacements for Marine 1, Savannah Fire Rescue's Multi-Purpose Fire Boat, with Donnelly Yachts in the Amount of \$186,730. Mechanical Issues Were Discovered That Were Caused In-Part by an Extended Period of Down Time. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #27, #28, #29, #32, #33 and #34 UNANIMOUSLY)**

35. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Interior Painting Services for the former Development Services Building at 5515 Abercorn St. with E&D Coatings (Local) in the Amount of \$37,800. Services are Needed to Prepare the Space for the Relocation of Staff Currently Working in the Savannah Morning News Building by the End of this Year. **(APPROVED #35 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION**

36. Approval of a One-Year Extension with Hancock Askew & Co., LLP, for the Audit of the 2021 Financials and Preparation of the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, in the amount of \$53,125. **(APPROVED #36, #37 and #38 UNANIMOUSLY)**

37. Recommend Approval to Renew the Diio Software Subscription with Reed Business Information for Two Years, in the Amount of \$63,950. **(APPROVED #36, #37 and #38 UNANIMOUSLY)**

38. Recommend Approval to Renew the Paychex Service Subscription for Two Years, in the Amount of \$153,750. **(APPROVED #36, #37 and #38 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**RESOLUTIONS**

39. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Aldermen to Adopt the City of Savannah Plan 2040 Comprehensive Plan that Provides a Unified, Long-Term Vision for Savannah and Unincorporated Chatham County in the Areas of Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources and



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Quality of Life. **(APPROVED #39, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voting no.)**

40. Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the Housing Savannah Action Plan. **(APPROVED #40, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voting no. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was not present.)**

### **AGREEMENTS**

41. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with Bobby Chu, LLC for Natalie's Place, a Development Consisting of 25 Single-Family Homes on Clayton Street and Betz Creek Road on Wilmington Island. **(APPROVED #41, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was not present.)**
42. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with D.R. Horton Homes, Inc. for The Pines at New Hampstead Phase 1. Development Consists of 61 Single-Family Homes and is Located on Highgate Boulevard. **(APPROVED #42, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voting no. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was not present.)**

### **CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**

43. Approval of a Resolution Ratifying the Mayor's September 24th Emergency Order Requiring Masks or Facial Coverings Within the City to Slow the Spread of COVID-19. **(APPROVED #43 UNANIMOUSLY)**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

44. Approval of the Naming of an Unnamed Park Located at Atlantic Avenue and East 66th Street in Aldermanic District 4 as "Ridgewood Park". The Historic Site and Monument Commission Recommends Approval. **(APPROVED #44, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier being not present.)**



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45. Approval of an Honorary Street Designation for "LT. White Avenue" Located Along Bouhan Avenue Between Wheaton Street and Reid Court to Commemorate Lieutenant John White as the Last Remaining Survivor of "The Original Nine", Who were the First African-Americans to Serve in the Savannah Police Department. Aldermanic District 3. **(APPROVED #45 UNANIMOUSLY)**
46. ADDED ITEM: A Proclamation Designating October as National Planning Month. **(READ into the record and PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Metropolitan Planning Commission Executive Director Melanie Wilson and Pamela Everett. This item was heard following agenda item #5.)**

**Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.**