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

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Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the work session of the City Council was held at 4:01 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson recognized Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier to offer the invocation.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding  
Aldерwoman Keshа Gibson-Carter, Post 1, Chairman  
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2  
Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1  
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2  
Aldерwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3  
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice Chairman  
Aldерwoman 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. Presentation of the Racial, Equity and Leadership (REAL) Task Force Final Report. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, along with the Chair of the Savannah Racial Equity and Leadership Task Force and former Mayor Otis Johnson, Attorney, author and social critic Dr. Lloyd Johnson, Executive Director of Step Up Savannah Alicia M. Johnson, Founder of Bluknowledge LLC Dr. Erika D. Tate, a representative of Savannah State Shykeria Edwards, REACH representative Armand Turner, Healthy Savannah representative Tiffany Pertillar, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Savannah Earline Davis, and Executive Director of Coastal GA Indicators Coalition Lizann Roberts)**

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Work Session at 6:03 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 6:30 p.m., via Zoom video communications. Mayor Johnson recognized Aldерwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter to introduce Reverend Dr. Stephen Williams, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church and co-president of JUST, an interfaith, interracial coalition advocating for justice issues in Savannah, who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding  
Aldерwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, Post 1, Chairman  
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2  
Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1  
Aldерman Detric Leggett, District 2  
Aldерwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3  
Aldерman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice Chairman  
Aldерwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Aldерman 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 28, 2021. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, as amended to add-on agenda item #36, a Resolution honoring former employee Mr. Lindsay Bostick)**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing held on October 14, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY)**



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3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on October 14, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**PRESENTATIONS**

4. An Appearance by the Veteran's Council of Chatham County to Announce the Veteran of the Year 2021-2022 and 2021 Parade Grand Marshall. **(ACKNOWLEDGED by Mayor Johnson. He recognized Chatham County Veterans Council Chairman Mr. Joe Higgins who announced the 2021 Veterans Parade Grand Marshal Jim Grismer and 2021 Veteran of the Year Mr. O.C. Fowler. Also present were American Legion Post 135 Commander Sam Currie, and past Veterans of the Year Rich Noel and Jim Bay)**
5. An Appearance by Patrick Kelsey, Executive Director of the Arts and Culture Alliance of Chatham County to Receive a Proclamation Designating October as National Arts and Humanities Month. **(READ by Mayor Johnson and PRESENTED to Mr. Patrick Kelsey)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

6. Second Public Hearing to Receive Comments Concerning the City's 2022 One-Year Action Plan. The plan serves as the blueprint for how the City will use Federal entitlement funds and other resources to address the needs of low and moderate income persons and to improve housing, economic and other conditions within predominantly low-income neighborhoods.  
**Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing open.**  
**No speaker(s) were present.**  
**(CLOSED HEARING for #6 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**ZONING HEARINGS**

7. Petition of Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) to Amend the Zoning Map for 1811 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (PIN 20066 24003) from TR-1 (Traditional Residential-1) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1). Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 21-004867-ZA). The Metropolitan Planning Commission recommends approval.  
**Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #7.**



**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative**
- **Ryan Avary, representing the applicant**

**(CLOSED HEARING for #7 UNANIMOUSLY)**

8. Petition of Harold Yellin for America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia (Owner PHRM Holdings, LLC) to Amend the Zoning Map for 1380 Chatham Parkway (PIN 20834 01021) from B-C (Community Business) to IL-T (Light Industrial-Transition). Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 21-004875-ZA). The Metropolitan Planning Commission recommends approval.

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #8.**

**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative**
- **Josh Yellin, representing applicant**
- **Mary Crouch - SUPPORTED**

**(CLOSED HEARING for #8 UNANIMOUSLY)**

9. Petition of Harold Yellin for Vista Realty Partners (Owner PHRM Holdings, LLC) to Amend the Zoning Map for 1000 Chatham Center Drive (PIN 20739 01013) from B-C (Community Business) to RMF-2-25 (Residential Multi Family-2-25 Dwelling Units Per Acre). Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 21-004876-ZA).

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #9.**

**Speaker(s) present:**

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative**
- **Harold Yellin, representing applicant**
- **J. Patrick Connell – OPPOSED**
- **Michael Neyhurt – SUPPORTED**
- **Natalie de Guardiola – SUPPORTED**

**Written comment(s) received:**

- **J. Patrick Connell – OPPOSED**

**(CLOSED HEARING for #9 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING**



10. Petition of Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) to Amend the Zoning Map for 1811 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (PIN 20066 24003) from TR-1 (Traditional Residential-1) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1). Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 21-004867-ZA). The Metropolitan Planning Commission recommends approval. **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY)**
  
11. Petition of Harold Yellin for America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia (Owner PHRM Holdings, LLC) to Amend the Zoning Map for 1380 Chatham Parkway (PIN 20834 01021) from B-C (Community Business) to IL-T (Light Industrial-Transition). Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 21-004875-ZA). The Metropolitan Planning Commission recommends approval. **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY)**
  
12. Petition of Harold Yellin for Vista Realty Partners (Owner PHRM Holdings, LLC) to Amend the Zoning Map for 1000 Chatham Center Drive (PIN 20739 01013) from B-C (Community Business) to RMF-2-25 (Residential Multi-Family-2-25 Dwelling Units Per Acre). Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 21-004876-ZA). The Metropolitan Planning Commission recommends approval. **(FIRST READING HEARD ONLY for #12, as requested by Alderwoman Lanier)**

#### **ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

13. 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. (This item is associated with the zoning of 6098 Ogeechee Road for Thankful Baptist Church) **(APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY)**
  
14. 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). **(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY)**
  
15. 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). File No. 20-005235-ZA. (Hopeton Landing Master Plan). The Metropolitan Planning Commission recommends approval with conditions. (See narrative for conditions) **(APPROVED #15, 5-4-0, with Mayor Johnson, Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo, and Alderman Purtee voting yea. Mayor Pro-Tem Shabazz, Alderwoman Gibson-Cater, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voted no.)**

**Written comment(s) received:**

- **Kerrie Bieber - OPPOSED**

**PURCHASING ITEMS**

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with P3 Venture Group for the Development of the Fairgrounds Property, Located at 4701 Meding Street. **(APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**Written comment(s) received:**

- **Reverend Dr. Betty M. Jones, representing Feiler Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.**

17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for up to \$100,000 for Lot Clearing Services for the Remainder of 2021 and a Contract Renewal for up to \$350,000 for 2022 with Beers Housing, Inc. This contract is used when property owners fail to respond to notices of violations. Lot clearing includes mowing and cutting of vegetative growth. 20% DBE goal, including 10% LDBE. **(APPROVED #17, 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no.)**

18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Smallwares with Bargreen Ellingson in the Amount of \$270,571. The Smallwares will be used in the Enmarket Arena for food preparation and service. Items include utensils, ovens, food storage containers, cutting boards, cleaning equipment, and beverage dispensers. Expenditure included in project budget. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**



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19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Amendment with Arnge Consulting LLC for Water, Sewer, and Capital Project Management Services in an Amount Not to Exceed \$175,000. Contract will be used to continue project management services through the end of the Arena development and to allow for continued water and sewer planning services. Expenditure included in Project Budget. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Security Equipment to Include 19 Walk-Through Metal Detectors and 19 Handheld Metal Detectors for the Enmarket Arena from CEIA USA in the Amount of \$72,389. Expenditure included in Project Budget. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for Recycled Crushed Aggregate Stone with Savannah River Utilities (Local) for up to \$60,000. This contract is used to procure recycled crushed aggregate stone (i.e., stone, concrete, asphalt). Material is used to provide traction for vehicles driving into the landfill for the Sanitation Department. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for Improvements to the "MySavannah" Site with Robert Half/Protiviti (Local) in the Amount of \$4,390 (Event No. 8036). "MySavannah" is a technology solution used for internal team collaboration and communication for City employees. It offers 24/7 access and provides the city with the most flexible and responsive workforce possible. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Self-Funded Health Plan Third Party Administration Services with Health Plans, Inc. in the Amount of \$310,935. The Human Resources uses this contract is to provide self-funded health plan third-party administration (TPA) for medical claims processing, COBRA administration and various plan administration services. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Voluntary Employee Accident Insurance with Hartford Financial Services, Inc. at No Cost to the City. The Human Resources Department offers eligible employees and dependents



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access to voluntary accident insurance coverage. The estimated premium is paid 100% by those members who are enrolled in the insurance coverage. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**

25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Voluntary Cancer Insurance Coverage with TransAmerica Corporation at No Cost to the City. The Human Resources Department offers eligible employees and dependents access to voluntary cancer insurance coverage. The estimated premium is paid 100% by those members who are enrolled in this insurance coverage plan. **(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Voluntary Employee Critical Illness Insurance with Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. at No Cost to the City. The Human Resources Department offers eligible employees and dependents access to voluntary critical illness insurance coverage. The estimated premium is to be paid by those members who are enrolled in the insurance coverage. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Employee Dental Insurance with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at No Cost to the City. The Human Resources Department offers eligible employees, retirees and family members access to voluntary dental insurance coverage. The estimated premium is to be paid 100% by those members who are enrolled in the insurance coverage. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Employee Short-Term Disability Benefits with Lincoln Financial Group at No Cost to the City. The Human Resources Department offers eligible employees and dependents access to voluntary short-term disability insurance coverage. The estimated premium is paid 100% by members who are enrolled in the insurance coverage. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**
29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Voluntary Employee Vision Insurance with National Vision Administration at No Cost to the City. The Human Resources Department offers eligible employees and dependents access to voluntary vision insurance coverage. The estimated premium is to be paid 100%



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by those members who are enrolled in the insurance coverage. **(APPROVED #18 through #29 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**RESOLUTIONS**

30. Approval of a Resolution Adopting the City's 2022 One-Year Action Plan. The plan serves as the blueprint for how the City of Savannah will use Federal entitlement funds and other resources to address the needs of low and moderate income persons and to improve housing, economic and other conditions within predominantly low-income neighborhoods. **(APPROVED #30 UNANIMOUSLY)**
31. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of the FY2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Application. The grant is in the amount of \$788,095 to implement a CoC supportive housing program known as City 54, which provides \$40,219 in administrative expenses and \$747,876 for tenant-based rental subsidies and supportive services. **(APPROVED #31 and #32 UNANIMOUSLY, as recommended by the City Manager)**
32. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept Reimbursement Funds from the Environmental Protection Division in the Amount of \$231,145. Reimbursement is for costs associated with the remediation of the Deptford Tract Site. **(APPROVED #31 and #32 UNANIMOUSLY, as recommended by the City Manager)**
33. Approval of a Resolution Designating Juneteenth Celebrated on June 19th, as a Paid City Holiday Beginning in 2022. Juneteenth marks the oldest African American holiday observance in the U.S. and commemorates the beginning of the emancipation of enslaved Americans. **(APPROVED #33 UNANIMOUSLY)**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

34. Approval for the City Manager to Accept a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Grant Award in the Amount of \$1,120,105. The award will be used to provide youth programs from April 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023, to low-income youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #34 and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, as recommended by the City Manager)**



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35. Approval for the City Manager to Accept a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult and Dislocated Worker Grant Award in the Amount of \$444,152. The award will be used to provide programs from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, to adults who are unemployed or underemployed, and adults who have lost their jobs. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the ten-county region. **(APPROVED #34 and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, as recommended by the City Manager)**

**ADD-ON**

36. Resolution honoring Lindsay Bostick, a City of Savannah employee in the Parking Services Department. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and APPROVED #36 UNANIMOUSLY)**

Following various announcements made by Council members, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.