



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session and City Manager's briefing was held at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Aldерwoman Keshа Gibson-Carter, Post 1 – At-Large
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 – At-Large
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
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret F. Fox

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Civic Center and Gamble Municipal Building Discussion. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, and Christian Sottile and Craig Clements of Savannah-based Sottile and Sottile]**

Following the presentation and discussion by members of the City Council, the City Manager offered options for the City Council's consideration.

Option 1: Retain the Gamble Building and renovate it for up to 40,000 sq ft of municipal office space; and Build between 60,000 - 100,000 sq ft of municipal office space on the Oglethorpe Avenue frontage at the Civic Center (between Johnny Mercer Theater and Oglethorpe Avenue).

Option 2: Do not retain the Gamble Building for municipal office use; but Build up to 100,000 sq ft of municipal office space on Oglethorpe Avenue frontage at the Civic Center (between Johnny Mercer Theater and Oglethorpe Avenue).



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***Per the City Manager, both Options 1 and 2 provide an opportunity to keep/save/incorporate the Johnny Mercer Theater, the Ballroom, the meeting spaces, and the MLK Jr. Arena. There also is the option of demolishing each of the spaces and building a municipal office space on any one of those parcels owned by the city.**

Option 3: Level (demolish) the Civic Center and restore The Plan with historical squares, with no municipal office space at the Gamble Building, and no municipal office space at the Civic Center.

Option 4: None of the above. (City Manager Melder stated this option would allow the City Council to identify what goes on the Civic Center site after you demolish it.)

During the discussion, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter was ruled out of order, when a point of order was raised.

Mayor Johnson asked the Clerk of Council to (straw) poll the City Council on the options. *A (straw) poll neither adopts nor rejects a measure.

At the request of Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Mayor Johnson asked the City Attorney to describe what is meant by (straw) polling the Members of Council.

City Attorney Lovett advised this is a poll for direction. No votes were taken. At this point, it is a very public and transparent process. City Council is giving the City Manager guidance to do what's next, pursuant to the Charter. There will certainly be votes taken at some point.

The results of the (straw) poll are as follows:

Mayor Johnson – Option 1

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter – abstained due to ambiguous process

Alderwoman Miller Blakely – rejected options, requests community input/weigh-in

Alderwoman Lanier – would like to hear from the community

Alderman Leggett – Option 1

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – Option 1, with housing

Alderman Palumbo – Option 1, with housing

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – Option 1, with public input, housing, and parking

Alderman Purtee – Option 1, with housing and bringing more services and resources to the southside



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At the request of Alderman Purtee, the City Manager advised this will include a public engagement process. He further added this is not a vote or decision, rather strategic direction. Anything that comes later is subject to the City Manager having to bring forward budgets and plans.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked the City Manager to clarify what is affordable housing, workforce housing and income-based housing.

Alderwoman Lanier asked the City Manager to clarify if Option 1 “raise(s)” (levels) the MLK Jr. Arena.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel regarding the police department, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion failed, 3-6-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voting yea.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Work Session at 1:36 p.m.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:06 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Palumbo who introduced Dr. Stephen Williams, Minister of First Presbyterian Church of Savannah, to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderman Kesha Gibson-Carter, Post 1 – At-Large
Alderman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 – At-Large
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
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
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AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderman Gibson-Carter moved to reconsider entering into Executive Session for personnel matter(s) involving the Police Department (concerning a 128-page report, officer involved shootings, and departmental turmoil), seconded by Alderman Miller Blakely. The motion failed, 3-6-0, with Alderman Gibson-Carter, Alderman Miller Blakely, and Alderman Lanier voting yea.

Mayor Johnson advised these matters are under the purview of the City Manager, pursuant to our Charter/laws.



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1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for April 14, 2022. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, with a request from Alderwoman Miller Blakely to include the appointment of Mr. Jeffrey Notrica to the Historic Preservation Commission, since he qualifies as a city resident, given a recent resignation. Mayor Johnson advised he will rule on this request later in the meeting.)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on March 24, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on March 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY)**

PRESENTATIONS

4. Appearance and Recognition of Galvan Foundation's Donation of \$50,000 to the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund. **(PRESENTED)**
5. A Proclamation Declaring April as Safe Digging Month. Georgia 811 is utilized not only by municipalities, but homeowners and contractors also. Calling 811 before digging helps locate vital utilities during construction so damages do not occur to those utilities. When a utility is damaged, it not only costs money, but sometimes property damage and, in some cases, even peoples lives. **(PRESENTED)**
6. A Proclamation Declaring April as Donate Life Month. This provides an opportunity to share information about the need for organ and tissue donation in your community through public education and efforts to increase organ donation such as this proclamation can improve lives. **(PRESENTED)**
7. A Proclamation Declaring April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through this collaboration, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families. **(PRESENTED)**



8. A Proclamation Declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
(PRESENTED)
9. Recognition of all Team Savannah Departments Involved in the Successful Return of St. Patrick's Day Festivities. **(PRESENTED)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

10. Approval to Add a Class C (Liquor) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Existing Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to William W. Wilder for Double Wide Diner, a Restaurant at 135A W. Bay Street Between Barnard and Whitaker Streets in District 2.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings for #10, #11, #12, and #13 open.
(CLOSED Public Hearings for #10, #11, #12 and #13, and APPROVED #10)
11. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Joseph C. Rauers for Fontaine's, a Bar at 214 E. Bay Street Between Abercorn Street Ramp and Lincoln Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings for #10, #11, #12, and #13 open.
(CLOSED Public Hearings for #10, #11, #12 and #13, and APPROVED #11)
12. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Krunal Patel for 3G, A Convenience Store at 703 Wheaton Street, Between Randolph and Harmon Streets in Aldermanic District 2. (Staff Recommended Continuation of Item to the April 14, 2022 City Council Meeting from the March 24, 2022 meeting).
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings for #10, #11, #12, and #13 open.
(CLOSED Public Hearings for #10, #11, #12 and #13, and APPROVED #12)
13. Approval of a Class D (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Ashok Patel for ABC Warehouse, a Package Store at 1100 Eisenhower Drive, Unit 10, Between Waters Avenue and Seawright Drive in Aldermanic District 4.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings for #10, #11, #12, and #13 open.
(CLOSED Public Hearings for #10, #11, #12 and #13, and APPROVED #13)



ZONING HEARINGS

14. Petition of Ellen Harris from Ethos Preservation on Behalf of Heath Shelton for a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone Williams Street (PIN 20084 05003) from B-N (Neighborhood Business) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) in Aldermanic District 3. File No. 22-000444-ZA.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing for #14 open.

Speaker(s) present:

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**

CLOSED HEARING for #14 UNANIMOUSLY. See #15 for a vote.

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

15. Petition of Ellen Harris from Ethos Preservation on Behalf of Heath Shelton for a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone Williams Street (PIN 20084 05003) from B-N (Neighborhood Business) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) in Aldermanic District 3. File No. 22-000444-ZA. **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY)**

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

16. Approval of the Annexation of 2.593 Acres on Sweetwater Station Drive near Abercorn Street (Carlton J. Ray Petitioner). **(CONTINUED/HELD #16 and #17 to the April 28, 2022)**

17. Petition of Carlton J. Ray on Behalf of Drayton Parker Companies, LLC to Zone 1750 Grove Point Road & 1754 Pine Grove Road (PINs 10993A04001 and 10993A04002) from P-B (Planned Business) to B-C (Community Business) and to Zone 1758 Grove Point Road (PIN 10993A05001) from R-A (Residential Agriculture) to R-A-CO (Residential Agriculture-County) to Support Annexation Petition. File No. 22-000483-ZA. **(CONTINUED/HELD #16 and #17 to the April 28, 2022)**



PURCHASING ITEMS

18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification with Total Systems Commissioning, Inc. (TSCx) in the Amount of \$1,875 for Additional Local Workforce Training Related to Arena Commissioning Services. Commissioning ensures that all the separate mechanical systems installed operate efficiently together. This expenditure was included in Project Budget. (Arena) **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY)**

19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Construction and Installation of an Entrance Grate with MSC Industries Inc. in the Amount of \$36,018. This entrance grate will be installed at the Enmarket Arena entrance to minimize dirt getting tracked into the building by visitors. This expenditure was included in Project Budget. (Arena) **(APPROVED #19, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no)**

20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification and Renewal for Mail Courier Services with R. Jackson Enterprise, Inc. (LOCAL) in an Amount up to \$96,000 (an increase of \$11,000 annually). This increase is due to increased operating cost impacted by inflation and recent contract re-negotiations. (Municipal Operations) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**

21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for Senior Meals with Senior Citizen Inc (LOCAL) in an Amount up to \$98,750. This contract modification will cover additional meals served to seniors in 2021. (Community Services) **(APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY)**

22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Child Development Associate Certification Training with Summit Training Specialist LLC in an Amount not to Exceed \$44,000. The contract will provide four instructional units annually to child development associate program participants to become certified in child development. (Community Services) **(APPROVED #22 UNANIMOUSLY)**

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Apex Officer Virtual Reality Training Simulator from Ti Training Solutions in the Amount of \$83,830. This



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simulator provides law enforcement training of randomized scenarios that includes use of force and de-escalation instruction. (Police) **(APPROVED #23 UNANIMOUSLY)**

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification for ShotSpotter with ShotSpotter, Inc. in the Amount of \$255,000. The modification will expand the ShotSpotter coverage of the existing services in all districts. (Police) **(APPROVED #24 UNANIMOUSLY)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Cure Violence Community Based Partner with Youth Advocate Program, Inc (YAP) (Local) in the Amount of \$584,106. YAP will be responsible for hiring, training, and supervising a team of local credible messengers to serve as violence interrupters and outreach workers to work with high risk youth and young adults. (ONSE) **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Additional Office Furniture for the Floyd Adams Jr. City Services Complex in Care of Mason Inc. in the Amount of \$86,035. Furniture will support the administrative and programming functions of the Administration Building and three (3) operations buildings that are part of the new facilities at the Adams Complex. (Capital Project Management) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Final Close-Out Modification for the Floyd Adams Jr. City Services Complex with TQ Constructors Inc. in the Amount of \$418,273. The modification is needed to cover costs associated with various credits, added costs due to unforeseen conditions, constructability items, clarification in plans, and owner's changes. (Capitol Project Management) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Lab Equipment with Seal Analytical in the Amount of \$48,425. This equipment will be used by the City's five wastewater facilities for analyzing, monitoring, and recording chemical compounds in wastewater. To improve water quality, over 2000 tests are performed monthly. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29,**



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#30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)

29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Replacement Grit Removal System with Trillium Pumps for \$135,111. The hydrogritter is a high performance system used by the Water Reclamation Department that removes and dewateres 8 ½ tons of grit from primary sludge or influent for safe transport and disposal. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Backflow Preventers with Ferguson Enterprises (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$173,856. The backflow preventers will be used by the Water Distribution Department to prevent reverse flow of water in City water laterals and prevent polluted water from entering the potable water system. (Central Warehouse) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Fire Hydrants & Repair Parts with Ferguson Enterprises (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$271,280. The fire hydrants are maintained in inventory at the Central Warehouse and are used by the Water Distribution Department to replace failing fire hydrants in the water system. (Central Warehouse) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
32. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two (2) Excavators with GJ & L, Inc. DBA Border Equipment in the Amount of \$190,454. The excavators will be utilized by Sewer Maintenance and Industrial & Domestic Water to replace units 9821 and 4841 which have reached the end of their useful life and are no longer economical to maintain. (Fleet) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
33. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two (2) Knuckle Boom Trucks with Environmental Products Group, Inc. DBA Environmental Products of Georgia in the Amount of \$443,160. The knuckle boom trucks are FY22 fleet additions that will be utilized by the Residential Refuse Division to provide weekly



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curbside pickup of bulk items and large debris removal. (Fleet)
(REMOVED/WITHDRAWN #33 as requested by the City Manager/staff)

34. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Four (4) Rear Loader Bodies with Solid Waste Applied Technologies c/o New Way in the Amount of \$493,052. The rear loader refuse trucks are FY22 fleet additions that will be utilized by the Recycling & Litter Services Division to collect recyclables and litter. (Fleet) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
35. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Four (4) Garbage Truck Chassis with Battle Motors c/o Crane Carrier Company in the Amount of \$674,392. The rear loaders refuse trucks are FY22 fleet additions that will be utilized by the Recycling & Litter Services Division to collect recyclables and litter. (Fleet) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
36. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Tree Pruning Services with Kolcun Tree Care, LLC in an Amount up to \$1,500,000. Services will be utilized to prune and maintain approximately 65,000 trees on various rights of ways throughout the City. (Greenscapes) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**
37. Notification of an Emergency Procurement for Know the Facts + Get the Vax Campaign with Healthy Savannah, Inc. in the Amount of \$28,659. The Office of the City Manager (Michael Brown) initiated this campaign during a time of emergency and lock down due to the spread of COVID-19 and the resulting hospitalizations and deaths. (Strategic Services) **(APPROVED #20, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #34, #35, #36 and #37, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from voting on #20)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

38. Approval to Procure One Flygt Submersible Pump from Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. in the Amount of \$38,303. **(APPROVED #38, #39, #40, and #41 UNANIMOUSLY)**



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39. Approval to Procure Two (2) Police Interceptor SUVs from Step One Automotive dba Ford Crestview in the Amount of \$73,450. **(APPROVED #38, #39, #40, and #41 UNANIMOUSLY)**
40. Approval to Renew the 2022-2023 Annual Maintenance Agreement with Kone, Inc. in the Amount of \$149,389. **(APPROVED #38, #39, #40, and #41 UNANIMOUSLY)**
41. Approval to Renew the 2022 – 2023 Airport Liability Insurance Program with USI Insurance Services in the Amount of \$1,135,991. **(APPROVED #38, #39, #40, and #41 UNANIMOUSLY)**

RESOLUTIONS

42. Approval of a Resolution Accepting a \$50,000 Donation from Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. via Galvan Foundation for the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund. **(HEARD after #4 and APPROVED #42 UNANIMOUSLY)**

AGREEMENTS

43. Approval to Renew the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Sub-Recipient Award to In The Door for \$200,000 to Support the “One-Stop Delivery System” To Ensure Mandated Partners Comply with Agency Policies as it Pertains to Job Training, Preparation and Placement Services in Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh and Screven Counties. **(APPROVED #43, #44, #45, #46 and #47 UNANIMOUSLY)**
44. Approval to Modify and Extend the PY2021 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Year-Round Youth Sub-Awards to Include Administration of the WIOA Youth Summer Work Experience Program in the Amount of \$425,000. **(APPROVED #43, #44, #45, #46 and #47 UNANIMOUSLY)**
45. Approval to Renew the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Sub-recipient Awards with Ross I.E.S. and Eckerd Connects-Paxen in the Amount of \$876,473 for Career, Case Management, and Training Services for Adults (ages 18 and older) and Dislocated Workers (unemployed or laid off) in Bryan, Bulloch, Camden,



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Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Screven counties.
(APPROVED #43, #44, #45, #46 and #47 UNANIMOUSLY)

46. Approval to Renew the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Sub-Recipient Award with Ross I.E.S. in the Amount of \$1,033,383 for Academic, Career Development, and Training Services for Youth (Ages 16-24) in Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Screven Counties. **(APPROVED #43, #44, #45, #46 and #47 UNANIMOUSLY)**
47. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with The Kroger Co. for the Kroger 609 Expansion, a Development Consisting of a Store Expansion. The water and sewer systems have adequate capacity to serve this 5.33 water and 3.47 sewer equivalent residential unit development located at 495 Johnny Mercer Boulevard. This will generate \$20,053.25 in revenue. **(APPROVED #43, #44, #45, #46 and #47 UNANIMOUSLY)**

MISCELLANEOUS

48. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Savannah Gardens Parcels C4-D, D-2 and D-3. Three existing properties will be subdivided into eighteen individual parcels (Lots 115-131) for the development of Savannah Gardens. The proposed subdivision also coincides with the Savannah Gardens VI development agreement between the City of Savannah and Mercy Housing. **(APPROVED #48 UNANIMOUSLY)**

Upon conclusion of the agenda, Alderwoman Miller Blakely inquired about the Board Appointment matter she presented during the adoption of the agenda. Mayor Johnson advised he will take the information under advisement. He understands there may be some other issues he needs to investigate. He will report the information back to the Alderwoman in writing. Alderwoman Miller Blakely advised she has already investigated the issue, along with the City Clerk. Mayor Johnson advised he needs to understand the issue, given obvious miscommunication.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely moved to have a discussion regarding a change in the Rules of Council (From 5 individuals to 3 individuals), seconded by Alderwoman



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Gibson-Carter. Mayor Johnson ruled the motion out of order, given it is not on the agenda. Alderwoman Miller Blakely requested the matter to be included on the next agenda.

Alderman Palumbo moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Leggett.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m., whereupon he stated God Bless and wished everyone a happy Holy Week.