



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session and City Manager's briefing was held at 12:01 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Purtee to offer a prayer.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderman Keshia 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
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. 2023 City Council Organizational Items, ***including Workshop topics, Council Compensation, Term Limits, and Travel.***
[FACILITATED by Mayor Johnson and DISCUSSED by the City Council]
2. Affordable Housing Partnership - Cuyler-Brownville Housing Initiative.
[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Housing & Neighborhood Services Director Martin Fretty, and Galvan Foundation President Dan Kent]

Following questions and comments from members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the Work Session at 1:30 p.m.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:03 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized introduced Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams, retired Pastor of First African Baptist Church of East 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
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret F. Fox

AGENDA ITEMS:

Following the invocation, Mayor Johnson exercised a point of personal privilege by presenting a proclamation to Reverend Thomas E. Williams for his retirement as pastor of the First African Baptist Church of East Savannah. (READ by Alderman Wilder-Bryan and Mayor Johnson)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for January 12, 2023. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



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2. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Meeting Regarding LOST Held on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

4. Resolution to Fix and Publish Qualifying Fees and Period for City of Savannah 2023 Municipal Election. **(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

5. Appearance by and Recognition of the Galvan Foundation, Inc.'s Commitment to Improve Housing and Quality of Life in the Cuyler-Brownsville Neighborhood through the Development of 19 City-owned Properties for Mixed-income Affordable and Workforce Housing and the Donation of \$1,000,000 to the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund for Use in Cuyler-Brownsville. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Housing & Neighborhood Services Director Martin Fretty, CHSA Executive Director Anita Smith-Dixon, Housing Savannah, Inc. Executive Director Laura Lane McKinnon, and other board members and staff from various related organizations)**

6. Appearance by the Benedictine Military School's Football Team Along with Coach Danny Britt to Recognize the Team for Winning the 2022 Class 4A Division State Football Championship Game. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Benedictine Coach Britt, Captain Za'Quan Bryan, Student Body President and Captain Charlie Iannone and Captain James Moore, Headmaster Father Frank Ziemkiewicz, and Principal Dr. Jacob T. Horne)**

7. Appearance by Representatives of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Committee to Formally Request the 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade Permit. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to MLK Jr. Observance Day Association President Deborah Adams, and association members Linda Jones, Judee Jones, Carrie Howard, and Glenda Jones)**



8. Recognition of the Legacy and Contributions of Luis Amaro of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and Alderman Purtee to Executive Director Jennifer Darsey and staff, followed by a moment of silence)**
9. Appearance by Representatives of the Savannah Interagency Diversity Council (SIDC) to Receive a Proclamation Announcing Traffik Jam 2023. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to SIDC members, including Board Chair William Bill Gettis, GBI attorney and special prosecutor Diane McCloud, Chatham Area Transit outreach manager Valerie Ragland, Tharros Place executive director Julie Wade and outreach coordinator Kate Templeton, and Mary's Place of the Coastal Empire, formerly the Rape Crisis Center, executive director Doris L. Williams)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Brittany N. O'Neal for Cru Lounge, a Restaurant Located at 1639 East Victory Drive between Grenoble and Wicklow Streets in Aldermanic District 3. (Continued from December 8, 2022).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #10.

Speaker(s):

- DeWayne Nathaniel Martin, representing the applicant/petitioner
- Brittany N. O'Neal, applicant

CLOSED HEARING for #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(After a motion to approve FAILED 4-5-0, a second motion to DENY passed for #10, with Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voting opposed to the denial [voting no], 5-4-0)

Written comment(s) received:

- B.J. Lowenthal – OPPOSED
- Morgan Taylor – OPPOSED
- Angie & Carle Lee Richardson – OPPOSED
- Michael Hough, et al. received July 14, 2022 meeting – OPPOSED



11. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Clayton Ehmke for The Haunt, a Restaurant at 606 Abercorn Street between East Hall and East Huntington Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #11 through #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, re: past sexual assault allegations**
- **SPD ABC Unit representative, Corporal Detective Samantha Sosbe**

CLOSED HEARING for #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

12. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Ankurkumar Patel for Nest, a Bar/Lounge at 126 West Bay Street, Top Floor, between River Street Access and East Upper Factors Walk in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #11 through #15.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #11 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #12, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no, 8-1-0)

13. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License for William W. Wilder, III for Pizza Party, a restaurant at 1201 Habersham Street between East Henry and East Duffy Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #11 through #15.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #11 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #13, #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY)

14. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Juan C. DeJesus for Alligator Soul Restaurant, a Restaurant at 114 Barnard Street between West Broughton and West State Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #11 through #15.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #11 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #13, #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)



15. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Ryan C. Rans for Ruth's Chris Steak House, a Restaurant at 111 West Bay Street between Whitaker and Barnard Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #11 through #15.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #11 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #13, #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

ZONING HEARINGS

16. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of Jeremy Huggins, 12500 Apache, LLC, to Rezone 2.08 Acres Located at 12500 Apache Avenue (PIN 20861 02001) from RSF-E (Residential Single-Family-Estate) to B-M (Maritime Business). Aldermanic District 6 (File No. 22-004424-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #16 and #17.

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**
- **Alderman Purtee requested #16 and #22 be heard for first reading only.**

CLOSED HEARINGS for #16 and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

Written comment(s) received:

- **Josh Yellin, representing the applicant/petitioner, with 159 petition signatures – IN SUPPORT**

(HEARD for FIRST READING ONLY, as requested by Alderman Purtee)

17. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of Jeremy Huggins, 12500 Apache, LLC, to Secure a Special Use Permit at 12500 Apache Avenue (PIN 20861 02001) for Accessory Alcohol Sales by the Drink in Association with a Marina Restaurant. Aldermanic District 6 (File No. 22-004426-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #16 and #17.

Speaker(s):

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**

CLOSED HEARINGS for #16 and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #17 [special use permit] to the January 26, 2023 City Council Meeting, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no, 8-1-0)



18. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of for Savannah Country Day School to Rezone ~ 0.81 Acres at 0 Merrydell Drive (PIN 20653 01001) from RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6) to OI-E (Office and Institutional-Expanded) with Conditions. Aldermanic District 6 (File No. 22-005457-ZA). Continued to February 7, 2023. **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #18 to the February 7, 2023 City Council Meeting, as requested by the applicant/petitioner, with Alderman Leggett recusing/abstaining from the vote due to a business conflict, 8-0-1)**

19. Petition of John D. Northrup, III on Behalf of Capital Development Partners to Zone 10 Parcels of ~52.86 Acres on Buckhalter Road (PINs 10942 01003, -02A, -02B, -02C, -02D, -02F, 02E, -007, -008, -009) from R-A (Residential Agricultural) to R-A-CO (Residential Agricultural-County) to Support an Annexation (File No. 22-005494-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #19.

Speaker(s):

- **Bridget Lidy, Planning & Urban Design Director**

CLOSED HEARING for #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READINGS

HEARD #20 and #21 in reverse order.

20. Petition of John D. Northrup, III on Behalf of Capital Development Partners to Zone 10 Parcels of ~52.86 Acres on Buckhalter Road (PINs 10942 01003, -02A, -02B, -02C, -02D, -02F, 02E, -007, -008, -009) from R-A (Residential Agricultural) to R-A-CO (Residential Agricultural-County) to Support an Annexation (File No. 22-005494-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #20, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderman Palumbo being absent for the vote, 7-0-2)**

21. Approval to Annex 52.860 Acres Located off Buckhalter Road near Veterans Parkway. The property will be developed as industrial warehouses as part of the Rockingham Farms development. **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #21, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**



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22. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of Jeremy Huggins, 12500 Apache, LLC, to Rezone 2.08 Acres Located at 12500 Apache Avenue (PIN 20861 02001) from RSF-E (Residential Single-Family-Estate) to B-M (Maritime Business). Aldermanic District 6 (File No. 22-004424-ZA). **(HEARD for FIRST READING ONLY, as requested by Alderman Purtee)**

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

23. Second Reading of an Ordinance Pertaining to the Proposed Redistricting of Savannah Aldermanic Districts Pursuant to the 2020 U.S. Census Data. **(APPROVED #23 UNANIMOUSLY, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Stormwater Inspection Vehicle from Environmental Products Group, Inc. in the Amount of \$262,875. The inspection vehicle will be utilized by the Stormwater Department to perform regular stormwater pipeline inspections and maintenance throughout the City. (Fleet) **(APPROVED #24 through #27 UNANIMOUSLY, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Professional Services for the City of Savannah Microsoft G5 Implementation Project with Enabling Technologies in the Amount of \$74,670. Enabling Technologies will assist with the implementation of several new Microsoft solutions acquired with our recent license agreement upgrade. (ITS) **(APPROVED #24 through #27 UNANIMOUSLY, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for an Annual Maintenance for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) with Emerson Process Management (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$94,262. This annual maintenance contract maintains the SCADA network used by the Public Works and Water Resources Department. (Water Resources) **(APPROVED #24 through #27 UNANIMOUSLY, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**



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27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 1 and Renewal for Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss Carrier with International Assurance of Tennessee, Inc. in the Amount of \$870,000. This contract is used by the City of Savannah to provide for catastrophic claims reinsurance coverage for the City's self-funded medical and pharmacy plans. (Human Resources) **(APPROVED #24 through #27 UNANIMOUSLY, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

28. Approval of the 2023 Airports Council International – North America Premier Airport Membership Dues, in the Amount of \$31,069. **(APPROVED #28 and #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
29. Approval to Execute Change Order No. 1 for the Terminal Security Checkpoint Expansion Project with Collins Constructions, Inc., in the Amount of \$2,754,258.59. **(APPROVED #28 and #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

30. Resolution to Transfer 19 City-owned Vacant Properties in the Cuyler-Brownsville Neighborhood to the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority (LBA) to Facilitate the Development of Affordable and Workforce Housing by the Galvan Foundation, Inc. **(APPROVED #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
31. Resolution to Transfer a Vacant Lot Known as 214 Cumming Street to the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority (LBA) to the Owner-occupied House at 216 Cumming Street to Facilitate the Development of a Room Addition and Driveway. **(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
32. Resolution to Transfer a Vacant House at 4214 Sumter Street to the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority (LBA) to Facilitate Its Repair by CHSA Development, Inc. for Sale or Rent of the Property as Affordable Housing. **(APPROVED #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



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33. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Substantial Amendment for the FY 2021- 2022 One Year Action Plan to HUD to Include the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. **(APPROVED #33 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

AGREEMENTS

34. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the Second Allocation of FY2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Awards for Adult (\$800,420) and Dislocated Worker (\$1,099,433) Programs. The awards will be used to provide programs from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 to adults who are unemployed or underemployed, and adults who have been laid off from their jobs. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #34 and #35, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**
35. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the FY2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Award Transferring Dislocated Worker Funds to the Adult Funding Stream in the amount \$225,000. The award will be used to provide training and supportive services to adults who are unemployed or underemployed from November 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #34 and #35, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**

MISCELLANEOUS

36. Approval of a Major Subdivision - Savannah Highlands Phase 8. This subdivision is part of the Highlands Development in the North Godley PUD. This proposed phase totals 19.476 acres and will consist of 60 single family lots with varying lot sizes. It is located along the northern right-of-way line of Highlands Boulevard. **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #36 UNANIMOUSLY, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**
37. Approval to Name an Unnamed Park Located at 1000 Bowden Street to "George Washington Carver Neighborhood Park." **(APPROVED #37 UNANIMOUSLY, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent for the vote, 8-0-1)**

Following a few announcements, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.