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

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The work session and City Manager's briefing was held at 12:00 p.m. Vice Chairman Nick Palumbo called the meeting to order and recognized Alderman Purtee to offer a prayer.

**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 Kurtis Purtee, District 6

**ABSENT:** Alderman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem

**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. Saint Patrick's Day Celebration/Festival Ordinance.  
**[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Special Events, Film & Tourism Senior Director Susan Broker, and Police Sergeant Jason Pagliaro]**
2. Parklets Program.  
**[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Special Events, Film & Tourism Senior Director Susan Broker]**

Following questions and comments from members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the Work Session at 1:26 p.m.



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

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The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:01 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Detric Leggett who introduced Pastor Andre J. Osborne of First Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church 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 Kurtis Purtee, District 6

**ABSENT:** Alderman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem

**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:**

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for March 9, 2023. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on February 23, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
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3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on February 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**PRESENTATIONS**

4. Appearance by the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee Grand Marshal and His Aides, and Presentation of the 2023 Saint Patrick's Day Parade Permit by Mayor Van R. Johnson II. The parade will be held on March 17, 2023. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to the parade committee members, including the General Chairman Ashley Norris and Parade Grand Marshal George Schwartz)**
5. Appearance by Gene Dobbs Bradford, Executive Director of the Savannah Music Festival, to Provide a Preview of the 2023 Savannah Music Festival. **(INTRODUCED by Mayor Johnson, with highlights provided by Executive Director Gene Dobbs Bradford)**
6. Appearance by Maria Center, Executive Director of the Southeast Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross, and a Proclamation Designating the Month of March as American Red Cross Month. **(INTRODUCED by Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd, Proclamation READ by Mayor Johnson, and PRESENTED to Maria Center)**
7. Appearance by and Recognition of Matson Foundation's \$2,500 Donation into the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund. **(PRESENTED by Anita Smith-Dixon to the City on behalf of Matson Logistic)**
8. Appearance by and Recognition of Savannah Agenda's \$3,000 Donation into the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund. **(PRESENTED by Eric Curl on behalf of Savannah Agenda)**
9. Appearance by the City of Savannah Purchasing Department to Recognize March as Procurement Month. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and City Manager Melder to Purchasing Director Johnnie Coker and staff)**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS**



10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Gary High for Bellwether House, a Bed and Breakfast Inn at 211 East Gaston Street between Abercorn and Lincoln Streets in Aldermanic District 2. Continued from the February 7, 2023, Council Meeting.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10 through #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #10 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

11. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales and a Class A (Beer, Wine) (Caterer) Alcohol License to Ryan Williamson for Wildflower Cafe on Telfair Square, a Restaurant Located at 207 West Oglethorpe Avenue. The establishment is located between Barnard and Jefferson Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10 through #15.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Judee Jones, Revenue Department**
- **Ryan Williamson, applicant**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #10 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

12. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Alkesh Patel for Mall Marathon, a convenience Store Located at 8001 Waters Avenue between Mall Boulevard and Cranman Drive in Aldermanic District 4.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10 through #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #10 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(APPROVED #12, #13, and #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



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13. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Krishna Patel for Hilton Garden Inn, a Hotel Located at 5711 Abercorn Street Between Johnston Street and Janet Drive in Aldermanic District 4.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10 through #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #10 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(APPROVED #12 #13, and #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

14. Approval to Add a Class C (Liquor) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to the Existing Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Yulima T. Ospina for Antojo Latino, LLC t/a Antojo Latin, a Restaurant Located at 44 Posey Street Between Abercorn Street and White Bluff Road in Aldermanic District 4.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10 through #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #10 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(APPROVED #12 #13, and #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

15. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Sarvesh Sharma for Vishu Mart, LLC t/a Lucky's, a Convenience Store Located at 10004 Abercorn Street Between Television Circle and Montgomery Crossroad in Aldermanic District 5.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10 through #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #10 through #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

16. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Jacqueline Somesso for Sloppee Toppee, a Restaurant at 1308 Montgomery Street Located between West Henry and West Anderson Streets in



Aldermanic District 2. (City Manager recommends denial). Continued from the February 23, 2023 Council Meeting.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #16.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Nancy Maia – OPPOSED**
- **LaRay Benton – IN SUPPORT**
- **Jacqueline Somesso, applicant**
- **Tony Riley – IN SUPPORT**

**Written comment(s):**

- **Nancy Maia – OPPOSED**
- **Andree Patterson – OPPOSED**
- **Caroline Berry – OPPOSED**
- **Steven A. Lietz – OPPOSED**
- **Trudy Herod – OPPOSED**
- **DNA President – OPPOSED**
- **Patricia Underwood – OPPOSED**
- **Andre Napoli – OPPOSED**
- **Gerald Bluett – OPPOSED**
- **Susan J. Gorecki – OPPOSED**
- **Margaret Goss – OPPOSED**
- **Robert Becker – OPPOSED**
- **Ivan Cohen – IN SUPPORT**

**CLOSED HEARING for #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(DENIED #16, 4-4-1, with Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo, and Alderman Purtee voting to deny the license. Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voted no on the motion to deny. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**Preceding the motion above, another vote was taken on a motion to approve based on conditions of a good neighbor agreement and with the issuance of a conditional license that could be revoked, if the applicant was later convicted or pled guilty to indictment charges. The motion to approve with conditions FAILED, 4-4-1. Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voted yes on the motion to approve with conditions, as described above.**



**Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo, and Alderman Purtee voted no on the motion to approve with conditions. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

## **ZONING HEARINGS**

17. Petition of Robert McCorkle (Agent) on Behalf of Paul Amrein (Owner) to Amend the Zoning Map from RSF-6 (Residential Single Family - 6,000 square foot lot minimum) to OI (Office Institutional) for a 1.14 Acre Property Located at 5106 Skidaway Road (PIN 20137 01003), District 3 (File No. 22-005903-ZA).

Continued from the February 23, 2023 Council Meeting.

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #17. See #19.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**
- **Robert McCorkle, representing the applicant**

**(CLOSED HEARING for #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

18. Petition of Harley Krinsky to Change the Status of 301 Alice Street (PIN 20045 16001) from a Contributing to Non-contributing Structure in the Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District. Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 22-005388-COA)

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #18. See #20.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Marcus Lotson, MPC representative**
- **Leah Michalak, representing the Historic District Board of Review**
- **Ryan Jarles – OPPOSED**
- **Harley Krinsky, applicant**
- **Ralph Anderson, representing the applicant**

**Written comment(s):**

- **Ryan Jarles – OPPOSED**
- **Ron Melander on behalf of several neighbors – IN SUPPORT**

**(CLOSED HEARING for #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



**ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READINGS**

19. Petition of Robert McCorkle (Agent) on Behalf of Paul Amrien (Owner) to Amend the Zoning Map from RSF-6 (Residential Single Family - 6,000 square foot lot minimum) to OI (Office Institutional) for a 1.14 Acre Property Located at 5106 Skidaway Road (PIN 20137 01003), District 3 (File No. 22-005903-ZA). **(DENIED #19, 5-3-1, with Mayor Johnson, Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo, and Alderman Purtee voting yes to deny. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voted no to the denial. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
20. Petition of Harley Krinsky to Change the Status of 301 Alice Street (PIN 20045 16001) from a Contributing to Non-contributing Structure in the Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District. Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 22-005388-COA) **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #20, 5-3-1, with Mayor Johnson, Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Palumbo, and Alderman Purtee voting yes. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voted no. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
21. First and Second Reading of the Parklet Ordinance. An Ordinance to Amend Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, of the Code of the City of Savannah, Georgia to Add a New Article - JJ. - Parklets. **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**PURCHASING ITEMS**

22. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for a Pin Rack Assembly with WSG & Solutions, Inc in the Amount of \$57,930. The pin rack assembly works in conjunction with the stationary bar screens which are designed to remove floating debris from incoming stormwater. (Stormwater Management) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



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23. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for Water Line Repairs with Sam-Jay Services (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$99,446. The service was used to repair multiple water lines and main breaks throughout the City of Savannah. (Conveyance and Distribution) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Installation of Lights at the Highlands Park Walking Trail Phase 1 with Georgia Power in the Amount of \$111,070. This will provide for the installation of 25 LED lights along the walking trail. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Low Voltage Cabling Services with Netplanner Systems, Inc. (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$73,624. This contract modification will be used by the Innovation + Technology Services Department (ITS) to procure and install the required IT infrastructure for Landmark Building Located at 6600 Abercorn Street. (ITS) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Temporary Staffing with Robert Half International, Inc. (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$125,000. The Innovation + Technology Services Department (ITS) will use the temporary staffing services to provide technical knowledge and skill in specialized computer applications for all City users. These will include software and PC upgrades, helpdesk and network services support, as well as program/project support. (ITS) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Portable Radios with Motorola in an Amount Not to Exceed \$225,000. This contract will be used by the Innovation + Technology Services Department's Mobile Services to purchase radios for the Savannah Police Department to replace radios that are aging and have fallen out of production. (ITS) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



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28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Computer Replacements and New Purchases with Dell Marketing LP in an Amount Not to Exceed \$625,750. This contract will be used by the Innovation + Technology Services Department to provide end user devices such as laptops, desktops, monitors, and rugged tablets. (ITS) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Portable Toilet Rentals with United Sites Services in an Amount Not to Exceed \$122,290. This contract will be used by the Special Events, Film & Tourism Department to provide portable toilets for the St. Patrick's Festival, Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, Veteran's Day Parade and Savannah State Home Coming Parade. (Special Events) **(APPROVED #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION**

30. Approval of a Sponsorship with the Savannah Ghost Pirates for the 2024 Warrior/ECHL All-Star Classic Games, in the Amount of \$55,000. **(APPROVED #30, #31 and #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
31. Approval for the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport to Participate in an Advertising Campaign in New Haven, CT, to Promote Service on Avelo Airlines, in the Amount of \$91,349. **(APPROVED #30, #31 and #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
32. Approval to Participate in the 2023 Visit Savannah Co-Op Digital Advertising Campaign, in the Amount of \$300,000. **(APPROVED #30, #31 and #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**RESOLUTIONS**

33. Enactment of Section 6-2421, also known as The Festival Ordinance of 2013. **(APPROVED #33 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



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**AGREEMENTS**

34. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Sweetwater Developers, LLC for Sweetwater Station Phases 8, 10 and 11. This is for a development consisting of 81 single family homes in the Gateway Service area. Also, approval of an associated railroad Facility Encroachment Agreement inclusive of cost sharing provision as stated. **(APPROVED #34 and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
35. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Sweetwater Investors, LLC for Sweetwater Station Phase 9. This is for a development consisting of 30 single family homes in the Sweetwater service area. **(APPROVED #34 and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**REAL ESTATE ITEMS**

36. Authorize the City Manager to Accept Donation of a Portion of 5111 Abercorn Street (PIN 20128 02001). **(APPROVED #36 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S ITEMS**

37. Settlement #1. **Authorized the City Attorney's Office to resolve the (injury) claim of Dylan Merritt for \$150,000.00 (APPROVED #37 and #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
38. Settlement #2. **Authorized the City Attorney's Office to resolve the (trip and fall) claim of Michelle Willis for \$180,000.00 (APPROVED #37 and #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.**