



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:04 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Nick Palumbo who introduced Adam Solender, Chief Executive Officer of Jewish Educational Alliance and Savannah Jewish Federation 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 Fox

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for September 14, 2023. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended to add-on a Resolution to celebrate the life of former sanitation employee Jomell Williams)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on August 24, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



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3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on August 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

4A. Resolution to Celebrate the Life of Jomell Williams, Senior Sanitation Worker and Valued Member of Zone B. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Senior Sanitation Director Q. Andrews]**

4. A Proclamation Recognizing September 15, 2023 - October 15, 2023 as Hispanic Heritage Month and Appearance by HOLA Savannah in Observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The City of Savannah honors and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic Americans in our history across the nation, as well as celebrating the contributions of Hispanic Americans who currently serve our communities here in Savannah. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to members of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce and HOLA Savannah, with Savannah Special Projects Coordinator Myriam Baker speaking on behalf of HOLA Savannah]**
5. Appearance By and Recognition of the City of Savannah Human Resources Staff in Recognition of Human Resources Professional Day. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and Human Resources Director Jeff Grant, with HR team members being present]**
6. Recognition of National Tradesmen Day and Appearance by City of Savannah Skilled Tradespeople. The City of Savannah takes great pride in its association with some of the most skilled tradespeople in the region, spanning various fields such as water and conveyance, stormwater management, building maintenance, fleet services, water treatment and supply, water reclamation, and countless others. **[PRESENTED and READ by Mayor Johnson and Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd]**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

7. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales and Class A (Beer, Wine) (Caterer) Alcohol License to Ryan Williamson for



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Strangebird, a Restaurant located at 1220 Barnard Street. The establishment is located between West Henry and West Duffy Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #7.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARING for #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

8. Approval of a Class G (Wine) (Complimentary) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Sydney Newsome for Syd Nichole, a Specialty Shop Located at 301 Passage Way Suite A-203. The establishment is located between Port and Pilot Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

9. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Liquor, and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol and a Class K (Beer, Liquor and Wine) (Transitional Permit) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Ruth Threatt for Sey Hey Restaurant and Lounge, a restaurant Located at 2505 Bull Street. The establishment is located between West 41st and West 42nd streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

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

10. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to ShivKumar Patel for 7-11 Minit Store, a Convenience Store Located at 3700 Waters Avenue. The establishment is located between East 53rd and East 54th Streets in Aldermanic District 3.

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)



ZONING HEARINGS

11. Recommendations by the Historic Preservation Commission for a Text Amendment to the City of Savannah Zoning Ordinance Section 7.9, Victorian District Contributing Resources Map for 1001 Whitaker Street (20044 25001), 124 West Park Avenue (20044 24003), and 1015 Whitaker Street (20044 25002) which Are All Zoned TN-1 (Traditional Neighborhood-1). Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 23-003955-ZA). Recommend Denial.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #11.

Speaker(s):

- **Melanie Wilson, MPC representative**
- **Leah Michalak, MPC representative**
- **Andrew Jones – IN SUPPORT**
- **Nancy Maia – OPPOSED**
- **Ronald Motyka – OPPOSED**
- **Gary Guthrie – OPPOSED**
- **Robin Williams – IN SUPPORT**
- **Kathy Ledvina – IN SUPPORT**
- **Michael Brown – OPPOSED**
- **Rebecca Fenwick – OPPOSED**
- **Harold Yellin – representing the applicant**

CLOSED HEARING for #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. See related agenda item #19.

12. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Michael Condon, Vintage Home Restoration, LLC, for a Zoning Map Amendment of the 0.04-Acre Property Located at 222 West Duffy Street (PIN 20052 16013) from TN-1 (Traditional Neighborhood-1) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1). Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 23-003454-ZA). [Continued from the August 24, 2023 Council Meeting at the Petitioner's Request]

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #12 and #13.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Ms. Pearl Reddick – OPPOSED**
- **Ms. Doris Fogle – OPPOSED**
- **Josh Yellin, representing applicant**



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CLOSED HEARINGS for #12 and #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. See related agenda items #13 and #20.

13. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Michael Condon, Vintage Home Restoration, LLC, for a Special Use Permit with Conditions to Allow on Premises Consumption of Alcohol in Association with a Restaurant Located at 222 West Duffy Street (PIN 20052 16013). Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 23-003455-ZA). [Continued from the August 24, 2023 Council Meeting at the Petitioner's Request]

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #12 and #13.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC representative
- Ms. Pearl Reddick – OPPOSED
- Ms. Doris Fogle – OPPOSED
- Josh Yellin, representing applicant

CLOSED HEARINGS for #12 and #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. See related agenda items #12 and #20.

(The Special Use Permit for #13 FAILED, 2-7-0, with Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, Alderwoman Lanier, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, and Alderman Purtee voting no)

14. Petition of Patrick Shay on Behalf of Live Oak Living, LLC, for a Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment Changing the Category from Residential Suburban Single Family to Traditional Commercial for the 0.18-Acre Property Located at 20 West 60th Street (PIN 20093 27003). Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 23-003919-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #14 and #15.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, MPC representative
- Patrick Shay, applicant

CLOSED HEARINGS for #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. See related agenda item #21.

15. Petition of Patrick Shay on Behalf of Live Oak Living, LLC, for a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone 20 West 60th Street from RTF (Residential Two-family) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial -1) with Conditions. Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 23-003824-ZA).



Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #14 and #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Patrick Shay, applicant**

CLOSED HEARINGS for #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. See related agenda item #22.

16. Petition of Dolly Chisolm, Agent, on Behalf of Christian Sottile, Property Owner, and Ralston College on Behalf of Pelican Funds, LLC, Petitioner, for a Special Use Permit with Conditions to Establish an Educational Building Used by a College, University, or Seminary for the 0.13-acre Property at 115 West Bolton Street (PIN 20044 18001). Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 23-003820-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #16.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Elizabeth T. Hollis – IN SUPPORT**
- **Dolly Chisolm, representing the applicant**
- **Stephen Blackwood, college president**

CLOSED HEARING for #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2, with Alderman Palumbo and Alderman Purtee being not present during the vote.

(APPROVED Special Use Permit for #16, 7-2-0 with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no)

17. Petition of Russell Goeken on Behalf of Habersham Development, LLC, for a Special Use Permit with Conditions to Establish Accessory Alcohol Sales within a Restaurant for the 0.06-Acre Property Located at 3129 Bull Street (20088 03001). Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 23-003790-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #17.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Russ Goeken, representing applicant**

CLOSED HEARING for #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED Special Use Permit for #17, 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no)



PETITIONS

18. Approval of an Honorary Street Designation for "Coach Ronald Booker Way"
Located on Hopkins Street between Victory Drive and West 48th Street.
(APPROVE #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READINGS

19. Recommendations by the Historic Preservation Commission for a Text Amendment to the City of Savannah Zoning Ordinance Section 7.9, Victorian District Contributing Resources Map for 1001 Whitaker Street (20044 25001), 124 West Park Avenue (20044 24003) and 1015 Whitaker Street (20044 25002) which Are All zoned TN-1 (Traditional Neighborhood-1). Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 23-003955-ZA). Recommend Denial. **(DENIED #19 as recommended by the City Manager, 7-2-0, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no)**
20. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Michael Condon, Vintage Home Restoration, LLC, for a Zoning Map Amendment of the 0.04-Acre Property Located at 222 West Duffy Street (PIN 20052 16013) from TN-1 (Traditional Neighborhood-1) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1). Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 23-003454-ZA). [Continued from the August 24, 2023 Council Meeting at the Petitioner's Request] **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #20, 6-3-0, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no)**
21. Petition of Patrick Shay on Behalf of Live Oak Living, LLC, for a Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment Changing the Category from Residential Suburban Single Family to Traditional Commercial for the 0.18-acre Property Located at 20 W. 60th Street (PIN 20093 27003). Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 23-003919-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #21 and #22, 5-4-0, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voting no)**



22. Petition of Patrick Shay on Behalf of Live Oak Living, LLC, for a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone 20 West 60th Street from RTF (Residential Two-family) to TC-1 (Traditional Commercial -1) with Conditions. Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 23-003824-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #21 and #22, 5-4-0, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voting no)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Scrap Tire Disposal with Quality Tire Recycling, Inc. in the Amount of \$55,000. This annual contract provides scrap tire disposal services for the following City locations: Dean Forest Road Landfill, Bacon Park Convenience Center, and Fleet Services. **(APPROVED #23 and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Water and Sewer Manhole Adjustment with SamJay Services (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$125,000. This service will be used to lower and raise water valve manholes, boxes, and sanitary sewer manholes on Victory Drive between Ogeechee Road and Downing Avenue. (Water & Sewer) **(APPROVED #23 and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification of Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Line Repair from Southern Champion Construction in an Amount Up to \$2,000,000. The purpose of this increase is for labor and material service to support the successful operation of the City's Water Resources Department's infrastructure in compliance with regulatory guidelines. (Water & Sewer) **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Circulatory Transit Services with Chatham Area Transit (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$7,227,524. The transit services will provide public transportation within the City of Savannah's downtown area, Carver Village and Cloverdale to encourage public transportation to ease congestion of vehicle traffic. (Parking & Mobility) **(APPROVED #26, 6-1-2, with Alderwoman Lanier voting no, and Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being not present during the vote)**



SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

27. Approval of Amendment No. 3 to Task Order No. 3 with Pond & Company, for Redesign Fees Associated with the Air Cargo Facility Project, in the Amount of \$1,541,319. **(APPROVED #27, #28, and #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
28. Approval to Purchase New Airfield Sign Panels from Allen Enterprises, in the Amount of \$94,343. **(APPROVED #27, #28, and #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
29. Approval of Conde Nast Promotional Campaign Partnership with the Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, in the Amount of \$300,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, and #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

30. Resolution Ratifying the Mayor's August 29, 2023 Emergency Declaration. **(APPROVED #30 and #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
31. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit the FY 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and Grant Agreement with the Subrecipient, Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless, Inc., for Federal Assistance as the Project Sponsor. **(APPROVED #30 and #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

AGREEMENTS

32. Approval of the Emergency Shelter Facilities License Agreement with St. Joseph's and Candler Hospitals. **(APPROVED #32, 7-0-2, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being not present during the vote)**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

33. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Quitclaim Deeds to the Georgia Department of Transportation to Resolve Title Issues on Properties Along State Route 17-A. **(APPROVED #33 and #34, 7-0-2, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being not present during the vote)**



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34. Authorize the City Manager to Approve Quit Claim Deeds for Sewer Easement to Victory Drive Investors, LLC, and Victory Apartments Owner, LLC. **(APPROVED #33 and #34, 7-0-2, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being not present during the vote)**
35. Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Galvan Foundation and Appropriate Up to \$500,000 for the Acquisition and Renovation of the Kiah House Located at 505 W. 36th Street. **(APPROVED #35, 7-0-2, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being not present during the vote)**

MISCELLANEOUS

36. (Added Item) Petition of John D. Northup III, Agent for Capital Development Partners, for a Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment from Residential - Suburban Single Family to Industry Light for ~52.86 Acres Located at 343 and 339 Buckhalter Road (10942 01003 & -01002A), 335 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002B), 331 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002C), 325 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002D), 323 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002F), 315 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002E), 309 Buckhalter Road (10942 01007 & -01008), and 311 Buckhalter Road (10942 01009). (File No. 23-002328-ZA). (Continued to the October 12, 2023, Council Meeting at the request of the petitioner.) **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #36 and #37 to the November 21, 2023 City Council Meeting as requested by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, 7-0-2, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being not present for the vote)**
37. Petition of John D. Northrup III, Agent for Capital Development Partners, for a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone ~52.86 Acres Located at 343 and 339 Buckhalter Road (10942 01003 & -01002A), 335 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002B), 331 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002C), 325 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002D), 323 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002F), 315 Buckhalter Road (10942 01002E), 309 Buckhalter Road (10942 01007 & -01008), and 311 Buckhalter Road (10942 01009) from R-A-CO (Residential Agricultural) to IL (Light Industrial) with Conditions. (File No. 23-000304-ZA). (Continued to the October 12, 2023, Council Meeting at the request of the petitioner.) **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #36 and #37 to the November 21, 2023 City Council Meeting as requested by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, 7-0-2, with**



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Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being not present for the vote)

Following some announcements, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.