



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session and City Manager's briefing was held at 12:02 p.m. Mayor Johnson 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 – **[ABSENT]**
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
Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. City of Savannah's 2024 State Legislative Agenda. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Policy and Governmental Affairs Director Joseph Shearouse]**
2. FY2024 Budget Retreat Follow Up Discussion. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder]**
3. City Manager's Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder]**

Following questions and comments from members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the Work Session at 1:06 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 Alderman Alicia Miller Blakely who introduced Minister Tammy Stone 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 – **[ABSENT]**
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
Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd
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 November 21, 2023. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderman Gibson-Carter being absent, and as amended thereby postponing several agenda items as listed)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on November 9, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderman Gibson-Carter being absent)**



3. Approval of the Minutes for the Budget Retreat Held on November 14, 2023. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

PRESENTATIONS

4. A Proclamation Recognizing the Alee Shriners for their Service to the Community and Longevity in Our Community. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, Vice Chairman Palumbo, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee]**
5. Presentation of the Employee Engagement Team and Recognition of the Third Quarter 2023 Employee of the Quarter Winners. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and City Manager Melder]**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

6. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Amish Patel for Hari's Corner, a Convenience Store Located at 2200 Habersham Street. The establishment is located between East 38th and East 39th Streets in Aldermanic District 2.
Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #6, #7, #9, and #10.
No speaker(s).
CLOSED HEARINGS for #6, #7, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent.
(APPROVED #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)
7. Approval of a Class G (Complimentary) (Beer and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Claire Blaisdell for Wonderland Photography Studios, a Photography Studio Located at 340 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Suite B. The establishment is located between West Jones and West Charlton Streets in Aldermanic District 2.
Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #6, #7, #9, and #10.
No speaker(s).
CLOSED HEARINGS for #6, #7, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent.



(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)

8. (Continued to the December 7, 2023, Council Meeting at Petitioner's Request) Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Christopher Clarke for Orale Tacos, a Restaurant Located at 36 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The establishment is located between West Congress and West Broughton Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #8 to the December 7, 2023 City Council Meeting, during the adoption of the agenda)

9. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Yan Li for Sakura 88, a Restaurant Located at 8465 Waters Avenue. The establishment is located between East Montgomery Crossroads and Cranman Drive in Aldermanic District 4.

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #6, #7, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #6, #7, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent.

(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)

10. Approval of a Class C (Beer, and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Russell Goeken for Café Taureau, a Restaurant Located at 3129 Bull Street. The establishment is located between West 48th and Nephew Streets in Aldermanic District 5.

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #6, #7, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED HEARINGS for #6, #7, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent.

(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)



PUBLIC HEARINGS

11. First Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the 2024 Proposed Service Program and Budget.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #11.

Speaker(s):

- **Patrick Kelsey, IN SUPPORT of Arts & Culture Alliance of Chatham County/funding**
- **Katrina Bostick, IN SUPPORT of funding for the housing insecure/Family Promise of the Coastal Empire**
- **Patrick Zimmerman (The Black Rabbit), IN SUPPORT of changes to the Alcohol licensing and review process (extension of the to-go cup zone), with the submission of several petitions.**
- **Terry Tolbert, IN SUPPORT of funding for the Economic Opportunity Authority (EOA)/employment**

ZONING HEARINGS

12. (Continued to the January 11, 2024, Council Meeting at Petitioner's Request) 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). (Item was continued from the September 14, 2023, Council Meeting). **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #12 to the January 11, 2024 City Council Meeting, during the adoption of the agenda)**

Written comment(s):

- **Judy Helton – IN SUPPORT**
- **Diane B. Brannen – OPPOSED**
- **Helen Hester, representing Larua Mackey and Dorie Clark – OPPOSED**
- **Kerrie Bieber – OPPOSED**



- **Patricia McKenzie – IN SUPPORT**
- **Dawn and Jack Lewis – IN SUPPORT**
- **Dorie Clark, et al - OPPOSED**

13. (Continued to the January 11, 2024, Council Meeting at Petitioner's Request) 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). (Item was continued from the September 14, 2023, Council Meeting). **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #13 to the January 11, 2024 City Council Meeting, during the adoption of the agenda)**

Written comment(s):

- **Judy Helton – IN SUPPORT**
- **Diane B. Brannen – OPPOSED**
- **Helen Hester, representing Larua Mackey and Dorie Clark – OPPOSED**
- **Kerrie Bieber – OPPOSED**
- **Patricia McKenzie – IN SUPPORT**
- **Dawn and Jack Lewis – IN SUPPORT**
- **Dorie Clark, et al - OPPOSED**

14. Petition of Joshua Yellin (Agent) on Behalf of The Habersham School, Inc. (Owner) for Bludworth Holdings, LLC to Change the Future Land Use Map Amendment from Residential – Suburban Single-family to Residential – General at 505 E. 54th Street (PIN 20086 27004) in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 23-004628-ZA). (Item was continued from the November 9, 2023, Council meeting).

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #14 and #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Ardis Wood – OPPOSED**
- **Harold Yellin, representing petitioner**

CLOSED HEARINGS for #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent.



Written comment(s):

- **Clinton Edminster – IN SUPPORT**

15. Petition of Joshua Yellin (Agent) on Behalf of The Habersham School, Inc. (Owner) for Bludworth Holdings, LLC to Rezone 1.37 Acres at 505 E. 54th Street (PIN 20086 27004) from RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6) to RMF-2-19 (Residential Multi-family 2- 19 units per acre) in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 23-004627-ZA). (Item was continued from the November 9, 2023, Council meeting).

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #14 and #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Ardis Wood – OPPOSED**
- **Harold Yellin, representing petitioner**

CLOSED HEARINGS for #14 and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent.

Written comment(s):

- **Clinton Edminster – IN SUPPORT**

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

16. (Continued to the January 11, 2024, Council Meeting at Petitioner's Request) 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). (Item was continued from the September 14, 2023, Council Meeting). **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #16 to the January 11, 2024 City Council Meeting, during the adoption of the agenda)**

Written comment(s):

- **Judy Helton – IN SUPPORT**
- **Diane B. Brannen – OPPOSED**



- Helen Hester, representing Larua Mackey and Dorie Clark – **OPPOSED**
- Kerrie Bieber – **OPPOSED**
- Patricia McKenzie – **IN SUPPORT**
- Dawn and Jack Lewis – **IN SUPPORT**
- Dorie Clark, et al - **OPPOSED**

17. Petition of Joshua Yellin (Agent) on Behalf of The Habersham School, Inc. (Owner) for Bludworth Holdings, LLC to Rezone 1.37 Acres at 505 E. 54th Street (PIN 20086 27004) from RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6) to RMF-2-19 (Residential Multi-family 2- 19 units per acre) in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 23-004627-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #17 and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-1-1, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no, and with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

18. (Continued to the January 11, 2024, Council Meeting at Petitioner's Request) 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). (Item was continued from the September 14, 2023, Council Meeting). **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #18 to the January 11, 2024 City Council Meeting, during the adoption of the agenda)**

Written comment(s):

- Judy Helton – **IN SUPPORT**
- Diane B. Brannen – **OPPOSED**
- Helen Hester, representing Larua Mackey and Dorie Clark – **OPPOSED**
- Kerrie Bieber – **OPPOSED**
- Patricia McKenzie – **IN SUPPORT**
- Dawn and Jack Lewis – **IN SUPPORT**
- Dorie Clark, et al – **OPPOSED**



19. Petition of Joshua Yellin (Agent) on Behalf of The Habersham School, Inc. (Owner) for Bludworth Holdings, LLC to Change the Future Land Use Map Amendment from Residential – Suburban Single-family to Residential – General at 505 E. 54th Street (PIN 20086 27004) in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 23-004628-ZA). (Item was continued from the November 9, 2023, Council meeting). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #17 and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-1-1, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no, and with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

20. Approval of the 2024 Revenue Ordinance. Each year, City Council adopts a Revenue Ordinance to authorize the collection of taxes and fees.

READ by Mayor Johnson.

Speaker(s):

- **Ryan Tamez – IN SUPPORT of Savannah Adult Recreation Club (SARC) programs**

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

21. (Continued to the December 7, 2023, Council Meeting at Petitioner's Request) Zoning Map Amendment for Bryan Wardlaw from Landmark 24 on Behalf of William Fawcett (Owner) to Rezone ~105 Acres on Wild Heron Road (PIN 21003 03001) from A-1 (Agriculture-1) to RSF-5 (Residential Single Family-5) and RMF-1 (Residential Multifamily-1) with Conditions in Aldermanic District 6 (File No. 22-002692-ZA). (Item was continued from the July 26, 2023, Council meeting).

(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #21 to the December 19, 2023 City Council Meeting, during the adoption of the agenda)

Written comment(s):

- **Tom Zecchin – OPPOSED**
- **Debbie Walker – Commented regarding traffic control evaluation made by Chatham County and comments made by Alderman Purtee**

PURCHASING ITEMS



22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two (2) 56ft. Aerial Bucket Trucks from Custom Truck One Source in the Amount of \$331,054. The trucks will be used to perform routine tree maintenance. The two bucket trucks will be replacing vehicles #1228 and #1229, which are planned FY23 replacements. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25 and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**
23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Six (6) Backhoe Loaders with Low Country Machinery JCB in the Amount of \$575,160. The backhoe loaders will be utilized by the Water Resources Department, Sanitation, and City Cemeteries. The new backhoe loaders will be replacing units 2850, 4249, 4632, 4729, 4856, and 8842, which are planned replacements for FY23. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25 and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Renewal for Energov Software with Tyler Technologies in the Amount of \$171,143. The Department of Innovation + Technology Services Department will use EnerGov to track permitting and inspection activities of various City departments. Participating departments include Development Services, Traffic Engineering, Film and Permitting Services, Savannah Police, and Savannah Fire. (ITS) **(APPROVED #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of a Rotary Mower with Jet-Vac Equipment Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$75,500. The mower is used to maintain the on/off ramp slopes of the Truman Parkway once the vegetation has been cleared. This will also give the department the ability to maintain detention pond basins city-wide. (Park & Tree) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25 and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**
26. Notification of an Emergency Procurement of One (1) Habsite Meter from Safeware, Inc., in the Amount of \$148,500. The purchased meter will replace a current meter purchased 18 years ago, used on many occasions to keep the hazmat team and community safe from hazardous gases and vapors. The Savannah Fire Department's hazardous team services the City of Savannah



including Chatham County and serves as the regional type one (1) team for the State of Georgia. (Fire) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #25 and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

RESOLUTIONS

27. Resolution Authorizing the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority to Use Up to \$220,000 to Acquire 1826 Florance Street and CHSA Development, Inc. to Use Up to \$480,000 to Facilitate the Renovation of Four Apartments for Medically Fragile Persons Experiencing Homelessness. **(APPROVED #27 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

28. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premises Consumption on Sunday, March 17, 2024. **(APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

AGREEMENTS

29. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with GA-HYG Imports, Inc for AutoNation Hyundai. This is a development consisting of a 600 sq.ft. office space expansion located at 7011 Abercorn Street in the President Street Treatment Plant service area in Aldermanic District 4. **(APPROVED #29 and #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

30. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation. This is a development consisting of a 16,917 sq.ft. aircraft hangar located at 1000 Davidson Drive in the Crossroads Treatment Plant service area in Aldermanic District 1. **(APPROVED #29 and #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Lease for 5,040 square feet of Office Space at 1000 Business Center Drive, Suites 120-130. **(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS



32. Settlement #1.

(APPROVED #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent, thereby authorizing the City Attorney's Office to resolve the car wreck claim of George Cummings for \$50,000.00)

MISCELLANEOUS

33. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Meadow Lakes Phase 1, a Portion of the Spencer Connerat Tract. The subject property is the first phase of the Meadow Lakes Subdivision. This proposed phase totals 28.759 acres and will consist of 99 single family lots with varying lot sizes with a dedicated entrance located off Little Neck Road south of Interstate 16 in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #33 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

34. (This item is postponed) Approval of Major Subdivision: Flannery Ward Lots 65, 66 & 67. The subject property is the first phase and only anticipated phase of the Flannery Ward Subdivision. This proposed subdivision is located on West 38th Street between Montgomery Street and Jefferson Street, totals 0.403 acres, and will consist of seven (7) single family lots to be occupied by single family attached buildings in Aldermanic District 2. **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #34 to the December 7, 2023 City Council Meeting, during the adoption of the agenda)**

35. Approval of the City of Savannah's 2024 State Legislative Agenda. **(APPROVED #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter being absent)**

Following announcements, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.