



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session and City Manager's briefing was held at 11:02 a.m., in the Council Chambers. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order and recognized Alderman Purtee to offer a prayer.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Carolyn H. Bell, Post 1 – At-Large
Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 – At-Large
Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4
Alderwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5
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. A Presentation by the City Attorney – City Charter Review. **[PRESENTED by City Attorney Lovett]**
2. Discussion of Organizational Items. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Mayor Johnson]**
3. City Manager's Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, following the agenda review]**
4. Added Item: Closed Executive Session Regarding Personnel, Real Estate, and Litigation. **[At 12:45 p.m., Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to recess the workshop and hold a closed executive session (3rd Floor conference Room) regarding personnel, real estate, and litigation, seconded by Alderwoman**



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Wilder-Bryan and Aldermen Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

At 1:27 p.m., Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adjourn the closed executive session, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.]

- 5. Added Item: Agenda Review. [At 1:44 p.m., the City Council held an agenda review in the 2nd Floor media room.]**

There was no action taken during the workshop and agenda review, which were followed by the City Manager's Update. Mayor Johnson adjourned the pre-meetings at 2:00 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 Bishop Dr. Willie Ferrell, Pastor of the Royal Church of Christ, Inc. on Hudson Hill to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Carolyn H. Bell, Post 1 – At-Large
Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 – At-Large
Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4
Alderwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5
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 January 11, 2024. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Called Meeting - Inauguration on January 2, 2024. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

4. Election of City Council Officers. **(Upon nomination during the workshop, a new slate of officers was appointed: Dr. Shabazz was appointed to Mayor Pro-Tem; Ald. Palumbo was appointed to Chairman; and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was appointed to Vice Chair unanimously, 9-0-0.)**
5. Adoption of Council Meeting Procedures and Rules. **(APPROVED #5 as presented, 7-2-0, with Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voting no)**
6. Approval of the Meeting Times for the 2024 Council Meeting Schedule. **(APPROVED #6, 8-1-0, with Ald. Purtee voting no, and thereby deciding that all regular meetings will begin at 2:00 p.m.)**
7. Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the City of Savannah. **(APPROVED #7, 7-2-0, with Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voting no)**
8. Resolution Reaffirming the City of Savannah's Ethics Ordinance. **(APPROVED #8, 7-2-0, with Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voting no)**
9. Resolution Affirming the Appointments of the City Manager, City Attorney, and Clerk of Council. **(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, thereby reaffirming City Manager Joseph "Jay" Melder, City Attorney R. Bates Lovett, and Clerk of Council Mark Massey)**
10. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contracts and Agreements as Approved by the Prior City Council. **(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

11. Appearance by Representatives of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Association to Announce the 2024 Savannah MLK Jr. Activities. **[The appearance was INTRODUCED by Mayor Johnson and PRESENTED by former City of Savannah first lady Deborah Adams, Board of Elections member Glenda Jones, and Revenue Director Judee Jones. The parade permit was APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.]**



ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

12. 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. (Item was continued from the November 21, 2023 City Council Meeting at the Petitioner's Request).

(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as requested by the petitioner to the January 25 City Council Meeting)

ZONING HEARINGS

13. 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 and November 21, 2023, Council Meetings).

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #13 and #14

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **John Northrup, III, representing petitioner**
- **Eva Pappert – IN SUPPORT**
- **Jared Pappert – IN SUPPORT**
- **Chat Howard – IN SUPPORT**
- **Carol Howard – IN SUPPORT**
- **Christy Ellis – IN SUPPORT**
- **Jennifer Wells – IN SUPPORT**
- **Wayne Wells – IN SUPPORT**
- **Beth Brannen Brock – IN SUPPORT**
- **Zane Brock – IN SUPPORT**



- **Judy Helton – IN SUPPORT**
- **Helen Hester – OPPOSED**
- **Patricia McKenzie – IN SUPPORT**
- **Laura Smith Mackey – OPPOSED**
- **Irene Gadson Hines – OPPOSED**
- **Gerrie Jaubert – OPPOSED**
- **Caren Bramhall – OPPOSED**
- **Dorie Clark – OPPOSED**
- **John D. Smith – OPPOSED**
- **Jenifer Hilburn – OPPOSED**

Mayor Johnson ordered the hearing closed at 4:08 p.m.

Written comment(s):

- **Diane B. Brannen – OPPOSED**
- **Kerrie Bieber – OPPOSED**

14. 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, and November 21, 2023, Council Meetings).

Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #13 and #14

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **John Northrup, III, representing petitioner**
- **Eva Pappert – IN SUPPORT**
- **Jared Pappert – IN SUPPORT**
- **Chat Howard – IN SUPPORT**
- **Carol Howard – IN SUPPORT**
- **Christy Ellis – IN SUPPORT**
- **Jennifer Wells – IN SUPPORT**
- **Wayne Wells – IN SUPPORT**



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- **Beth Brannen Brock – IN SUPPORT**
- **Zane Brock – IN SUPPORT**
- **Judy Helton – IN SUPPORT**
- **Helen Hester – OPPOSED**
- **Patricia McKenzie – IN SUPPORT**
- **Laura Smith Mackey – OPPOSED**
- **Irene Gadson Hines – OPPOSED**
- **Gerrie Jaubert – OPPOSED**
- **Caren Bramhall – OPPOSED**
- **Dorie Clark – OPPOSED**
- **John D. Smith – OPPOSED**
- **Jenifer Hilburn – OPPOSED**

Mayor Johnson ordered the hearing closed at 4:08 p.m.

Written comment(s):

- **Diane B. Brannen – OPPOSED**
- **Kerrie Bieber – OPPOSED**

15. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Lincoln Park Ventures, LLC, for a Special Use Permit with Conditions to Allow Accessory Alcohol Sales in Association with a Restaurant Located at 222 East 41st Street (PIN 20075 08010) within the TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) Zoning District in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 23-005394-ZA).

Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**

CLOSED HEARING for #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Miller Blakely being away from the dais.

(APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely being away from the dais)

Written comment(s):

- **Jason Combs – IN SUPPORT**
- **Yvonne McQueen – Expressed concern and requested a delay.**



ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

16. 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, and November 21, 2023, Council Meetings).

(HEARD FOR FIRST READING ONLY)

17. Petition of John D. Northup 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, and November 21, 2023, Council Meetings).

(HEARD FOR FIRST READING ONLY)

PURCHASING ITEMS

18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Three (3) Mid-Size Utility Tractors from Shea Tractor and Equipment in the Amount of \$128,860. The mid-size utility tractors will be utilized by the Park & Tree Department and are planned FY23 fleet additions to support the department's back-to-basics initiative. (Fleet)

(APPROVED #18, #20, and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely being away from the dais)

19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Grant Administration & Management Contract to RostanSolutions, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$519,250. This item is related to the City of Savannah's recently awarded Building Resilient



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Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant. The services to be provided will include grant administration & management services for implementation of the FEMA BRIC Grant the City received that has a total Federal contribution of \$30,147,160 over an approximate five-year timeline. The BRIC Grant Agreement stipulates that 100% of the cost for the services provided by RostanSolutions, LLC will be reimbursable in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. (Stormwater) **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Pay-by-Mobile Services with Passport. This is an agreement for a parking payment application that will provide patrons the convenience to pay for on street parking from their mobile device at no cost to the City. The convenience fee was previously \$0.05 per transaction and was approved by the then City Manager in July 2016. The new proposed convenience fee is \$0.10 per transaction. (Mobility & Parking) **(APPROVED #18, #20, and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely being away from the dais)**
21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Engineering Design and Construction Overview Services for a New Lift Station and Two Sections of Sewer Force Main with Thomas and Hutton (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$920,030. A new sanitary sewer lift station and new force mains are required to convey additional sewage to the Travis Field treatment plant. To serve new residential and industrial development in the New Hampstead area, more capacity is needed. (Public Works & Water Resources) **(APPROVED #18, #20, and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Ald. Miller Blakely being away from the dais)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Casey Canal Drainage Improvements with The Industrial Company (TIC) in an Amount of \$40,276,019 using Budgeted SPLOST Funds Designated for this Project and Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds. The proposed construction work associated with this project are identified as Phase 2-1 (drainage system improvements along 54th Street between Atlantic Avenue and Harmon Street) and Phase 2-2 (drainage system improvements along 56th Street and 57th Street between Abercorn Street and Harmon Street). (Stormwater) **(APPROVED #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

Written comment(s):



- **Taylor L. Carr – IN SUPPORT (Thanks)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

23. Approval to Renew Services with INFAX for the Embross Common Use Passenger Processing System and Common Use Self-Service System for a One-year Period, in the Amount of \$36,404. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
24. Approval to Execute a Contract with Marketing and PR Consultant Jo Piani of Luna PR, in the Amount of \$50,000. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
25. Approval to Renew Contract for Professional Services with Ailevon Pacific Air Service Consulting, in the Amount of \$165,000. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
26. Approval of Amendment No. 4 with CHA Companies, Inc. for Additional Services for the Auxiliary Parking Lots Project, in the Amount of \$36,960. **(APPROVED #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
27. Approval of Task Order No. 32 with AECOM to Conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Emergency Operations Center, in the Amount of \$110,903. **(APPROVED #27, 8-0-1, with Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz recusing herself from the vote due to business purposes)**

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

28. Appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Authorities. **[APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, thereby appointing City Manager Melder to replace Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz on the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Board (CORE MPO)]**

AGREEMENTS

29. Approval of the Fourth Amendment to the 2001 Water Service Agreement with the City of Port Wentworth to Provide Adequate Water Supply. **(APPROVED #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



REAL ESTATE ITEMS

30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding at Eastern Wharf. **(APPROVED #30 and #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Extension of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Chatham County for The Front Porch Located at 2203 Abercorn Street (for a Multi-Agency Resource Center). **(APPROVED #30 and #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

32. Settlement #1.
Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's Office to purchase property owned by the Morgan family in lieu of condemnation for \$1,400,000.00, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

33. Approval of the Installation of a Ground Marker in Taylor Square to Document the History of the Square's Name. **(APPROVED #33 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, with the following language/wording on a ground marker:**
- **Taylor Square laid out in 1851.**
 - **1851 named for John C. Calhoun, Seventh U.S. Vice President.**
 - **2022 City Council removed the name Calhoun, a staunch defender of slavery.**
 - **2023 named in honor of Susie King Taylor, a formerly enslaved woman, nurse, educator, and the first African American to openly teach in the State of Georgia.)**
34. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Camden Crossing and Cottage Row Phase 2. The subject property is the second phase in an established subdivision named Camden Crossing and Cottage Row. This proposed phase totals 21.17 acres and will consist of 71 single family lots with varying lot sizes. The property is in Aldermanic District 5 at Little Neck Road and Chalk Farm Way. **(APPROVED #34, 9-0-0)**



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Following announcements, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:58
p.m.