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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 12:01 p.m., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Media Room of City Hall. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order and recognized Alderman Purtee to offer a prayer.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding  
Alderman Carolyn H. Bell, 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 – Vice Chair  
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 – 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. Closed Executive Session Regarding Personnel, Real Estate, and Litigation. **[At 2:02 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to hold a closed executive session regarding personnel, real estate, and litigation, seconded by Mayor Johnson, Alderman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.]**

**At 1:04 p.m., Alderman Palumbo moved to adjourn the closed executive session and hold the agenda review, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

2. City Manager's Agenda Review. **[CONDUCTED]**



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There was no action taken during the workshop, executive session, or agenda review. Mayor Johnson adjourned the pre-meetings at 1:37 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 2:04 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Carolyn H. Bell who introduced Minister Corey Brooks, Come As You Are Deliverance International Ministries Youth Pastor to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding  
Alderman Carolyn H. Bell, 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 – Vice-Chair  
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 – 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:**

**\*Mayor Johnson acknowledged the loss of three Army Reserve soldiers identified as Georgia residents, killed during a drone strike at a U.S. military base in Jordan last month (January 28<sup>th</sup>). Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton; Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 23, of Waycross; and Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23, of Savannah and a graduate of Windsor Forest High School. Whereupon a motion was made and seconded to authorize/approve resolutions to be prepared and transmitted to the families of the soldiers.**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for February 8, 2024. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended to add-on an appearance by Amanda Hollowell on behalf of the Savannah Black Heritage Festival)**



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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on January 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
  
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on January 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**\*Mayor Johnson announced that the Mayor and Aldermen conducted a closed executive session earlier on the topic of Personnel, Real Estate, and Litigation for which no votes were taken. Mayor Johnson entertained a motion to that effect, thereby granting him authority to sign the required resolution and affidavit. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

4. A Proclamation Declaring February 15, 2024, as the Annual Arbor and Tree Planting Day in the City of Savannah. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Park and Tree Director Gordon Denney and Government Operations Chief Gene Prevatt]**
  
- 4B. ADD-ON: An appearance by Savannah Black Heritage Festival Co-Coordinator Amanda Hollowell who shared program, activities, and flyers for the upcoming events during the month of February. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson]**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS**

5. Approval to Add a Class E (Wine) (By the Package) to an Existing Class C (Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Tonya Rintye for Locally Made Savannah, an Ice Cream Shop Located at 223 West Broughton Street. The establishment is located between Jefferson and Barnard Streets in Aldermanic District 2.  
**Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #5.**



**Speaker(s):**

- **Tonya Rintye, applicant**
- **Judee Jones, representing Revenue Department**

**CLOSED HEARING for #5 UNANIMOUSLY.**

**(APPROVED #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

6. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Joaquin Montesino for Casa Guava, a Restaurant Located at 314 Drayton Street. The establishment is located between East Harris and East Liberty Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #6 and #7.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #6 and #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

**(APPROVED #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

7. Approval of a Class C (Beer and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Elda Rodriguez for Katrina's Mexican Grill, a Restaurant Located at 2 Park of Commerce Boulevard, Suite C. The establishment is located between Park of Commerce Way and Chatham Parkway in Aldermanic District 5.

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #6 and #7.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #6 and #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

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

**ZONING HEARINGS**

8. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Community Bible Church of Savannah Inc. for a Special Use Permit for ~0.21 Acres at 1202 East 69th Street (PIN 20114 13012) in the RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6) Zoning District to Permit a Place of Worship (File No. 23-005388-ZA) in Aldermanic District 3.

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #8 and #9.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Craig Landolt – OPPOSED**
- **Harold Yellin, representing the applicant**
- **Mark Pickering, representing the church**



**CLOSED HEARINGS for #8 and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #8 and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

9. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Community Bible Church of Savannah Inc. for a Special Use Permit for ~0.60 and 0.14 Acres at 1206 East 68th Street (PIN 20114 11011) and 5302 Sanders Street (PIN 20114 11001) in the RSF-6 (Residential Single Family-6) Zoning District to Permit a Place of Worship (File No. 23-005389-ZA) in Aldermanic District 3.

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearings for #8 and #9.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Craig Landolt – OPPOSED**
- **Harold Yellin, representing the applicant**

**CLOSED HEARINGS for #8 and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #8 and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

10. Petition of James Massey on Behalf of Starland Partners, LLC for a Special Use Permit to Allow a Craft Distillery Use at 12 W. 41st Street (PINs 20065 47020 and 20065 47021), 2427 DeSoto (20065 47019), 2425 DeSoto (20065 47018), 2423 DeSoto (20065 47017), 2421 DeSoto (20065 47016), and Bull St (20065 47007) in the TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) Zoning District (File No. 23-006445-ZA) in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson opened the hearing for #10.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**

**CLOSED HEARING for #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

## **PURCHASING ITEMS**

11. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two (2) Savannah Police Department (SPD) Pursuit Vehicles with Santee Automotive, LLC in the Amount of \$120,557. The pursuit vehicles will be utilized by the SPD Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (H.E.A.T) unit and outfitted with law enforcement-grade



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materials including sirens, lights, and exterior body wraps. (Police) **(APPROVED #11, #12, #13, #14, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Smartsheet Enterprise Software Licenses from Carahsoft Technology in the Amount of \$196,820. The Innovation and Technology Services Department will use the software throughout the City as a project management center that allows city staff to assign tasks, track the progress of projects and tasks, manage calendars, and share and edit documents. (ITS) **(APPROVED #11, #12, #13, #14, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Three (3) Year Contract for Information Technology (IT) Governance and Technology Advisory Services with Info-Tech in an Amount Not to Exceed \$207,480 Annually. InfoTech Research Group is a technology advisory research firm that provides IT governance and core process analysis in building a strategic data-driven plan and is a pivotal partner for the ITS department. This contract encompasses staff development, best practices guidance, and networking opportunities for municipal government IT professionals, and serves as a cornerstone for Innovation and Technology Services. (ITS) **(APPROVED #11, #12, #13, #14, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Three (3) year Contract for Rubicon Smart City Software from Rubicon Global LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$256,019 in Year One. To be paid over the length of the agreement as follows; year one in the amount of \$256,019, year two and three in the amount of \$249,867. The software is utilized by the Sanitation Department to optimize and manage daily routes. (ITS) **(APPROVED #11, #12, #13, #14, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No.1 for the Arena Surface Parking Lot with APAC-Atlantic, Inc in the Amount of \$4,500,000. This contract will cover the removal of additional contaminated soil quantities that are anticipated for the remediation of the site. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #15, 8-1-0, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no)**
16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Truman Linear Park Trail Phase 2B Construction with JHC Corporation in the Amount of \$8,193,540. The Truman Trail Phase 2B project is part of the Tide to Town system and begins at



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52nd Street at Bee Road and ends at DeRenne Avenue near Jenkins High School. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**Written comment(s):**

- **Caila Brown – IN SUPPORT**
- **Richard Morgan – IN SUPPORT**
- **Armand Turner – IN SUPPORT**

17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 2 for Bilbo Canal Phase 2 with SJ Hamill Construction in the Amount of \$125,642. To match the previous construction (phase 1) and continue expanding the Bilbo Canal Widening east wall, the concrete wall cap was retrofitted to tie the existing wall and box culvert to the proposed east wall expansion of the Bilbo Canal Phase 2 project. This was done because the existing wall and box culvert are at different elevations and required the construction of a transitioning wall cap to connect them. (Stormwater) **(APPROVED #11, #12, #13, #14, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**RESOLUTIONS**

18. Resolution Accepting the Donation of a Tugboat Play Structure Known as "Tinkerbell" from Margot Meyerhoff. **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely being away from the dais during the vote)**
19. Second Amended and Restated Resolution Amending and Superseding the Amended and Restated City of Savannah Resolution Dated August 24, 2023 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Creation of Savannah's Waterfront Community Improvement District in Accordance with Section VII, Article IX of the Georgia Constitution. **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely being away from the dais during the vote)**

**AGREEMENTS**

20. Authorize the City Manager to Accept a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act FY2024 Rapid Response Grant Award in the Amount of \$70,000. The award will be used to implement general Dislocated Worker workforce training activities. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #20, #21, and #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



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21. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the Second Allocation of FY2024 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Awards for Adult (\$636,322) and Dislocated Worker (\$1,105,555) Programs. These awards will be used to provide programs from October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025 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 #20, #21, and #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the Modification of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act FY2023 Rapid Response Dislocated Worker Grant Award in the Amount of \$95,000. The award will be used to support Dislocated Worker workforce/training activities such as On-the-Job Training, Incumbent Worker Training, Tuition Assistance and Supportive Services from January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #20, #21, and #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
23. Approval of a Development and Limited Use Agreement Between the City of Savannah and the Telfair Museum of Art, Inc. for Telfair Square. **(APPROVED #23 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3, with Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee being away from the dais during the vote)**
24. Approval to Renew the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the State of Georgia. Pre-existing agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies help to ensure the timely provision of mutual aid assistance and the reimbursement of costs incurred by those parties who render such assistance. **(APPROVED #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3, with Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee being away from the dais during the vote)**
25. Approval of a Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Savannah and Savannah's Waterfront Community Improvement District (SWCID). This Agreement stipulates that the relationship between the SWCID and the City is and shall be one of cooperative partnership, with both parties working together with the common goal of improving and benefitting the District. **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3, with Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, and Alderman Purtee being away from the dais during the vote)**



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**REAL ESTATE ITEMS**

26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Underground Easement to Benefit Georgia Power Company for a Utility Project at 16 E. 35th Street (PIN 20065 05001). **(APPROVED #26 and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderman Purtee being away from the dais during the vote)**
27. Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into a Third Amendment of the Land Lease with Tenenbaum, Inc. for Use of Land as a Surface Parking Lot Located Along W. Gwinnett Street Next to the Arena. **(APPROVED #27, 7-1-1, with Alderwoman Miller Blakely voting no, and Alderman Purtee being away from the dais during the vote)**
28. Authorize the City Manager to Declare Surplus and Available for Sale to the Adjoining Property Owner a 0.039-acre parcel of vacant land located 0 East Broad Street at a price of \$24,000. **(APPROVED #26 and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderman Purtee being away from the dais during the vote)**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

29. Approval for the Installation of a Historical Marker on Public Property Adjacent to 23 Barnard Street to Recognize the Montmollin Building and Bryan School. **(APPROVED #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with Alderman Purtee being away from the dais during the vote)**

Following announcements, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:53  
p.m.