



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

The work session was held at 12:03 p.m., in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order, then recognized Alderman Detric Leggett 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 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

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Boards, Commissions, and Authorities Discussion. **[FACILITATED by Mayor Johnson]**
2. City Manager's Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, ending at 1:03 p.m.]**
3. Closed Executive Session: Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate. **[HELD at 1:18 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Attorney's conference room]**

Following comments/questions from city council members, Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session and executive session at 1:58 p.m. No action was taken.



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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 2:08 p.m. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order and recognized Alderman Leggett who introduced Bishop Dr. Eric Mason Sr. from Jesus First, The Christian Community Church 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 – Vice Chair  
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 – Chairman  
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

**ABSENT:** Alderwoman 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

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for August 8, 2024. **(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 July 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



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3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on July 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**\*Mayor Johnson announced that the Mayor and Aldermen conducted a closed executive session earlier regarding Personnel, Litigation, and Real Estate, 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. Ald. Palumbo moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Lanier and Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent. (APPROVED)**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS**

4. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Natasha Gaskill for Sixby, a Restaurant Located at 220 E. 41st Street. The establishment is located between Abercorn and Lincoln Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for #4, #5, and #6.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #4, #5, and #6**

**UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

**(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

5. Approval of a Class G (Complimentary) (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Michael Overton for Outside Brands (Savannah), a Vessel Located at 2 West Bay Street (Hyatt Dock). The establishment is located between Whitaker Street and Drayton Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for #4, #5, and #6.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Judee Jones, Revenue Director representing the ABC Unit**
- **City Manager Melder**
- **Michael Overton, petitioner**



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**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #4, #5, and #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent. (APPROVED #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

6. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Shailesh Patel for Tryp Hotel, a Hotel Located at 320 Montgomery Street. The establishment is located between West Charlton and West Harris Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for #4, #5, and #6.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #4, #5, and #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent. (APPROVED #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**ZONING HEARINGS**

7. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Abercorn Stay, LLC, for an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map Category from Residential – Suburban Single Family to Residential – General at 29 East 67th Street (20112 06006) on 0.51 Acres in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 24-003235-ZA).

**Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearing for #7.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, representing the MPC**
- **Ardis Wood, asked for her requests to be included in any approvals**
- **Josh Yellin, representing the petitioner**

**(CLOSED HEARING for #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent. See related agenda item #9.)**

**Ald. Palumbo requested reaffirmation from the City Manager regarding beautification of medians and rights-of-way, especially on Abercorn Street.**

8. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Abercorn Stay, LLC, for a Zoning Map Amendment from RSF-10 (Residential Single Family-10) to RMF-2-30 (Residential Multi Family-2- 30 units per acre) for 29 East 67th Street (20112 06006) on 0.51 Acres in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 24-003234-ZA).



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Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearing for #8.

Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing the MPC

**(CLOSED HEARING for #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent. See related agenda item #10.)**

#### **ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING**

9. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Abercorn Stay, LLC, for an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map Category from Residential – Suburban Single Family to Residential – General at 29 East 67th Street (20112 06006) on 0.51 Acres in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 24-003235-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent. See related agenda item #7.)**
10. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Abercorn Stay, LLC, for a Zoning Map Amendment from RSF-10 (Residential Single Family-10) to RMF-2-30 (Residential Multi Family-2- 30 units per acre) for 29 East 67th Street (20112 06006) on 0.51 Acres in Aldermanic District 4 (File No. 24-003234-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1, with the condition that the site plan be considered by the MPC. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent. See related agenda item #8.)**

#### **PURCHASING ITEMS**

11. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Reforestation Services with Marsh Forestry & Appraisal Service, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$68,558. The reforestation services consist of planting approximately 160,100 pine trees on 260 acres of this property that was harvested in 2022. (Real Estate) **(APPROVED #11, #14, and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for the Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Engineering Services Annual Contract with Pond Company (Primary)(LOCAL) & Raymond Engineering



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(Secondary)(LOCAL) in the Amount of \$75,000. The City has ongoing needs for limited-scope mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) engineering services, particularly regarding condition and capacity assessments of its systems including, but not limited to, HVAC systems, elevators, fire sprinklers and alarms, switch gears, and other critical systems in City facilities. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for The Public Art Master Plan with Designing Local (DBE) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$100,000. The Public Art Master Plan will provide a cohesive citywide vision and process for public art to be installed in public parks and City of Savannah facilities throughout the city. (Cultural Resources) **(APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Recycled Crushed Aggregate Stone with Savannah River Utilities (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$206,375. The stone is used to provide traction for vehicles driving into the Landfill. (Sanitation) **(APPROVED #11, #14, and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Consultant Services with Stantec Consulting in the Amount of \$300,000 to Conduct a Stormwater Utility Implementation Study. In an effort to more effectively and equitably address the City's drainage issues, including increased maintenance requirements related to our aging and expanding drainage systems, and future impacts related to climate change, City staff has been evaluating a potential funding option whereby the revenue from a future Stormwater Utility user fee program (if enacted by City Council) would be dedicated solely to stormwater management service delivery. (Stormwater) **(APPROVED #11, #14, and #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

16. Boards, Commissions, and Authorities. **(FACILITATED by Mayor Johnson)**

**The following appointments were made:**

- **Mary A. Snowden – Chatham Area Transit (CAT)**



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- **Amber N. Robbins – Civil Service Board**
- **Catherine C. Sykes – Civil Service Board**
- **Lawrence Jean-Louis – Cultural Affairs Commission**
- **Boyer Bazalais – Cultural Affairs Commission**
- **Arthur F. Shuey – Cultural Affairs Commission**
- **Catherine Killingsworth – Cultural Affairs Commission**
- **Brett Williamson – Cultural Affairs Commission**
- **Andrew Logan Lawrence – Cultural Affairs Commission**
- **Sara L. Woodfield – Historic District Board of Review (HDBR)**
- **Dwayne Stephens – Historic District Board of Review (HDBR)**
- **Utaff W. Gordon – Savannah Recreation Commission**
- **Larry Myers (District 3 Appointee) – Traffic Calming Committee**

**AGREEMENTS**

17. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with National Land Group, LLC for Fairmont Avenue Hotels. This is for a development consisting of a 115-room hotel on Fairmont Avenue in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
18. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Forsyth Conservancy Inc. and City of Savannah Which Outlines Mutually Beneficial Roles and Responsibilities to Promote and Maintain the Preservation, Historic Integrity, and Open Access of Forsyth Park for All of Its Users. **(POSTPONED/CONTINUED #18, as announced by Mayor Johnson. City Manager Melder stated he will bring the item back in two weeks.)**
19. Agreement to Exchange Right of Way and Stand Still on Demolishing the Building Located at 412 MLK. **(APPROVED #19, 7-1-1. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no, and Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**REAL ESTATE ITEMS**

20. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Education for Use of Board Meeting Room Space at 2 Laura Avenue, Savannah, GA. **(APPROVED #20, 7-0-2. Ald. Purtee recused himself, and Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.) Mayor Johnson thanked the Board of Education for their partnership.**



21. Approval to Declare as Surplus and Available for Sale the City-Owned Vacant Lot Located at 1425 West Gwinnett Street (PIN 20050 16022). **(APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

#### **CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**

22. Settlement #1. **See agenda item #24.**
23. Settlement #2. **See agenda item #24.**
24. Settlement #3.

**Ald. Palumbo moved to approve #22 and #23, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan, as follows:**

- **authorizing the City Attorney's Office to settle the claim (car wreck) involving Christian Spellman in the amount of \$30,000.00.**
- **authorizing the City Attorney's Office to settle the claim (car wreck) involving Devin Heyward for \$35,000.00.**
- **tabling settlement #3, as requested by the City Attorney.**

**The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

25. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Cobblestone Phase 2. The subject property is the second phase of Cobblestone Subdivision. This proposed phase totals 44.083 acres and will consist of 72 single family lots with varying lot sizes and 3 open spaces. The property is located at Bush Road, adjacent to the Savannah and Ogeechee Canal, southwest of Little Neck Road in Alderman District 5. **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**
26. Approval of Monument Application Part I: Theme, Location, and Preliminary Design for a Monument in Columbia Square Commemorating the Seven Ladies Who Saved the Davenport House in 1955 and Were the Catalyst for the Establishment of the Historic Savannah Foundation. **(APPROVED #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**



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27. Added Item (Airport Commission): Approval to Purchase 2024-2025 Property Liability Insurance with Sterling Seacrest Pritchard Inc., in the Amount of \$1,563,444. **(APPROVED #27 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**\*Mayor Johnson recognized School Board President Roger Moss for being present. He also thanked Mr. Moss for the work of the Superintendent over the past few days, whereby he asked Mr. Moss to thank her.**

**Ald. Wilder-Bryan thanked the staff of the Airport Commission during the shortage (long waits) for being able to utilize the amazing clubhouse. And the staff was awesome, too.**

**At the request of Mayor Johnson, Director of Program Management and Information Technology Mr. Dawoud Stevenson added the Airport never closed and they were fully operational, although some of the airlines experience some problems.**

28. Added Item: A Resolution Ratifying the Mayor's August 4, 2024, Emergency Declaration Order and Amended Declaration dated August 5, 2024. **(APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was absent.)**

**Following announcements by City Manager Melder (Brett Bell being appointed City Manager of Tybee Island; Ken Slats joining (SCCPPS) school system; Azsha Hankerson's new employment within the community; and Daphanie Williams' birthday).**

**Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.**