



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 12:00 p.m., in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order, then recognized Alderman Kurtis Purtee to offer a prayer.

Mayor Johnson asked City Manager Melder to give a high-level update regarding the weather events of Tropical Storm Helene.

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
Assistant Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Major Federal Grants and Congressionally Directed Spending Update.
[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Interim Chief of Information and Public Affairs Joe Shearouse, and Chief Planning & Economic Development Faye DiMassimo]

Following comments/questions from city council members, Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session at 12:59 p.m. No action was taken.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:02 p.m. in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order and recognized Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz who introduced Minister Janice Swan-Butts, Co-Pastor of Thankful Missionary Baptist Church to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Mayor Johnson asked everyone to exercise a moment of silence in honor of Mr. James Putney, Jr., a local veteran who passed away on Sunday.

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
Assistant Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for September 26, 2024. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended to add a proclamation as requested by Mayor Johnson in recognition of Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on September 12, 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 September 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

4. Amend the 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Schedule to Accommodate the NLC City Summit (Nov 13-16), Thereby Changing the November 14 Meeting to November 7 at 2pm. **(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

5. A Proclamation Declaring October 15 Through October 19 as Literacy Week in the City of Savannah, Georgia. **(READ INTO THE RECORD by Mayor Johnson)**
6. Recognition of the Inaugural Cohort of the City of Savannah's "Launch Savannah Minority Business Accelerator". **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson. Also speaking were Ald. and Creative Coast Executive Director Nick Palumbo and Economic Development Senior Director MarRonde Lumpkin-Lotson who were joined at the podium with former Mayor Otis Johnson and various new business owners)**
7. Appearance by the City of Savannah Human Resources Staff in Recognition of Human Resources Professional Day. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, joined by City Manager Melder and Human Resources Director Jeff Grant)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

8. Approval of a Class G (Complimentary) (Beer, and Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Purima Boahirunya for Faherty, a clothing store located at 109 West



Broughton Street. The establishment is located between Whitaker and Barnard Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for #8 and #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #8 and #9, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.)

9. Approval of a Class C (Beer and Wine) (By the Drink) and Class E (Beer and Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Keith Butz for Thompson Savannah (Stevedore Bakery), a restaurant located at 402 Passage Way. The establishment is located between Altamaha and Port Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for #8 and #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #8 and #9, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.)

10. Approval of a Class E (Beer and Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Brittani Claus for Aldi # 84 a grocery store located at 1651 East Victory Drive. The establishment is located between Wicklow Street and Dixie Avenue in Aldermanic District 3.

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing open for #10.

Speaker(s):

- **Charisse Williams – Asked questions, OPPOSED**
- **Roshida Edwards – OPPOSED**
- **Hollis Mitchell – OPPOSED**
- **Andre Coney – OPPOSED**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING UNANIMOUSLY for agenda item #10, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #10, 7-2-0, with Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voting no)

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

11. Approval for the Annexation of 7.21 Acres Located at 2505 and 2521 Fort Argyle Road. The property owner desires to connect to City utilities at inside city rates. **(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

12. Petition of Donald Dyches on Behalf of Fort Argyle Storage, LLC and Fort Argyle, LLC for an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map Category from Residential - Suburban Single-Family to Commercial – Suburban at 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road (11048B01022 and 11048B01023). Item supports annexation request (File No. 24-003509-ZA). **(APPROVED #12, 7-2-0, with Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voting no)**

13. Petition of Donald Dyches on Behalf of Fort Argyle, LLC and Fort Argyle Storage, LLC to Zone Approximately 7.21 Acres Located at 2505 and 2521 Ft. Argyle Road (11048B01022 and 11048B01023) from B-N (Neighborhood-Business) Zoning District to the B-N-CO (Neighborhood Business-County) Zoning District. Item supports annexation request (File No. 24-002255-ZA). **(APPROVED #13, 7-2-0, with Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voting no)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Replacement of Decking at Grayson Stadium with Dant Clayton Corporation in the Amount of \$631,600. New powder-coated aluminum decking, railing, and stairs will replace three tiers of old wood decking that have exceeded their useful life. (Facilities Maintenance) **(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Generator Maintenance with W. W. Williams Company, LLC (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$247,770. This service will provide maintenance for the emergency standby generator equipment city wide. (Lift Station) **(APPROVED #15, #16, #17, #18, and #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Phase 1B for the I&D Water Treatment Plant Optimization, Upgrade and Expansion Project with Hussey, Gay, Bell (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$12,567,600. This will enable the City to proceed with capital improvements to the I&D Water Treatment Plant and associated water distribution infrastructure, ensuring the City of Savannah's water supply meets



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

current and future demands as well as applicable regulatory compliance requirements (Water Resources). **(APPROVED #15, #16, #17, #18, and #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Actuators from Georgia Western, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$82,862. The actuators help operate the gates that manage water flow at the President Street Plant, ensuring better control of the water movement in the tanks. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #15, #16, #17, #18, and #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for One Non-CDL Leaf Vacuum Truck with Environmental Products Group, in the Amount of \$212,800. The new leaf vacuum truck will be used by the Park and Tree Department's City Cemeteries Division to replace unit 4633, which has been deemed inoperable and removed from service. This new truck will enhance efficiency in the removal of leaves, grass clippings, and other waste from cemetery grounds. (Fleet) **(APPROVED #15, #16, #17, #18, and #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Design of Tide to Town Middleground Trail with Kimley-Horn in the Amount of \$929,000. This will be used for design services for the Middleground Trail which will extend approximately three miles along Middleground Road, connecting Abercorn and Montgomery Crossroads. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #19, 7-2-0, with Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voting no)**
20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two Ford Explorers from Santee Automotive in the Amount Not to Exceed \$87,952. The police department will use these vehicles for the Behavioral Health Unit (BHU). These vehicles meet the BHU's requirements and are crucial for continuing health-focused services. (SPD) **(APPROVED #15, #16, #17, #18, and #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

AGREEMENTS

21. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Godley Station Enterprises, LLC for Brookline Subdivision Phase 2. This is for a development of 47-single family homes in the Godley West service area in Aldermanic District 1. **(APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



22. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Johns Hopkins University (JHU), on behalf of its Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (BCPI), and the City of Savannah under the Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities Initiative. **(APPROVED #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

23. Authorize City Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Lease and Operating Agreement with Fans First Entertainment, LLC (FFE) to govern proposed renovations/improvements and associated use of funds at Grayson Stadium. **(APPROVED #23 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Second Amendment to the Coffee Bluff Marina Lease. **(APPROVED #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Edgewater New Hampstead Phase 1C. This proposed property totals 55.717 acres and will consist of 111 lots with varying lot sizes. The property is located at Little Neck Road and New Hampstead Parkway located in Alderman District 5. **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
26. Approval of Renaming of the Savannah Cultural Arts Center at 201 Montgomery Street to the Dr. Otis S. Johnson Cultural Arts Center in honor of former Savannah Mayor Otis S. Johnson. **(APPROVED #26, 8-0-1, with Ald. Miller Blakely abstaining)**
27. Added Item: Recognition of Earl Etheridge, Administrator for the Recreation and Leisure Services Department, for 30 Plus Years of Outstanding Service to Our Community and the Youth and Adult Athletic Program. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, joined by Chief Community Services Officer Taffanye Young and various staff members in honor of Mr. Etheridge)**
28. Added Item: Proclamation proclaiming Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month in the City of Savannah. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson)**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Mayor Johnson recognized Television and Video Manager Wayne Nix on his retirement.

Following announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.