



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 11:10 a.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.

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

ABSENT:
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. Stormwater Infrastructure Needs and Funding Options Discussion.
[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Chief of Water Resources Ron Feldner, and Stormwater Director Zach Hoffman]
2. Legislative Agenda Discussion. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Information and Public Affairs Chief Joe Shearouse]**
- ~~3. Closed Executive Session: Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate.~~
- ~~4. City Manager's Agenda Review.~~



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session at 12:33 p.m. No action was taken.



Special Called Meeting (Show Cause Hearing)

The special meeting was held at 12:45 p.m., in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G. Mayor Johnson called the special meeting (hearing) to order.

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
Alderwoman 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 to Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Show Cause Hearing for the Revocation of the Alcohol License for Rajendra Patel of Octane Bar and Lounge Located at 35 Whitaker Street in Aldermanic District 2. (Postponed from the September 12, 2024, and October 10, 2024, Council Meetings at the Petitioner's Request)

Mayor Johnson provided an overview regarding the purpose and reasons for the show cause hearing and the process that would be exercised.

Assistant City Attorney Denise Cooper represented the city, and Attorney Donavan Juleus represented the Octane Bar and Lounge.

The following witnesses took an oath, administered by Mayor Johnson, to provide testimony during the hearing.

- **Judee Jones, Revenue Director**
- **Sgt. Scott Richards**
- **Sgt. Perneacia Banks**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2024

- **Mr. Rajendra Patel, owner**

After both attorneys presented their case, made statements and completed their questioning, members of the City Council asked questions and deliberated.

City Attorney Lovett presented options for the City Council members to consider.

Mayor Johnson facilitated the development of a motion/action, as follows:

Ald. Leggett moved, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan and Ald. Miller Blakely, the following conditions:

- 1) The city will continue the license revocation until the end of the year (remainder of 2024).
- 2) When the business reopens, the owner will be subjected to a six-month probationary period, including monthly/regular engagement with the ABC team.
- 3) The owner will work with the ABC unit to develop a security plan.
- 4) The owner will meet with the neighborhood association to develop a good neighbor agreement.
- 5) The owner will hire duly authorized off-duty officers for security.
- 6) The new/modified hours of operation will result in closing the establishment on weekdays (Sun – Thurs) at midnight, and Fridays & Saturdays at 1am.

The motion passed 8-0-1. Ald. Purtee abstained from voting, since he did hear the evidence from the beginning.

Mayor Johnson added that the alley is very dark, which lends itself to some of the problems. He suggested the owner work with the landlord on this issue.

Ald. Miller Blakely asked someone to give the owner information and instructions regarding what he needs to do to hire security from local law enforcement agencies.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the hearing at 2:17 p.m.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:40 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 he recognized Alderman Carolyn H. Bell who introduced Bishop Dr. Jacquelyn Gilbert-Grant, presiding Prelate/Overseer of the Sanctuary of Praise Christian Assembly, Inc. in Savannah, 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:
Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd
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 November 7, 2024. **(APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on October 24, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.
(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)



3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on October 24, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

4. Adoption of the 2025 Meeting Calendar for the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah. **(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation of Proclamation Designating November 3, 2024, as Retired Educators Day in the City of Savannah, GA. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and read by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz. Also speaking were Dr. Brenda Roberts, Ms. Dottie J. Platts, Ms. Annette L. Smith, and Ms. Princetta Simmons. Mayor Johnson also recognized Chatham County Chairman Chester Ellis who was present, and he congratulated him on his re-election.)**
6. Presentation of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) National Child ID Program Minority and Missing Initiative. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson. Also speaking were Major Ben Herron and Police Chief Gunther, joined by Assistant Chief Adams)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

7. Approval of a Class G (Complimentary) (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Samman Dabit for Joseph's Clothiers, a Clothing Store Located at 28 West Broughton Street. The establishment is located between Whitaker and Bull Streets in Aldermanic District 2.
**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #7, #8, #9, and #10. No speaker(s).
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2024

8. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Chengchen Xin for Etang Dim Sum, a Restaurant Located at 10 Whitaker Street. The establishment is located between West Bryan and West Bay Streets in Aldermanic District 2.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #7, #8, #9, and #10.
No speaker(s).
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

9. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Krishna Patel for Residence Inn, a Hotel Located at 5710 White Bluff Road. The establishment is located between Abercorn and Johnston Streets in Aldermanic District 4.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #7, #8, #9, and #10.
No speaker(s).
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

10. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Kruhal Dhimmarr for Ogeechee Shell, a Convenience Store Located at 3618 Ogeechee Road. The establishment is located between Westgate Boulevard and Interstate 516 in Aldermanic District 5.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #7, #8, #9, and #10.
No speaker(s).
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

ZONING HEARINGS

11. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Jessica Glenn for Anderson & Waters LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone 0.14 Acres at 1105 East Anderson Street (PIN 20055 08014) from TR-2 (Traditional Residential-2) to Traditional Commercial-1 (TC-1) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 24-005184-ZA).
Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for item #11.
Speaker(s):
 - Edward Morrow, representing the MPC



- **Jim Hundsrucker – OPPOSED**
(CLOSED HEARING for #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0). See related agenda item #15.

12. A Joint Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia and Brianna Paxton for a Zoning Text Amendment to Sections 3.12 Special Exceptions, 3.21 Variances, 5.4 Principal Use Table, 5.9 Traditional Residential Districts, 5.12 Traditional Neighborhood Districts, 5.13 Traditional Districts, 8.1 Residential Use Standards for Limited and Special Uses (File No. 24-004284-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for item #12.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, representing the MPC**
- **Rev. Chester A. Ellis – OPPOSED**
- **Ellie Isaacs – IN FAVOR**
- **Jim Hundsrucker – OPPOSED**

(CLOSED HEARING for #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0). See related agenda item #16.

13. Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 7.8.10. Savannah Historic Overlay District Design Standards (7.8.10.t.iii.2. Footprint, 7.8.10.t.v.1. and 7.8.10.t.v.2.a.i., and Table 7.8-1 Height Standards for Large Scale Development) (File No. 24-005604-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for item #13.

Speaker(s):

- **Bridget Lidy, Planning & Urban Design Senior Director, joined by Preservation Officer Jessica Baldwin**

(CLOSED HEARING for #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0). See related agenda item #17.

14. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of Colin Breland, Madeline Ott, and Zachary Shultz for Riette Bradley for a Special Use Permit at 2805 Bull Street (20074 33001) for a Bar/Tavern Use in the TC-1 (Traditional Commercial - 1) Zoning District in Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 22-001219-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for item #14.



Speaker(s):

- Edward Morrow, representing the MPC
- Josh Yellin, representing the petitioner
- Laura Walker – OPPOSED
- Richard Hanpeter – OPPOSED

CLOSED HEARING for #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #14, as stipulated, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.)

Written comment(s) received:

- Laura Walker – OPPOSED
- Carl Knudsen – OPPOSED

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

15. Petition of Joshua Yellin on Behalf of Jessica Glenn for Anderson & Waters LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment to Rezone 0.14 Acres at 1105 East Anderson Street (PIN 20055 08014) from TR-2 (Traditional Residential-2) to Traditional Commercial-1 (TC-1) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 24-005184-ZA). **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #15 UNANIMOUSLY to the November 26, 2024 City Council Meeting, 9-0-0)**

16. A Joint Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia and Brianna Paxton for a Zoning Text Amendment to Sections 3.12 Special Exceptions, 3.21 Variances, 5.4 Principal Use Table, 5.9 Traditional Residential Districts, 5.12 Traditional Neighborhood Districts, 5.13 Traditional Districts, 8.1 Residential Use Standards for Limited and Special Uses (File No. 24-004284-ZA). **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #16 UNANIMOUSLY to the January 23, 2025 City Council Meeting, 9-0-0)**

17. Petition of Bridget Lidy on Behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 7.8.10. Savannah Historic Overlay District Design Standards (7.8.10.t.iii.2. Footprint, 7.8.10.t.v.1. and 7.8.10.t.v.2.a.i., and Table 7.8-1 Height Standards for Large Scale Development) (File No. 24-005604-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



PURCHASING ITEMS

18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Elevator Repairs at the Liberty Street Parking Garage with TK Elevator Corporation (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$18,359. This modification is needed due to the vendor recommending that a new main brake and new emergency brake be installed to fix the brake issues prior to being able to fix the controller drive. (Parking and Mobility Services) **(APPROVED #18 through #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Chlorine Tank Hoist Replacement with Kone Cranes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$51,912. The hoist will be used to offload both empty and full one-ton chlorine cylinders for disinfecting wastewater at the Water Reclamation Plant. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #18 through #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Holiday Decorations with Jubilee Decor, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$76,814. This procurement is aimed at enhancing the City's festive atmosphere during the holiday season, fostering community spirit, and creating a welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike. The use of high-quality, weather-resistant decorations will ensure durability and longevity, allowing for their display throughout multiple seasons, even in varying weather conditions. (Special Events) **(APPROVED #18 through #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Control Panel Upgrade from Aqua Aerobic in an Amount Not to Exceed \$98,931. The control panel is essential for monitoring and managing the various cycles of the water filtering system. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #18 through #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Tree Planting Services with CGS, LLC (Primary), ASAP Landscape Management Group (Secondary), and Victory Hive, LLC (LOCAL) (Tertiary) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$661,262. The Park & Tree Urban Forestry Division will utilize this contract to maintain and preserve the City of Savannah urban tree canopy. (Park & Tree) **(APPROVED #18 through #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2024

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for 36 Marked Police Interceptor SUVs from Santee Automotive LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,348,144. This purchase will provide replacements for marked patrol vehicles in the City's fleet. These vehicles will be used by the Savannah Police Department Patrol Division for routine law enforcement services. (Fleet) **(APPROVED #18 through #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Mechanical Repairs and Services with Ruby Collins, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$9,000,000. This contract will be used for proposed work to include periodic construction services for emergency mechanical repairs and on-call construction services. (Water Resources) **(APPROVED #18 through #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

25. Resolution Defining Affordable Housing and Associated Terms, and Supporting the Preservation, Improvement, and Creation of New Affordable Housing Within Savannah. This will be done through the continued implementation of the Housing Savannah Action Plan, adoption of housing friendly policies, and legislative action. **(APPROVED #25, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
26. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Transfer Nine Vacant Lots in West Savannah to the Chatham County/City of Savannah Land Bank Authority (LBA) to Facilitate Development of Affordable Housing. **(APPROVED #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
27. Resolution in Support of Revisions to Affordable Housing Exemptions for the Development Impact Fee Program under the Development Impact Fee Act. **(APPROVED #25, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
28. Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the 2024 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update Following the Approval of the Draft Report by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The CIE Annual Update is required each year to comply with the Georgia Development Impact Fee Act and to maintain the City of Savannah's qualified local government certification. **(APPROVED #25, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



AGREEMENTS

29. Approval of PY2024 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Provider Sub-award in the Amount of Up to \$274,067 for Delivery of Training and Support Services to Low-Income Youth Ages 16-24 in Chatham County.
(APPROVED #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Land Lease with Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC (AT&T) on Wilmington Island. The City of Savannah owns a +/- 10-acre site on Wilmington Island that houses water and sewer facilities, of which Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC ("AT&T") currently leases +/- 625 square feet where their telecommunications equipment and cabinets are placed. **(APPROVED #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

MISCELLANEOUS

31. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Oakwood Phase 2A at New Hampstead. The proposed property totals 20.241 acres and will consist of 62 lots of varying lot sizes located at 3401-B Highlands Boulevard in Aldermanic District 5.
(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)
32. Approval of a Major Subdivision: Hill-Durrence West Tract, Parcel B. The subject property is the western portion of land formerly known as the Hill Durrence Tract. This proposed property totals 167.354 acres and will consist of 5 lots with varying lot sizes and a publicly dedicated right-of-way located at Fort Argyle Road and Arkwright Lane in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
33. ADD NEW ITEM: Proclamation celebrating 50th Anniversary of BAPS in North America and recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Savannah, GA. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson. Also speaking were Sweeney Patel and Neil Sharma, joined by Rima Patel and Milap Patel.)**
34. ADD NEW ITEM: Proclamation honoring the service of Paula Kreissler, Executive Director, of Healthy Savannah upon her retirement. **(PRESENTED by**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Mayor Johnson and read by Ald. Palumbo. Also speaking were Paula Kreissler and Arnaud Turner.)

35. NEW ITEM ADDED: Approval of Major Subdivision, The Hill-Durrence East Tract Parcel B. The subject property is the eastern portion of land formerly known as the Hill-Durrence Tract. The proposed subdivision will consist of 3 lots and new public right-of-way. The property is in Aldermanic District 5 at Street Location: Fort Argyle Road and Arkwright Lane. **(APPROVED #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

Following the announcements, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.