



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 11:05 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
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

ALSO, PRESENT:

City Manager Jay Melder
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Herman
Clerk of Council Representative Gwendolyn Jones
Assistant Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Tourism Compliance Update (Short-Term Vacation Rentals, Walking Tours, and Tourism Service Vehicles) [**PRESENTED by Senior Director of Planning & Urban Design Bridget Lidy, Code Compliance Senior Director Cynthia Knight, and Special, Events, Film & Tourism Senior Director Susan Broker**]
2. Closed Executive Session: Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate. [**HELD regarding Litigation starting at 12:39pm and ended at 1:30pm**]
3. ~~City Manager's Agenda Review.~~

Mayor Johnson adjourned the executive session at 1:30 p.m. No action was taken.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:00 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 Ald. Detric Leggett who introduced Rev. Cornelius J.E. Lloyd to offer the invocation. Mayor Johnson also asked to observe a moment of silence in honor of the passing of our 39th President of the United States and 76th Governor of the State of Georgia, President James Earl “Jimmy” Carter, Jr. 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
Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Herman
Clerk of Council Representative Gwendolyn Jones
Assistant to Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for January 09, 2025, with an addition of an introduction. **(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 December 19, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. (Note: Item is Withdrawn; A Work Session Was Not Held on This Date) **(No Vote Taken)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on December 19, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

4. Approval of a Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the City of Savannah. **(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

5. Appearance of the Savannah Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Association to Announce the 2025 MLK Observance Activities. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson. Also speaking/present were Ms. Debra Adams, Glynda Jones, Judee Jones, Elaine Snyder, and Frederick Scott-Fields.]**
6. Appearance of the Savannah Interagency Diversity Council (SIDC) to Announce the 10-year Anniversary of Traffick Jam 2025. **[READ and PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson. Also speaking/present were SIDC Bill Gettis, Diane McLeod, Tina Browning, Lucretia Cole, Shirlenia Daniel, Terri Todd, Takeshia Brown, April Brantley, Julie Wade, Karen Alston, and Georcette Washington.]**

***Mayor Johnson, Chair of Savannah Housing Authority Dr. Ann Levette, and Vice-Chairman of Savannah Housing Authority Edward Gresham introduced the New Director of Savannah Housing Authority, Evette Hester.**



***Mayor Johnson recognized Police Appreciation Day and thanked Police Chief Gunther and police staff for their service. Also speaking/present City Manager Joseph Melder, Police Chief Lenny Gunther, and Assistant Chief Robert Gavin.**

7. Recognition of the Inaugural New Director's Academy and Third City Manager's Emerging Leaders Academy Participants. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, City Manager Joseph Melder, and Organizational Development Director Dr. Jennifer Blalock. Members of both cohorts joined them at the podium.]**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

8. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to James Ciminillo for Veratina, A Restaurant located at 606 Abercorn Street. The establishment is located between Huntingdon and Hall Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

9. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Robert Grant for Savannah Culinary Institute, A Culinary School located at 7 W. Bay St. The establishment is located between Bull and Whitaker Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

10. Approval of a Class G (Beer and Wine) (Complimentary Service) Alcohol License to Melissa Monge for Sea Love, A Retail Store located at 310 W. Broughton Street. The establishment is located between Montgomery and Jefferson Streets in Aldermanic District 2.



Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #8, #9, and #10.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #8, #9, and #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

ZONING HEARINGS

11. Petition of Jason Chambless and Ryan Thompson on behalf of Mohsen Yaraghi for 76 Highlands BLVD LLC and 1950 Benton BLVD LLC for a Future Land Use Map Amendment for ~226.1 acres at 1950 Benton Blvd and 76 Highlands Blvd (PINs: 21016 02066, 21016 02067, and 21016 01017) Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 24-002877-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for #11. See related agenda item #14.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, representing the MPC**
- **Harold Yellin, representing the petitioner**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

12. Petition of Jason Chambless and Ryan Thompson on behalf of Mohsen Yaraghi for 76 Highlands BLVD LLC and 1950 Benton BLVD LLC for a Major Amendment to the Godley Station Planned Development at 1950 Benton Blvd and 76 Highlands Blvd (PINs: 21016 02066, 21016 02067, and 21016 01017) (File No. 24- 002501-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for #12. See related agenda item #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, representing the MPC**
- **Harold Yellin, representing the petitioner**
- **Matthew Emmer-OPPOSED**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.



13. Petition of William R. Claiborne for David Williams of Henry Street Bistro, LLC on behalf of the Property Owner Robert M. Ansley for a Special Use Permit to Allow a Restaurant with Accessory Alcohol Sales at 1308 Montgomery Street (PINs 20052 29001). The 0.19-acre property is zoned TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 24-005878-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for #13.

Speaker(s):

- **William R. Claiborne, representing the petitioner**
- **David Williams, owner**
- **Nancy Maia-Support with imposed conditions**
- **Debbie Llyod representing a property owner-Support with imposed conditions**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #13 with Recommended Conditions, 6-2-1, Ald. Lanier, and Ald. Bell voted no. Ald. Miller-Blakley was away from the dais.)

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

14. Petition of Jason Chambless and Ryan Thompson on behalf of Mohsen Yaraghi for 76 Highlands BLVD LLC and 1950 Benton BLVD LLC for a Future Land Use Map Amendment for ~226.1 acres at 1950 Benton Blvd and 76 Highlands Blvd (PINs: 21016 02066, 21016 02067, and 21016 01017) Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 24-002877-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.) See related agenda item #11.**

15. Petition of Jason Chambless and Ryan Thompson on behalf of Mohsen Yaraghi for 76 Highlands BLVD LLC and 1950 Benton BLVD LLC for a Major Amendment to the Godley Station Planned Development at 1950 Benton Blvd and 76 Highlands Blvd (PINs: 21016 02066, 21016 02067, and 21016 01017) (File No. 24- 002501-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.) See related agenda item #12.**



ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

16. Petition of Jeff Jepson, on Behalf of Seacrest Seven, LLC, 1015 Whitaker Street, LLC, and Portfolio Holdings, LLC, with agent Michael Garcia, for a Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment for 0.97 acres located at 1001 Whitaker Street, 1015 Whitaker Street, 120 West Park Avenue, and 124 West Park Avenue (PINs 20044 25001, 20044 25002, 20044 24002, and 20044 24003) to Change the FLUM designation from Traditional Neighborhood to Traditional Commercial in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 24-005816-ZA). **(APPROVED #16, 8-0-1, Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais.)**
17. Petition of Jeff Jepson, on Behalf of Seacrest Seven, LLC, 1015 Whitaker Street, LLC, and Portfolio Holdings, LLC, with agent Michael Garcia, for Zoning Map Amendment for 0.97 acres located at 1001 Whitaker Street, 1015 Whitaker Street, 120 West Park Avenue, and 124 West Park Avenue (PINs 20044 25001, 20044 25002, 20044 24002, and 20044 24003) to Change the Traditional Neighborhood-1 (TN-1) to Traditional Commercial-2 (TC-2) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 24-005815-ZA). **(APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
18. Petition to Annex ~667 Acres Located at 420 Bush Road and 302 Bush Road (PINs 11026 01002C and 11026 01017) from Chatham County to the City of Savannah. **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
19. Petition of Robert McCorkle on behalf of Speir Property, LLC to zone ~667 acres located on 420 Bush Road and 302 Bush Road (PINs 11026 01002C and 11026 01017) from R-A (Residential Agriculture) and PDR-SM (Planned Development Reclamation Surface Mining) to PD (Planned Development). **(APPROVED #19, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

20. Authorize The City Manager To Execute A Contract for Guaranteed Energy Savings With McKinstry in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,875,000. The Office of



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Sustainability, Real Estate Services Department, Finance Department, and Office of Capital Projects Management have collaborated to procure and negotiate a guaranteed energy savings performance contract with McKinstry. The contract will involve the replacement of old, energy inefficient lighting fixtures with new LED energy efficient fixtures as well as improvements to cure building envelope leakage and penetration issues contributing to energy loss. (Real Estate Services) **(APPROVED #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #26 and #27, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)**

21. Authorize The City Manager To Execute A Contract Modification No. 3 For Energy Performance Owner's Representative Consulting Services With 2KB Energy Services in the Amount Not to Exceed \$166,913. The City solicited for Owner's Representative consulting services in 2022 to assist with the selection of a firm to conduct an Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA) of City facilities, support the execution of those IGEA activities, and negotiate and execute a Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract (GESPC) if ultimately pursued by the City. This extension is needed to maintain access to 2KB's critical expertise during this highly technical execution and implementation phase. (Real Estate Services) **(APPROVED #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #26 and #27, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for E-Citation Printers from Tyler Technologies in the Amount of \$289,800. SPD will use this equipment to ensure the continued viability of the E-Citation program, it is critical that SPD obtains upgraded devices with adequate printing capabilities and appropriate support services. This purchase will further the Department's enhanced community safety and crime reduction strategic priorities. (SPD) **(APPROVED #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #26 and #27, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)**
23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 2 for Protective Equipment for SFD with Bennett Fire in the Amount of \$300,000. SFD will use this modification to ensure that all members always have a clean set of personal protective equipment after being exposed to harmful carcinogens and to reduce their cancer risk associated with firefighting, the City of Savannah provides each member with two sets of gear. (SFD) **((APPROVED #20, #21,**



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#22, #23, #24, #26 and #27, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for the Installation of Electrical Receptacles for the Expansion of the City's Camera System with Aiken Harper in the Amount of \$65,712. Aiken Harper is installing electrical receptacles to power the City's camera equipment in the Housing Authority of Savannah (HAS) properties. These receptacles will tap into the existing electrical services that are in their respective communities. (ITS) **(APPROVED #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #26 and #27, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Camera Equipment for the expansion of the City's Camera System with Netplanner in the Amount of \$254,534. The City will utilize these services to supply the cameras, housings, cellular routers, and licensing for new cameras throughout the City (Housing Authority of Savannah properties, Baker St. Park, and 60 locations encompassing all Aldermanic districts throughout the city where we currently do not have coverage. This will add 71 new camera streams into our VMS (Ocularis). (ITS) **(APPROVED, 8-1-0, Ald. Lanier voted no.)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendment No. 1 to the Construction Contract for the Police Headquarters Renovation project to Johnson-Laux Construction in the amount of \$3,675,000. This second phase of construction will include the removal and reconfiguration of existing stairways, the addition of ADA ramps, fire safety and security-related MEP upgrades, and renovations to the walls, floors, and ceiling within the SARIC unit offices. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #26 and #27, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)**
27. Authorize The City Manager To Execute A Contract Modification No. 2 and Renewal For Medical and Pharmacy Stop-Loss Insurance Services With Assurance of Tennessee, Inc. in an Amount Not To Exceed \$1,123,923. The City of Savannah uses the contract to provide catastrophic claims reinsurance coverage for the City's self-funded medical and pharmacy plans. (Human Resources) **(APPROVED #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #26 and #27, 8-0-1, Ald. Wilder Bryan was away from the dais.)**



AGREEMENTS

28. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with New Hampstead Tract 5B, LLC for Oakwood at New Hampstead Phases 2-3. This is a development consisting of 210 single family homes in the Travis Field service area at 3401 Highgate Boulevard and is in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #28 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

29. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with SHDC, LLC for Savannah Highlands Phase 9. This is for a development consisting of 104 single family homes in the Godley West service area. on Orkney Road and is in Aldermanic District 1. **(APPROVED #28 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

30. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Godley Station Enterprises, LLC for Brookline Subdivision Phases 5, 6 & 7. This is for a development consisting of 140 single family homes in the Godley West service area off Morgan Lakes Industrial Boulevard and is in Aldermanic District 1. **(APPROVED #28 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

MISCELLANEOUS

31. Added Item: Settlement # 1 **(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

Following the announcements made by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.