



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The postponed/rescheduled meeting of the City Council was held at 10:05 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 Ald. Nick Palumbo who introduced Ald. Kurtis Purtee to offer the invocation. Mayor Johnson spoke about the recent airplane tragedies, and he asked everyone to remember those people affected by the incidents that occurred in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia.

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 – **[Excused ABSENCE]**
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 to Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for February 4, 2025. (**APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY as amended to add a recognition of Margaret Williams, 7-0-**
- 2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on January 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

3. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on January 9, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

***Mayor Johnson recognized Margaret Williams on the occasion of her retirement and service to the City of Savannah.**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

4. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Allison Diaz for Dew Drop Inn, A Bar located at 11432 Abercorn Street. The establishment is located between Largo Drive and Idlewood Drive in Aldermanic District 6.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #4.

Speaker(s):

- **Mr. Kerry Grant – IN SUPPORT**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.

(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)

5. Approval of a Class J (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Da'Von Mclure for Gutstein Gallery, A Event Venue at 201 East Broughton Street. The establishment is between Abercorn and Lincoln Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #5 and #6.

No speaker(s).



CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #5 and #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent. (APPROVED #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)

6. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Derrick Law-Staton for Henry St. Bistro, A Restaurant at 1308 Montgomery Street. The establishment is between West Henry and West Anderson Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #5 and #6.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #5 and #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent. (APPROVED #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

7. 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 from the November 7, 2024 meeting; the item will be continued to March 13, 2025. **(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #7 UNANIMOUSLY to the March 13, 2025 City Council Meeting, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

8. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for Elevator Repairs at City Hall with TK Elevator (LOCAL) in the amount of \$53,906. The emergency purchase was required due to the controller needing to be replaced. (Facilities Maintenance) **(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
Tues., FEBRUARY 4, 2025

9. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Engineering Services from EMC Engineering, Inc. (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$4,880,947. These services to design the Springfield Canal from the US Highway 17 to the Musgrove Canal at Bowles C. Ford Park. (Stormwater Management)
(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)

10. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Travel Services with Duluth Travel in the Amount Not to Exceed \$120,000. Savannah Police Department is seeking to streamline and automate its travel services. (SPD)
(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)

11. Authorize The City Manager To Execute A Contract Modification No. 2 And Renewal For Urban/Design And Architectural Support With Sottile and Sottile (LOCAL) in an Amount Not To Exceed \$350,000. Staff is requesting additional funds in order to support the Civic Center redevelopment, River Street improvements, and other City projects. (Planning and Urban Design)
(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

12. Approval of the 2025 Airports Council International – North America Premier Airport Membership Dues, in the Amount of \$36,749. **(APPROVED #12 through #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

13. Approval to Renew the 2026 and 2027 Out-of-Home Advertising on Hwy 278 and Hwy 170 with Adams Outdoor Advertising, in the Amount of \$585,234. **(APPROVED #12 through #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

14. Approval to Renew Contract for Professional Services with Ailevon Pacific Aviation Consulting, in the Amount of \$173,250. **(APPROVED #12 through #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**



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15. Approval to Execute a Contract with Marketing and PR Consultant Jo Piani of Luna PR, in the Amount of \$55,000. **(APPROVED #12 through #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**
16. Approval to Renew Services with INFAX for the Embross Common Use Passenger Processing System and Common Use Self-Service System, in the Amount of \$38,224. **(APPROVED #12 through #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**
17. Approval to Execute a Construction Contract with Complete Demolition Services, LLC for the Demo Quail Run Lodge and Old Williamsburg World Travel Office project, in the Amount of \$387,000. **(APPROVED #12 through #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**
18. Approval of Change Order No. 1 with Terracon for Special Inspections for Building 2 for the Air Cargo Facility, in the Amount of \$322,650. **(APPROVED #12 through #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

AGREEMENTS

19. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Southern Apartment Builder, LLC for Cedar Grove Apartments. This is for a development consisting of 72 apartment units of Mohawk Street in the Wilshire service area in Aldermanic District 6. **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely was away from the dais, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

MISCELLANEOUS

20. Approval of a Major Subdivision Hidden Pointe Phase 2A. The proposed property totals 1.967 acres and will consist of 10 lots/townhomes with varying lot sizes. The property is in Aldermanic District 6 at Street Location: Navajo Road and Fulton Road. **(APPROVED #20 and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**



21. Approval of a Major Subdivision Hidden Pointe Phase 2B. The proposed property totals 10.114 acres and will consist of 49 lots/townhomes with varying lot sizes. The property is in Aldermanic District 6 at Street Location: Navajo Road and Fulton Road. **(APPROVED #20 and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.)**

22. Public Hearing Regarding the Ability to Opt Out of the State's Version of Homestead Exemption, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #22.

Speaker(s):

- **Mr. Jason Combs – NOT SURE**
- **Mr. Bob Rosenwald – OPT OUT RATIONALE**
- **Mr. Billy Nebb – EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MESSAGING**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-2. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.

Written comment(s):

- **Aaron Miller – OPPOSED**

23. Approval of a Resolution by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to Opt Out of the State's Version of Homestead Exemption, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2. **(NO ACTION TAKEN)**

Mayor Johnson asked to add an Execution Session to the agenda concerning litigation.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the regular meeting to hold a closed executive session regarding litigation, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent.

Ald. Leggett requested a special recognition concerning the passing of Rev. Dr. James Capers, former pastor of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Savannah, GA.

Mayor Johnson sent love to the family of Ms. Wilhelmenia Dean who passed away at 99 years old.



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
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Tues., FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Ald. Leggett announced the community meeting (Savannah GPS – Developing Our Strategic Plan Together) taking place in District 2 tonight at the Delaware Community Center at 6pm.

Ald. Miller Blakely also encouraged residents to participate in the Savannah GPS meetings, and she challenged the other districts to outdo the District 6 meeting which had great turnout.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz encouraged residents to attend the District 5 Savannah GPS meeting being held on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Ald. Lanier encouraged residents to show-up for the District 1 Savannah GPS meeting being held on Friday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Johnson recessed the regular meeting to hold a closed executive session regarding litigation at 11:23 a.m. The executive session was held in the private room adjacent to the Board Room. All members were present, except Ald. Wilder-Bryan who was absent. Also attending were City Attorney Bates Lovett, City Manager Jay Melder, and Clerk of Council Mark Massey.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to end the executive session regarding litigation, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was absent. The executive session ended at 11:43 a.m.

In open session, Mayor Johnson re-entered the Board Room and announced that the Mayor and Aldermen held a closed executive session regarding litigation for which no votes were taken. Then, he adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.