



## **Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen**

The postponed/rescheduled meeting of the City Council was held at 2:06 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. Linda Wilder-Bryan who introduced Ald. Detrick Leggett to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. Later in the meeting, Ald. Wilder-Bryan recognized Reverend Timothy Sheppard, pastor of Central Missionary Baptist Church to offer a prayer.

**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 Detrick Leggett, District 2  
Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3  
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:**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for February 13, 2025.  
**(APPROVED/ADOPTED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
**ACTION MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on February 4, 2025 (postponed/rescheduled from January 23, 2025), at 10:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**\*Mayor Johnson entertained a motion pertaining to an executive session held at the last meeting (February 4, 2025) for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

3. A Proclamation Declaring February 21, 2025, as the Annual Arbor Day and Tree Planting Celebration in the City of Savannah. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson)**
4. Presentation of the Employee Engagement Team and Recognition of the 2024 4th Quarter Employee of the Quarter Winners. **(PRESENTED by City Manager Melder)**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS**

5. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By The Package) Alcohol License to Sagai Sadasivan for Wheaton Market, A Convenience Store Located at 1321 Wheaton Street. The Establishment is Located Between Ash and Cedar Streets in Aldermanic District 2.  
**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #5, #6, and #7.**  
**No speaker(s).**  
**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #4, #5, and #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
6. Approval Of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By The Drink) Alcohol License to Angel Santiago for L & L Hawaiian Barbecue, A Restaurant Located At 318 Mall Boulevard Ste. 800. The Establishment Is Located Between Abercorn Street and Hodgson Memorial Drive in Aldermanic District 4.  
**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #5, #6, and #7.**



**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #4, #5, and #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

7. Approval of a Class A (Wine) (Caterer Alcohol License to Tonya Rintye for Locally Made Savannah, An Ice Cream Shop Located At 223 West Broughton Street. The Establishment is Located Between Jefferson and Barnard Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #5, #6, and #7.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #4, #5, and #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

8. 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 #8.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **William S. Gates – IN SUPPORT**
- **Patricia Jenkins Spady – IN SUPPORT**

**(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

## **ZONING HEARINGS**

9. Petition of Gary Gordon for a Special Use Permit in the TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) Zoning District to Allow for Accessory Alcohol Sales (Beer and Wine) in Association with a Restaurant for ~ 0.12 Acres at 1104 SE 36th Street (PIN 20063 04001) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 24-006540-ZA).

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #9.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**
- **Georgia W. Benton – OPPOSED**
- **Curley Green – OPPOSED**

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

**(Special Use Permit for #9 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



10. Petition of Ryan Williamson, Agent, for Strangebird Savannah, LLC on behalf of the Savannah College of Art and Design for a Special Use Permit in the TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) Zoning District to Allow for Accessory Alcohol Sales (Distilled Spirits) in Association with a Restaurant for 0.29 Acres at 1220 Barnard Street (PIN 20044 35006) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 24-006412-ZA).

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #10.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**
- **David Mason – Director of Operations, representing the petitioner**

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

**(Special Use Permit for #10 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

#### **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

11. Approve Amended Updated Fees Outlined in Article Q, Taxicabs Ordinance Consistency with Consumer Index. **(HEARD for First Reading Only)**

#### **PURCHASING ITEMS**

12. Authorize The City Manager to Execute a Contract for Alternative Transportation Services with Savannah Downtowner, LLC (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$598,797. The Mobility and Parking Services Department will use the Savannah Downtowner, LLC to provide alternative transportation services between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am within the greater downtown area using vehicles provided by the company. The vendor will be responsible for insurance, maintenance, and upkeep of the vehicles used. **(APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for City Wide Flooring (LOCAL) from Culver Rug Company in an Amount Not to Exceed \$133,125. These services will utilize this contract for removal and installation of various types of flooring solutions, but not limited to carpet, laminate, hardwood, and tile flooring. (Facilities) **(APPROVED #13, #14, and #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
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14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for City Hall Exterior Lighting with Moseler, LLC, d/b/a Founders Maintenance & Restoration in an Amount Not to Exceed \$90,146. This upgrade will modernize and provide the main LED lighting to the City Hall's dome, statues, and balconies. This procurement will upgrade the current external lighting system at City Hall. (Information & Public Affairs) **(APPROVED #13, #14, and #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
  
15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Design Services with Ethos Preservation (LOCAL)(DBE) in the amount of \$252,326. These services will be used to complete an investigation of existing conditions, develop a detailed rehabilitation plan and designs, aid in confirmation of the contractor's pricing, perform construction administration and complete project closeout. **(APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
  
16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Engineering Services with Hazen & Sawyer in the Amount of \$671,400. This Contract is for Engineering Services for Phase 1 Design for the Georgetown Water Reclamation Facility Expansion. **(APPROVED #13, #14, and #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**RESOLUTIONS**

17. A Resolution Confirming the Mayor's Emergency Declaration on January 21, 2025. **(APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
  
18. A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premises Consumption on Sunday, March 16, 2025. **(APPROVED #18, 8-1-0. Ald. Leggett voted no.)**

**AGREEMENTS**

19. Authorize the City Manager to Accept a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act FY2025 Rapid Response Grant Award in the Amount of \$70,000. The award will be used to implement general Dislocated Worker workforce training activities. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #19, #20, and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
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20. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the Second Allocation of FY2025 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Awards for Adult (\$660,066) and Dislocated Worker (\$1, 517,993) Programs. These awards will be used to provide programs from October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 to adults who are unemployed or underemployed, and adults who have been laid off from their jobs. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #19, #20, and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
21. Approval of Transfer of Ownership from Gulfstream Park Place, LLC to GPSS Gulfstream Owner, LLC to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Savannah to Provide Water and Sewer Services. These services will be provided to the development at 116 Gulfstream Road which consists of two modular office trailers and a container storage area in Aldermanic District 1. **(APPROVED #19, #20, and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**

22. Settlement #1. **(AUTHORIZED the City Attorney's Office to settle the claims of Minh Nguyen for \$450,000.00)**
23. Settlement #2. **(AUTHORIZED the City Attorney's Office to settle the claims of Linda Robinson for \$55,000.00)**
24. Settlement #3. **(AUTHORIZED the City Attorney's Office to settle the claims of Charlesetta Wright for \$54,500.00)**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

25. Board Appointments. **(No action taken.)**

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

**At 3:24 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the regular meeting to hold a closed executive session regarding litigation and personnel, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
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Members of Council made various announcements.

The executive session began at 3:33 p.m.

At 4:20 p.m., Mayor Johnson moved to adjourn the executive session, seconded by Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. All members were present, along with the City Manager, City Attorney, and Clerk of Council.



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

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The work session was held at 4:36 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 announced that there was no action taken during the executive session which was held immediately prior regarding litigation and personnel.

**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. 2024 Public Safety Review & 2025 Public Safety Outlook. **[PRESENTED by Police Chief Gunther, Fire Chief Kitchens, and Chief Community Services Officer Taffanye Young]**
2. Closed Executive Session: Litigation, Personnel, and Real Estate. **[HELD upon conclusion of the regular meeting, immediately prior to the workshop]**
3. ~~City Manager's Agenda Review.~~

Mayor Johnson adjourned the executive session at 6:18 p.m. No action was taken.



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## Special Called Meeting

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The special meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m., in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding  
Alderman Carolyn H. Bell, Post 1 – At-Large – **[ABSENT]**  
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. 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 public hearing open for agenda item #1.**  
**No speakers.**  
**(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
2. Approval of a Resolution by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to Opt Out of the Homestead Exemption, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2. **[No action was taken on agenda item #2.]**

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:19 p.m. No action was taken.