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

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The work session was held at 12:37 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 requested Council members to hold an executive session regarding personnel and litigation, immediately following the work session.

**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. 2025 St. Patrick's Day Major Special Event Briefing. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Chief of Planning and Economic Development Faye DiMassimo, Police Sgt. Jason Pagliaro, Revenue Director Judee Jones, and Mobility and Parking Services Director Sean Brandon]**
2. Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Strategic Plan. **[PRESENTED by Executive Director of Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Stephanie Kaple, Board Chair of ICH Karen Quinn, CEO and Executive Director of Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless (CSAH) Jennifer DuLong, and Incoming Chair of ICH Jennifer Davenport.]**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
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3. Closed Executive Session Regarding Personnel, Real Estate, and Litigation.  
[HELD at 1:54 p.m., upon conclusion of the work session and immediately prior to the regular meeting]
4. ~~City Manager's Agenda Review.~~

Mayor Johnson recessed the work session at 1:54 p.m. No action was taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the work session and hold an executive session regarding litigation and personnel, seconded by Ald. Palumbo and Ald. Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

The executive session began at 1:55 p.m. All members were present, including City Manager Melder, City Attorney Lovett, and Clerk of Council Mark Massey.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the executive session, seconded by Mayor Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

The executive session adjourned at 2:00 p.m. No action was taken.



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

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The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:10 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 Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz who introduced Reverend Janice Swan-Butts, Associate Pastor of Thankful Missionary Baptist Church 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  
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 27, 2025.  
**(APPROVED/ADOPTED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
**ACTION MEETING MINUTES**  
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2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on February 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, and #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on February 13, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, and #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
4. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Called Meeting (Homestead Opt Out) Held on February 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, and #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**\*Mayor Johnson entertained a motion pertaining to an executive session held at the last meeting (February 13, 2025) for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

5. The Establishment and Proclamation of "Divine 9 Day" in Savannah, GA. Officially Known as the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), the Nine Historically Black Fraternities and Sororities and Their Graduate and Undergraduate Chapters in Savannah will be Recognized: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to local leadership of each chapter)**
6. Special Recognition of Joan Quarterman for Her Retirement After 52 Years of Service with The City of Savannah. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson)**

#### **ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS**

7. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Steven Bailey for Sweet Potatoes, A Restaurant located at 531 Stephens Avenue. The



Establishment is Located Between Waters Avenue and Hodgson Memorial Drive in Aldermanic District 4.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15**

**UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

**(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

8. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to William LaFlower for West Broad Bandshell a Restaurant Located at 514 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The Establishment is Located Between West Huntingdon and West Gaston Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #8.**

**No speaker(s).**

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

**(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, contingent upon the executed good neighbor agreement)**

9. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Joshua Sembrano for Rome's, a Restaurant, Located at 2310 Montgomery Street. The Establishment Is Located Between West 39th and West 40th Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

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

**No speaker(s).**

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

**(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**Written comment(s):**

- **Josh Kersey – IN SUPPORT**

10. Approval of Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) with Sunday Sales and Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Matthew Douzuk for The Ann Savannah, A Hotel Located at 110 Ann Street. The establishment is located Zubly and Alton Streets in Aldermanic District 2.



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
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**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15**

**UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

**(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

11. Approval of a Class C (Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Gary Gordon for 520 Wings Express, A Restaurant Located at 1104 East 36th Street. The Establishment is Located Between Waters Avenue and Live Oak Street in Aldermanic District 2. (THE APPLICANT HAS WITHDRAWN THE APPLICATION.) **(WITHDRAWN, as requested by the applicant/petitioner)**

12. Approval To Add A Class C (Liquor) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday to the Existing Class C (Beer, Wine) Alcohol License with Sunday to Ryan Williamson for Strangebird, A Restaurant at 1220 Barnard Street. The establishment is located between West Henry and West Duffy Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15**

**UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

**(APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

13. Approval of A Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Connor Rankin for Bubba Garcia's, A Restaurant at 7 East Bay Street. The Establishment is located between Bull and Drayton Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15**

**UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

**(APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



14. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Chengohen Xin for Etang Noodle Hot Pot, A Restaurant at 41 Whitaker Street. The Establishment is Located between West Broughton and West Congress Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15**

**UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

**(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

15. Approval of A Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Harley Krinsky for Broughton Street Bowl and Brew, A Restaurant located at 129 East Broughton Street. The Establishment is Located Between Abercorn and Drayton Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #10, #12, #13, #14, and #15**

**UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**

**(APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

16. 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 #16.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **KeyShawn Housey – IN SUPPORT**

**(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

## **ORDINANCES FIRST AND SECOND READING**



17. Radar Authorization for Speed Limit Updates. **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

18. Approve Amended Updated Fees Outlined in Article Q, Taxicabs Ordinance Consistency with Consumer Index. **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**PURCHASING ITEMS**

19. Authorize the City Manager to Rescind the Award for a Real-Time Crime Center Public Safety Platform from Fusus Corporation and Re-Award to Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000. Fusus will unify Savannah Police Department's (SPD) data and operations into a single platform to expand the reach of the SPD camera system and promote public-private partnerships. (SPD) **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Rebuilding of Two-Primary Clarifiers with Brentwood Industries in the amount not to exceed \$104,316. The primary clarifiers are the first step in the wastewater treatment process and are essential for removing heavy solids. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #20 and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Program Management Assistance with Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$3,500,000 Annually. The Transportation Services Department will use the contract to provide program management assistance, pre-construction services, and construction management services for the multimodal capital improvements for transportation improvement projects funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), potential future SPLOST and Transportation Special Purpose Location Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST), hotel-motel tax, and federal and state grants over the life of this contract. **(APPROVED #20 and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
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22. Approval to Purchase One 4x4 Crew Cab Truck from Family Ford, Inc. dba Hardy Family Ford, in the Amount of \$50,546. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
23. Approval to Purchase Three Mid-Size SUVs from Beck Ford Lincoln, in the Amount of \$130,566. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
24. Approval for the Procurement of One 6,000 lb. Lift Truck from Atlanta Forklifts, Inc., in the Amount of \$33,619. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
25. Approval for the Procurement of One Autonomous Vacuum from Southeastern Paper Group, in the Amount of \$35,675. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
26. Approval for the Procurement of One Autonomous Floor Scrubber from Southeastern Paper Group, in the Amount of \$42,500. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
27. Approval to Execute a 1-year Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement Between Savannah Airport Commission and Brooks Building Solutions, Inc., in the Amount of \$46,400. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
28. Approval to Ratify an Emergency Purchase and Installation of a Fire Pump to B & J Fire Protection Inc., in the Amount of \$48,989. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
29. Approval for the Procurement of One 11,000 lb. Lift Truck from Cincinnati Lift Truck & Battery Service, LLC, in the Amount of \$49,962. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
30. Approval to Extend the Self-Serve Portal Subscription Plan with Thanks Boomerang, Inc., in the Amount of \$60,000. **(APPROVED #22 through #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



## RESOLUTIONS

31. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enact Article B. Major Special Events of Chapter 6, Special Events, of Part 3, Public Safety, of Division II of the Code of the City of Savannah for the Dates of 6pm Friday, March 14, 2025, Saturday, March 15, 2025, Sunday, March 16, 2025, Monday, March 17, 2025 and 6 am Tuesday, March 18, 2025. **(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
32. A Resolution of The Mayor and Aldermen in Support of Local Acts Designed to Combat Homelessness in The Savannah Area. **(APPROVED #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

## AGREEMENTS

33. Approval of a First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Savannah and the Savannah Chatham Board of Education for Use of Board Meeting Room Space at 2 Laura Avenue, Savannah, GA. **(APPROVED #33 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Purtee recused himself from the vote due to his employment.)**
34. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Clayton Properties Group, Inc. dba Mungo Homes for Meadow Lakes. This is for a development consisting of 285 single family homes in the Travis Field service area off Little Neck Road in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #34, #35, and #36 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
35. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Central Port Partners 11A, LLC for Rockingham Tract 11A. This is for a development consisting of 280,000 sq. ft. warehouse space and 20,000 sq. ft. office space in the President Street Service area off Landmark Boulevard in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #34, #35, and #36 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
36. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Old Town Trolley Tours of Savannah, Inc. for 234 Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard. This is for a development consisting of a 216 seat restaurant and 3,176 sq. ft. retail space in the President Street Service area off Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Aldermanic District 2. **(APPROVED #34, #35, and #36 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



**REAL ESTATE ITEMS**

37. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Fourth Amendment to extend the Lease Agreement for 602 East Lathrop Avenue (SPD). **(APPROVED #37 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**

38. Settlement #1. **(AUTHORIZED the City Attorney's Office to settle the claims of Greg Trainer for \$321,346.25)**
39. Settlement #2. **(AUTHORIZED the City Attorney's Office to settle the claims of Marie Claude Eubanks for \$26,000.00)**
40. Settlement #3. **(AUTHORIZED the City Attorney's Office to settle the claims of Shawn and John Phillips for \$35,000.00)**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

41. Approval of a Major Subdivision Oakwood at New Hampstead Phase 2B. The property totals 22.084 acres and will consist of 60 single-family lots of varying lot sizes. The property is in Aldermanic District 5. Location: 3401-B Highgate Boulevard. **(APPROVED #41 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
42. A Resolution for the City of Savannah to Receive What Works Cities Silver Designation. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson)**

**Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 3:47 p.m.**



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## **Special Called Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.**

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The special meeting was called to order at 4:33 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  
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.**  
**Speaker(s):**
  - Rosalyn Gooddine – asked questions
  - Steven Wood – **OPPOSED**
  - Jacquelyn Jones – asked questions**(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.]**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
**ACTION MEETING MINUTES**  
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The public hearing/special meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. No action was taken.



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## **Special Called Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.**

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The special meeting was called to order at 6:00 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  
Aldерwoman Carolyn H. Bell, Post 1 – At-Large  
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 – At-Large  
Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1  
Aldерman Detric Leggett, District 2  
Aldерwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3 – Vice Chair  
Aldерman Nick Palumbo, District 4 – Chairman  
Aldерwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5 – Mayor Pro Tem  
Aldерman 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 at 6:03 p.m.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Genie Brazzeal – IN SUPPORT, asked when it will be resolved (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. **(APPROVED #2 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
**ACTION MEETING MINUTES**  
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The special meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.