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

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The work session was held at 11:04 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, 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. Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Authorities. **[FACILITATED by Mayor Johnson]**
2. **Mayor Johnson and City Manager Melder recognized the City Marshal's who enforce city codes that were present, along with Chief City Marshal Judee Jones and Code Compliance Department Senior Director Cynthia Knight.**
3. Public Art Masterplan Update. **[PRESENTED by Chief Community Services Officer Taffanye Young and Cultural Resources Director Stuart Miller, project manager]**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
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4. Water Resources Update: State Directed Surface Water Funding & Stormwater Assessment Fee Study Update. **[PRESENTED by Chief of Water Resources Ronald Feldner, P.E.]**
5. Stormwater Program Funding. **[PRESENTED by Chief of Water Resources Ronald Feldner, P.E.]**
6. Strategic Plan Update. **[PRESENTED by Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams]**
7. ~~City Manager's Agenda Review.~~
8. Closed Executive Session Regarding Personnel, ~~Real Estate~~, and Litigation. **[HELD at 1:00 p.m., upon conclusion of the work session and immediately prior to the regular meeting]**

**Mayor Johnson recessed the work session at 1:00 p.m. No action was taken.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to 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 1:15 p.m. All members were present, including City Manager Melder, City Attorney Lovett, and Clerk of Council Mark Massey.**

**Ald. Leggett moved to close/end the executive session, seconded by Ald. Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

**The executive session adjourned at 1:59 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 2:09 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. Kurtis Purtee who introduced Reverend Claire Marich, Associate Minister of Asbury Memorial 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 March 13, 2025.  
**(APPROVED/ADOPTED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended to add the presentation to the Savannah High Boys Basketball Team)**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
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2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on February 27, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, , #4, and #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on February 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, #4, and #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
4. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Called Meeting (Homestead Opt Out) Held on February 27, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, #4, and #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
5. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Called Meeting (Homestead Opt Out) Held on February 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, #4, and #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**\*Mayor Johnson entertained a motion that an executive session was held earlier, following the work session (March 13, 2025), for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

**\*ADD-ON: Mayor Johnson made a presentation to the Savannah High School cheerleaders, boys basketball players, and coaches for being the State Class A Division II Champions.**

6. Presentation of the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade Permit to Members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to General Chairman Tim Mahoney and Parade Grand Marshal Jay Burke and several others. Also in attendance were bagpipers from Ireland who performed a musical prelude.)**

#### **ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
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7. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Sandeep M. Tamrakar for The Silk Route, a Restaurant Located At 401 Mall Boulevard Unit 102C. The Establishment Is Located Between Hodgson Memorial Drive and Waters Avenue in Aldermanic District 4.  
**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #8, and #9.**  
**No speaker(s).**  
**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #8, and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
  
8. Approval to Add a Class C (Beer, Liquor) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to the Existing Class C (Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sale to Christopher Emerick for Two Cracked Eggs Cafe, a Restaurant Located at 301 West River Street. The Establishment is Located Between Montgomery Street and Barnard Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2.  
**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #8, and #9.**  
**No speaker(s).**  
**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #8, and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
  
9. Approval to Add a Class C (Liquor) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to the Existing Class C (Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sale to Christopher Emerick for Two Cracked Eggs Cafe, a Restaurant Located at 202 East Bay Street. The Establishment is located between Abercorn Street Ramp and Lincoln Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2.  
**Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7, #8, and #9.**  
**No speaker(s).**  
**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7, #8, and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.**  
**(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**ZONING HEARINGS**

10. Petition of Yvonne Pryor of the Inner City Night Shelter, Inc. on behalf of Georgia Gale Coolidge for a Special Use Permit for the expansion of an existing Emergency Shelter currently located at 124 Arnold Street onto two adjoining



parcels at 116 and 0 Arnold Street (20005 21009 and 20005 21008) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-000377-ZA).

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

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **David McDonald – IN SUPPORT, but questioned enforcement**

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

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

## **ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

11. 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). (Postpone to the March 27, 2025 City Council Meeting.) **(POSTPONED/CONTINUED #11 UNANIMOUSLY to the March 27, 2025 City Council Meeting, 9-0-0)**

**Written comment(s):**

- **Kim Campbell – IN SUPPORT**
- **Ian Reddick – IN SUPPORT**

## **PURCHASING ITEMS**

12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 2 for Aluminum Sulfate with Chemtrade Chemicals USA, LLC, (LOCAL) in An Amount Not to Exceed \$1,089,936. This modification will ensure an adequate supply of Aluminum Sulfate is maintained because it's an integral part for the sludge treatment process. (Public Works) **(APPROVED #12, #13, and #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendment No. 1 with Smith Aquatics, Inc. in the Amount of \$49,942. This amendment is necessary to increase the concrete decking size to align with the expanded fenced area



around the pool for the Daffin Park Pool Project. **(APPROVED #12, #13, and #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 2 for City-Wide HVAC maintenance and repairs to Boan Mechanical (LOCAL) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000. The contract will be used to replace existing chiller rental, overall repairs and replace dated HVAC units at Community Centers. (Real Estate). **(APPROVED #12, #13, and #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

15. Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Authorities. **(The following residents/citizens were appointed:**
- **Aging Services Advisory Council**: Sharon Wanda Aikens, and Brian A. Woods)
  - **Cultural Affairs Commission**: Lillian P. Breitbart, Deborah P. Glenn, Danielle E. Hodes, Katherine Toftness, Whitney C. Parker, and Valarie Kite.
  - **Greater Savannah International Alliance (GSIA)**: Mindy Shea, Darren Bagley-Heath, Brian A. Woods, Antwone Mohammed, and Kathy Ledvina.
  - **Historic District Board of Review (HDBR)**: Karen M. Guinn, Mariel Hamer, Robert P. Helms, Thomas L. Thomson, Melissa H. Rowan.
  - **Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)**: Courtney Grunninger Bonney, Jeffrey M. Notrica, Brian A. Woods, and Scott E. Crotzer.
  - **Hospital Authority of Savannah**: Taqwaa F. Saleem.
  - **Keep Savannah Beautiful**: Kenneth Malcom, Jean J. Bellemare, Sal Mullgrav, Stacey M. Hall, William L. Eason, Sr., and Hunter Chadwick.
  - **Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)**: Travis H. Coles and Joseph B. Ervin.
  - **Park and Tree Commission**: Samuel J. Alai.
  - **Pilotage Commission**: Benjamin S. Bryan.
  - **Savannah Airport Commission**: Shirley B. James.
  - **Savannah-Chatham Historic Sites and Monuments Commission**: Kim Campbell.
  - **Savannah Economic Development Authority**: Gregory M. Parker and Dr. Ann Levett-Polite.



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- **Savannah Recreation Commission**: Lisa Miller, Boyer Bazelais, Ammon D. Crawford, Javares Taylor, Brian A. Woods, and Stanley J. Mosley.
- **Savannah Zoning Board of Appeals**: Travis H. Coles and Stephen Glenn Merriman, Jr.
- **Traffic Calming Committee**: Matt Singleton (Post 1 Representative), Rubin Huckabee (Post 2 Representative), and Terry M. Finlay (District 2 Representative).

**AGREEMENTS**

16. Recommend Adoption of the Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan.  
**(APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**

17. Settlement #1. **(AUTHORIZED the City Attorney's Office to settle the claims of Kevin Robinson for \$32,500.00)**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

18. Petition of Lachlan McIntosh from the Chapter National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for a Historic Marker Sign inside Tricentennial Park located at 315 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (PIN 20031 46003) in Aldermanic District 2 (24-006170-HM). **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

**Following the announcements made by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 3:43 p.m.**