



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 12:06 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. Purtee to offer 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 Detric Leggett, District 2
Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3 – Vice Chair
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
Interim Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Recorder's Court Discussion.
[Overview provided by Mayor Johnson. Also speaking were City Manager Melder, Chief Information and Public Affairs Officer Joe Shearouse, and City Attorney Lovett]
2. ~~Closed Executive Session Regarding Personnel, Real Estate, and Litigation.~~
3. ~~City Manager's Agenda Review.~~

The workshop was adjourned at 1:28 p.m. No action was taken.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:05 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. Carolyn H. Bell to introduce Elder Jamal Barrow, Jonesville 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
Interim Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for April 10, 2025.
(ADOPTED/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 March 27, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on March 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

***Mayor Johnson took moments of mayoral privilege to recognize the Savannah Youth Council (Eighth graders) who were present, along with their adviser, Ms. Taylor Turner. He also recognized Clerk of Council Mark Massey for recently being elected the Region III Director of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).**

4. An Appearance by Coastal Georgia Advocacy Center to Receive a Proclamation Declaring April 2025 National Child Abuse Prevention Month. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Executive Director Rose Grant-Robinson, her board, and their staff)**
5. An Appearance by the City of Savannah's 14U – Savannah Windsor Forest Basketball Team and 17U – Savannah Royal Lions Boys Basketball Teams for their outstanding achievement in winning the GRPA State Basketball Tournament. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to the coaches and players)**
6. Presentation of the Employee Engagement Team and Recognition of the 2024 Employee of The Year Winner. **(PRESENTED by City Manager Melder to Senior Compliance Officer Judy Stewart)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

7. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sale to Dhaval Desai for Element Hotel at 26 West Fairmont Avenue. The Establishment is Located Between White Bluff Road and Abercorn Extension in Aldermanic District 5.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7 and #9.
No speaker(s).
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7 and #9 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 Sale to Linda Stephens for Ave Bar and Grill, a Restaurant located at 1721 Waters Avenue. The establishment is located between East 33rd and East 34th Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #8.

Speaker(s):

- **Judee Jones, Revenue Director**

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

(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

9. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Ashok Lakhani for Exotic Cigars at 507 East River Street, a Cigar Store. The establishment is located between East Broad Street Ramp and Lincoln Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7 and #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7 and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

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

ZONING HEARINGS

10. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment for ~1.49 Acres at East President Street (PIN 20006 03002) to change the I-L (Light Industrial) to PD (Planned Development) within Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-000899-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10, #11, and #12. See related agenda items #13, #14, and #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Susan Gorecki – OPPOSED to a third access road**
- **Harold Yellin, representing the petitioner Josh Yellin**
- **John Gaskin, representing the petitioner Thomas Behm**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #10, #11, and #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.



11. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to the Savannah River Landings (Eastern Wharf) Planned Development Master Plan for the Inclusion of ~1.49 Acres Located at East President Street (PIN 20006 03002) within Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-000900-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10, #11, and #12. See related agenda items #13, #14, and #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Susan Gorecki – OPPOSED to a third access road**
- **Harold Yellin, representing the petitioner Josh Yellin**
- **John Gaskin, representing the petitioner Thomas Behm**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #10, #11, and #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

12. Petition of Thomas Behm on Behalf of Ballantry PMC 30 Adlers, LLC and SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to Savannah River Landings (Eastern Wharf) Planned Development Master Plan to 400 and 500 Pilot Street, 300 Passage Way, and East President Street (PINs 20006 05007, 20006 05013, 20006 05083, 20006 05084, and 20006 05088) within Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-000901-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #10, #11, and #12. See related agenda items #13, #14, and #15.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Susan Gorecki – OPPOSED to a third access road**
- **Harold Yellin, representing the petitioner Josh Yellin**
- **John Gaskin, representing the petitioner Thomas Behm**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #10, #11, and #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

13. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment for ~1.49 Acres at East President Street (PIN 20006 03002) to change the I-L (Light Industrial) to PD (Planned Development) within Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-000899-ZA).

(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.)



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14. Petition of Josh Yellin on Behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to the Savannah River Landings (Eastern Wharf) Planned Development Master Plan for the inclusion of ~1.49 acres located at East President Street (PIN 20006 03002) within Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-000900-ZA). **(HEARD #14 for first reading only.)**
15. Petition of Thomas Behm on Behalf of Ballantry PMC 30 Adlers, LLC and SRL Land Venture, LLC for an Amendment to Savannah River Landings (Eastern Wharf) Planned Development Master Plan to 400 and 500 Pilot Street, 300 Passage Way, and East President Street (PINs 20006 05007, 20006 05013, 20006 05083, 20006 05084, and 20006 05088) within Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-000901-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for New Parking Garages Owner's Representative with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$773,685. This contract is for owner's representative consultation services for assistance with the design and construction of two parking garages: a 450-space Forsyth Park Parking Garage and a 600-700-space Eastern Wharf Garage with residential units above. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Polymers from Polydyne, Inc. in the Amount Not to Exceed \$120,000. Two Polymers are utilized to coagulate raw water and to dewater millions of wet sludge to form a solid and dispose of in a landfill yearly. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.)**
18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Floodplain Management Plan with WSP USA, Inc. (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$80,968. The Development Services Department is requesting this service because as an active participant in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), the



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City is required to develop and submit a revised Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) to FEMA every 5 years. (Development Services) **(APPROVED #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.)**

19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Multimodal Transportation Implementation Plan with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000. Kimley-Horne and Associates, Inc. will prioritize mobility for the City by integrating transportation modes, prioritizing key projects to boost mobility and economic growth, setting Vision Zero-focused goals, ensuring equitable access, reducing delays, and promoting safety and environmental sustainability. (PED) **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Equipment with Templeton and Associates in the amount not to exceed \$250,000. The Water Reclamation Department uses a range of equipment to treat and process millions of gallons of wastewater and supply reclaimed water to the City. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.)**
21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification and Renewal for Armed Security Services for Various City Facilities with Sunstates Security Services (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,938,492. This contract provides armed security services at the following locations: City Hall, Government Operations Headquarters, Ellis Square, Coastal Georgia Center, I & D Water, President Street Plant, Forsyth Café, Visitor Center, Adams Complex, and City Garages in addition to special details upon request. (Risk Management) **(APPROVED #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Design for Fell Street Pumping Station in an Amount not to Exceed \$732,655 (LOCAL). The 50-year-old pump station is undersized and in a deteriorated condition and in need of re-design. (Stormwater Management) **(APPROVED #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23,**



and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.)

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Equipment for the Savannah Police Department (SPD) Headquarters Renovation Project with MGT (LOCAL) in the Amount Not to Exceed \$120,000. Innovation and Technology Services will use these switches and other equipment as needed for the SPD Headquarters renovation project to provide connectivity to the City's network. (ITS) **(APPROVED #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.)**

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract with Suncoast Restoration and Waterproofing, LLC in the amount of \$613,650. This contract is to perform crack and spall repairs in the Whitaker Street Garage. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0-3. Ald. Miller Blakely, Ald. Wilder-Bryan, and Ald. Purtee were away from the dais during the vote.)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

25. Approval of Change Order No. 1 with ECS Southeast for Special Inspections for the Taxiway G Bridge Project, in the Amount of \$36,860. **(APPROVED #25 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

26. Approval to Procure Public Safety Radios from Williams Communications Inc., in the Amount of \$119,942. **(APPROVED #25 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

27. Approval to Purchase Two Explosive Trace Detection Devices from Rapiscan Systems, in the Amount of \$77,526. **(APPROVED #25 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

28. Approval to Participate in the 2025 Visit Savannah Co-Op Digital Advertising Campaign, in the Amount of \$300,000. **(APPROVED #25 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



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29. Approval for Search Engine Optimization and Reporting Services with Agency of Record RobMark, in the Amount of \$25,920. **(APPROVED #25 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
30. Approval to Purchase One Front Deck Mower with a Cab from Shea Tractor & Equipment Company, Inc., in the Amount of \$48,465. **(APPROVED #25 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
31. Approval to Purchase One All-Terrain Vehicle from Logistics365, Inc., in the Amount of \$27,091. **(APPROVED #25 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

32. Authorize Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA) to Make a \$1,230,000 Loan from the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund in Support of a 2025 LIHTC Application to Develop 41 Affordable Housing Apartments on Vacant Land at 1700 Drayton Street and 104 E. 34th Street. (Housing Department) **(APPROVED #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Leggett was away from the dais during the vote.)**

AGREEMENTS

33. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Lennar Carolinas, LLC for Edgewater at New Hampstead Phases. This is for a development consisting of 156 single-family homes off Little Neck Road in the Travis Field service area in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #33, #34, and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
34. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Riverbend Savannah I, LLC for Rockingham Tract 6A-2, Building 7B. This is for a development consisting of a warehouse and office space of Feldspar Drive in the President Street Plant service area in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #33, #34, and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
35. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Riverbend Savannah I, LLC for Rockingham Tract 6A-1, Building 7A. This is for a development consisting of a warehouse and office space off Feldspar Drive in the President Street Plant



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service area in Aldermanic District 5. **(APPROVED #33, #34, and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

36. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Savannah Chatham Public School System for Windsor Forest High School. This is for a development of a replacement school at 12419 Largo Drive in the Wilshire service area in Aldermanic District 6. **(APPROVED #36 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Purtee abstained/recused himself from the vote for business purposes.)**
37. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Manger Building Property Owner, LLC for the Manger Hotel. This is for a development consisting of 224-room hotel, restaurant, fitness center, assembly hall and office space on East Congress Street in the President Street Plant service area in Aldermanic District 2. **(APPROVED #37 and #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
38. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with the Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority for an Amended and Restated Hotel Motel Tax in Accordance with State Law O.C.G.A. 48-13-51(b). **(APPROVED #37 and #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

39. Settlement #1. **(APPROVED #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, authorizing the City Attorney's Office to resolve the worker's compensation claim of Rukhsar Nawaz for \$65,000.00)**

MISCELLANEOUS

40. Approval of Major Subdivision West Tract 3, 4, and 5, Hill Durrence Tract. These proposed western tracts created a total of 125.093 acres and will consist of a residential complex near the Fort Argyle Road entrance and multiple warehouses towards the center and rear of the western portion. The property is in Aldermanic District 5 at Street Location: Kaizen Parkway at Fort Argyle Road (Note: Item withdrawn at the petitioner's request) **(WITHDREW #40 at the petitioner's request)**



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Following the announcements made by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:21 p.m.