



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 11:35 a.m., in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Eli 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
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 to the Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. SPLOST 8. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, followed by questions/comments from Members of the City Council.]**
2. Closed Executive Session Regarding Personnel, ~~Real Estate, and Litigation.~~ **[FACILITATED by Mayor Johnson. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to close the meeting for an Executive Session regarding Personnel, Litigation, and Real Estate, seconded by Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. Employee reviews for the Clerk of Council, City Attorney, and City Manager began at 12:08 p.m., and ended at 1:45 p.m. All City Council members were present. Each appointee attended their portion of the Executive Session only.]**



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The workshop and executive session concluded at 1:45 p.m. No action was taken.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:00 p.m., in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Eli Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order, then recognized Ald. Bernetta Lanier who offered the invocation. Mayor Johnson acknowledged the recent election of Pope Leo XIV – the first U.S.-born pope. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

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
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 the Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for May 8, 2025.
(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1, 8-1-0. Ald. Lanier voted no.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on April 24, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on April 24, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

*** Mayor Johnson entertained a motion that an executive session regarding personnel was held earlier, following the work session presentation for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. All the members were present. Mayor Johnson facilitated individual employee reviews for the Clerk of Council, the City Attorney, and the City Manager, one-at-a-time.**

4. A Proclamation Declaring May 2025 as Lupus Awareness Month and May 10th as World Lupus Day. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to DeLoach Foundation Founder Salathiel DeLoach)**
5. Appearance by AAPI Taskforce in Observance of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. **(RECOGNIZED by Mayor Johnson)**
6. A Proclamation Declaring May as Building Safety Month. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Development Services Senior Director and City Engineer Julie McLean, Development Services and Fire Department employees/professionals)**
7. A Proclamation Declaring May 5, 2025, as Georgia Water Professionals Day in Savannah. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Chief of Water Resources Ron Felder, and the employees of Water Resources, Water Distribution, Sewer Conveyance, Water, Supply, and Treatment, Planning & Engineering, Water Reclamation, Stormwater Management, and Utility Services)**
8. Presentation of the Employee Engagement Team and Recognition of the Employee of the 1st Quarter Winner. **(Mayor Johnson, the Employee Engagement Team, and City Manager Melder recognized the following:**
 - **Community Services – Adriana Cornelius**
 - **Government Operations – Anthony A.J. Johnson**



- **Information & Public Affairs – Myriam Baker**
- **Management Services – Joanne Aley**
- **Planning & Economic Development – Ouida Blake**
- **Fire Department – Jeremy Veale**
- **Police Department – Page Contreras**
- **Water Resources – Joshua Hosking**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

9. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Brittany O'Neal for B. Nicole's Bistro, a Restaurant Located at 1639 East Victory Drive. The establishment is located between Grenoble and Wicklow Streets in Aldermanic District 3.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #9 and #10.

No speaker(s).

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

(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended – contingent upon dismissal of the lawsuit against the City of Savannah)

10. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Deep Patel for Country Convenience, a Convenience Store Located at 12403 White Bluff Road. The establishment is located between Windsor Road and Austin Drive in Aldermanic District 6.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #9 and #10.

No speaker(s).

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

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

PURCHASING ITEMS

11. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Design Services for The New Floyd Adams, Jr. Complex with Hussey Gay Bell (LOCAL) an Amount Not to Exceed \$3,200,000. This will include comprehensive design services for a new



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office building adjacent to the Administration Building at the Floyd Adams, Jr. Complex on Interchange Drive. The scope of work includes surveying, geotechnical engineering, architectural design, structural and civil engineering, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineering, and landscape design to develop the construction plans and specifications required to construct the project. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #11, 8-1-0, Ald. Miller Blakely voted no.)**

12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 2 with Johnson-Laux (LOCAL) in the amount of \$166,000. This is a Modification for the Renovations at the Savannah Fire and Code Compliance Building. **(APPROVED #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Thomas Gamble Building Renovations with JE Dunn Construction Company in an Amount Not to Exceed \$23,489,566. This contract is undertaking a comprehensive renovation of the Historic Thomas Gamble Building, constructed in 1877 and acquired by the City in 1943. Originally used as a shipping and receiving warehouse, the building has undergone several transformations over the years to accommodate various offices. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Architectural Design with Cogdell Mendrala (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$1,425,000. This modification is required to support the new Northwest Precinct Project, which will be relocated to a newly constructed city-owned facility. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Sludge Hauling Services with Denali Water Solutions, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$840,000. These services are to haul biosolids from the President Street facility to the landfill. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No.1 for Landfilling of Biosolids with Waste Management in an Amount not to Exceed \$2,950,000.



The modification is due to an increase in volume of transported biosolids as well as contaminated soil from the arena parking lot. (Water Reclamation and Parking and Mobility Services) **(APPROVED #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 2 for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Line Repair from Southern Champion Construction in the Amount Not to Exceed \$2,901,000. This contract maintains over 2,000 miles of water sewer and storm mains, along with major operational structures, many of which are large industrial-type facilities. (Water and Sewer Planning) **(APPROVED #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Turbidity and Chlorine Monitoring System with CL2 Solutions, LLC in an Amount not to Exceed \$116,534. The Industrial & Domestic Water Supply and Treatment Plant is requesting this upgrade to eliminate inaccuracies and obtain real-time data for critical process control parameters. This upgrade will provide real-time, basin-specific turbidity and chlorine residual data, enabling the I&D staff to respond immediately to water quality fluctuations. (Industrial and Domestic Water Plant) **(APPROVED #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Network Maintenance, Equipment, and Security with MGT Impact Solutions in the Amount of \$1,151,015. Innovation and Technology Services uses this contract for hardware and software maintenance. (ITS) **(APPROVED #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18, and #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

20. Authorize Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA) to Make a \$2,000,000 Loan from the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund in Support of a Savannah Gateway Gardens LP 2025 LIHTC Application to Develop 86 Affordable Housing Apartments on Vacant Portions of Land Located at 21 Edinburgh Street, 806 Joe Street, and 946 Rockefeller Street. **(APPROVED #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



21. Authorize Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA) to Make a \$500,000 Loan from the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund in Support of a Parallel Sustainable Fellwood-I LP 2025 LIHTC Application for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of 110 Apartments at the Property Known as Sustainable Fellwood-I, 1401 Fellwood Drive. **(APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

AGREEMENTS

22. Intergovernmental Agreement with Chatham County for Joint Resurfacing of John Carter Road from Old River Road to Little Neck Road. Chatham County is overseeing improvements to John Carter Road from Old River Road to Little Neck Road, which includes milling, resurfacing, and striping improvements. The City will participate in the costs of said improvements for the areas that are located within its municipal boundaries. **(APPROVED #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

23. Settlement #1. **[APPROVED #23 and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. Authorized the City Attorney's Office to settle the claim (worker's compensation) of Mark Fleming for \$85,000.00.]**
24. Settlement #2. **[APPROVED #23 and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. Authorized the City Attorney's Office to settle the claim (worker's compensation) of Jean Lockhart for \$150,000.00.]**

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Street Renaming for Essex Avenue Between 2nd Street and Corvair Street to "Annie B. Graham Street" in Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 25-001257-HM). **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
Speaker(s):



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- Jackie Johnson, petitioner
- Doretha Rice, petitioner
- Lenora Axon, daughter of Annie B. Graham
- Bishop Charles E. Williams, Tremont Park Neighborhood Association

26. Authorize Supplement Budget Appropriations to Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Improvement Program. **(APPROVED #26, as amended to include all requested budget amendments, except two items identified as Westside Surface Lot – remediation of the Arena Parking Lot. The two items were UNANIMOUSLY TABLED/POSTPONED to the May 22, 2025 City Council Meeting, pending a workshop discussion on these items.)**

27. Approval of Major Subdivision West Tract 3, 4, and 5, Hill Durrence Tract. These proposed western tracts encompass a total of 125.093 acres and will comprise a residential complex near the Fort Argyle Road entrance, as well as multiple warehouses located 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. **(APPROVED #27 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

Following announcements made by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:18 p.m.