



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 11:03 a.m., in the SCCPSS Board of Education Room located at the Eli Whitney Administrative Complex, 2 Laura Avenue, Building G. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz 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. 2024 Year End Financial Closeout. **[PRESENTED by CFO David Maxwell and Mauldin & Jenkins CPA Trey Scott]**
2. SPLOST 8 Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder]**
3. ~~Closed Executive Session Regarding Litigation and Personnel.~~
4. ~~City Manager's Update.~~

Following comments and questions raised by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson ended the workshop at 12:46 p.m. No action was taken.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:01 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. Linda Wilder-Bryan who introduced The Reverend Doctor Bertice Berry, Deacon, Christ Church Episcopal who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States 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 the Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for June 12, 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 May 22, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 & #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on May 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 & #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

4. City Council Consideration of Personnel Evaluations. **(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

5. A Proclamation Recognizing The 250th Birthday of The United States Army on June 14, 2025. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Hunter Army Airfield Lt. Col. Derick Taylor and Fort Stewart Retired Soldier Council Officer Co-Chair and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of Army Pete Hoffman, joined by Army Veterans Ald. Alicia Miller Blakely, Acting Chief of Management Services Melissa Carter, Water Resources Administrator Anthony Caston, and Police Chief Lenny Gunther)**
6. An Appearance by the PROUD Savannah Taskforce to Receive a Proclamation to Declare June 2025 as Pride Month in Savannah. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Acting Chair of PROUD Task Force Pam Miller, Savannah Pride Center Program Director Jessica Saunders, Reverend Dr. Cale Robert Hall, and Ald. Kurtis Purtee)**
7. National Waste & Recycling Workers Week (June 16-20, 2025). **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Solid Waste Senior Director Qhannah "Q" Andrews, Chief of Government Operations Gene Prevatt, and various other Solid Waste Professionals)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

8. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Chiragkumar Patel for Savannah Mart, a Convenience Store. The Establishment



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is Located at 2810 Skidaway Road Between Rowland Avenue and Shell Road in Aldermanic District 3.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #8, #9, #10 and #11.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #8, #9, #10 and #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, with the good neighbor agreement on record)

9. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Devendrabhai Patel for Corner Stop at 2314 Skidaway Road, a Convenience Store. The Establishment is Located Between East 39th and East 40th Streets in Aldermanic District 3.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #8, #9, #10 and #11.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #8, #9, #10 and #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, with the good neighbor agreement on record)

10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) with Sunday Sale to Lindsey Pourciau for Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, a Restaurant at 7822 Abercorn Street. The Establishment is Located Between Mall Boulevard and White Bluff Road in Aldermanic District 4.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #8, #9, #10 and #11.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #8, #9, #10 and #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

11. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Yadimar Patino for Mias Latin Super Market at 103 East Montgomery Crossroads, a Supermarket. The Establishment is Located Between Atwood Street and Cindy Avenue in Aldermanic District 4.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #8, #9, #10 and #11.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #8, #9, #10 and #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)



12. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Vinay Patel for CBD+ at 802 Montgomery Street, a Convenience Store. The Establishment is Located Between West Bolton and West Gwinnett Streets in Aldermanic District 2. (Continued from the May 22, 2025 City Council Meeting.) (THE APPLICANT HAS WITHDRAWN THE APPLICATION.)

(Mayor Johnson acknowledged that agenda item #12 was WITHDRAWN, as requested by the petitioner)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Public Hearing on the Draft 2024 Savannah GPS Strategic Plan.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #13.

Speaker(s):

- **City Manager Melder**

(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #13 UNANIMOUSLY)

ZONING HEARINGS

14. Petition of Andria Canella on Behalf of Midtown Savannah Property Investments, LLC for a Special Use Permit to Permit Accessory Alcohol Sales in Association with Restaurant at 1722 Habersham Street (PIN 20064 09015) in Aldermanic District 2. (File No. 25-001606-ZA)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for #14.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY for the special use permit, 9-0-0)

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING



15. Petition to Annex ~159.7 Acres Located at 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road (11045 01001A, 11046 01001B and 11047 01018) from Chatham County to the City of Savannah.

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings open for agenda items #15, #16, and #17.

Speaker(s):

- **City Manager Melder**
- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**
- **Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #15, #16, and #17.

(APPROVED #15, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakley voted no.)

16. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Forino Co., LLP to Amend the Future Land Use Map from Residential Suburban Single Family to Planned Development for 159.7 acres at 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road (11046 01001A, 11046 01001B and 11047 01018) to Support an Annexation (File No. 25-001356-ZA).

Speaker(s):

- **City Manager Melder**
- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**
- **Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #15, #16, and #17.

(APPROVED #16, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakley voted no.)

17. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Forino Co., LLP to Amend the Zoning Map from R-A (Residential Agriculture – Chatham County) and P-R-C (Protected River Corridor – Chatham County) to PD (Planned Development – City) for 159.7 acres at 605 Old River Road and Sandhill Road (11046 01001A, 11046 01001B and 11047 01018) to Support an Annexation. (File No. 25-001312-ZA)

Speaker(s):

- **City Manager Melder**
- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**
- **Ron Feldner, Chief of Water Resources**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #15, #16, and #17.

(APPROVED #17, 8-1-0. Ald. Miller Blakley voted no.)



18. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 1, Personal Conduct, of Part 9, Offenses, of the Code of The City of Savannah, Georgia; to Regulate Urban Camping and Improper Use of Public Places; to Repeal All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #18.

Speaker(s):

- **Jenn Dulong, representing Chatham-Savannah Homeless Authority for the Homeless, joined by ICH Chair Jen Davenport, outgoing ICH Chair and incoming CSHA Karen Quinn, ICH Executive Director Stephanie Kaple, CEO of Union Mission Mike Traynor – IN SUPPORT**
- **Kristy Crill, representing Dive Savannah – IN SUPPORT**
- **Calum Crampton – OPPOSED**
- **The Rev. Matthew W. Herring – OPPOSED**

Written Comment(s):

- **Kendra Clark – OPPOSED**

(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, with a request for the City Manager to report back to the City Council on September 25, 2025, an evaluation of Urban Camping Ordinance, along with any recommendations.)

PURCHASING ITEMS

19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for One Waste Handler Dozer with Yancey Bros. Company in the Amount of \$629,832. The Waste Handler Dozer will be utilized by the Sanitation Department's Refuse Disposal Division to spread, push, and compact garbage at the Dean Forest Landfill. The new dozer will replace unit 8717, which is scheduled for replacement in the FY25 equipment replacement plan. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, 9-0-0)**

20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Two Bucket Trucks from Fouts Bros, Inc., dba Smyrna Truck c/o Versalift in the Amount of \$351,000. The two bucket trucks will be used by Traffic Operations Division and Stormwater Management. They will replace units 9253 and 0812, both of which are scheduled for replacement in the FY25 Equipment Replacement Plan. (Fleet) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, 9-0-0)**



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21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Economic and Land Use Study for the Savannah Civic Center with Robert Charles Lesser Company in an Amount not to Exceed \$150,000. The consultant will focus on the Civic Center site's redevelopment including market and financial feasibility analysis, development strategies, cost-benefit modeling, parking needs, and strategic planning, all in alignment with the City's Strategic Plan and priorities identified in the Resolution adopted by City Council on June 24, 2024. (Planning and Urban Design) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #21, 8-1-0. Ald. Lanier voted no.)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for One Pothole Patcher Truck with Reynolds-Warren Equipment Company, c/o LeeBoy, Inc. in the Amount of \$328,302. The pothole patcher truck will be utilized by the Street Maintenance Division to perform timely and efficient pothole repairs across the City. The new pothole patcher truck will replace unit 6230, which is scheduled for replacement in the FY25 equipment replacement plan.(Fleet Services) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, 9-0-0)**
23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Renewal for Seimitsu Fiber Services in an Amount not to Exceed \$500,000. This Contract will be used by the City of Savannah's Innovation and Technology Services Department to Bury the City's Aerial Fiber, adding redundant Fiber Paths, and any other Fiber Services Needed throughout the City. (ITS) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, 9-0-0)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Furniture Package for the Clerk of Council with JSI Furniture, Patterson Pope, and KI Walls c/o Mason, Inc. in the Amount of \$100,000. This furniture will support the Clerk of Council's chambers as part of the City Hall restoration project. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #24, 9-0-0)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Electric Motor Repair with Carbone Technology Inc. in an Amount not to Exceed \$278,908. The purpose of these services for repairing various sizes of electric motors and providing maintenance for two key maintenance programs. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, 9-0-0)**



26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Pump Repair with GoForth Williamson, Inc. in the Amount Not to Exceed \$100,575. These services will provide both routine pump maintenance and emergency repair services for all pumping systems associated with the Water Reclamation Plants. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, 9-0-0)**
27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Materials for New Lift Station and Force Main Phase 2 from Ferguson Waterworks in the Amount of \$2,796,912. The materials being purchased are pipe, fittings and valves for the "New Lift Station and Force Main Upgrades" construction contract. The purchase of the materials will expedite the installation of the new 30-inch force main from the Dean Forest Road at Pipe Makers Canal to the Travis Field Water Reclamation Facility. (Public Works & Water Resources) **(APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY #19, #20, #22, #23, #25, #26, and #27, 9-0-0)**

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

28. Approval of Ald. Carolyn H. Bell's Nomination of Tara Scott Brown to Serve on the Traffic Calming Committee (Post 1 - At-Large), replacing Marion (Mac) Singleton. **(APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

29. First Reading Only - A Resolution Adopting the Savannah GPS Strategic Plan for the City of Savannah. **(HEARD for First Reading Only)**

AGREEMENTS

30. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Forsyth Conservancy, Inc. and City of Savannah Which Outlines Mutually Beneficial Roles and Responsibilities to Promote and Maintain the Preservation, Historic Integrity, and Open Access of Forsyth Park for All of Its Users. **(APPROVED #30 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



31. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Savannah Harbor Owner, LLC for Savannah Harbor. This is for a development consisting of 242 single family homes on Hutchinson Island in the President Street Plant service area in Aldermanic District 1. **(APPROVED #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

32. Second Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the City of Savannah to Proceed with Preliminary Engineering Commitments Related to the I-16 at Montgomery Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Ramp and Overpass Removal (PI No. 0011744) Located in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2. **(APPROVED #32, 7-2-0. Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voted no.)**

33. Request Approval to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Chatham County and the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) for the Vision 2033 Strategic Initiative. **(APPROVED #33, 7-1-1, as amended contingent on adding/inviting the School Board to be a part of the agreement. Ald. Miller Blakely voted no, and Ald. Purtee recused/abstained from the vote.)**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

34. Settlement #1. **(APPROVED #34 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-1. Ald. Leggett was away from the dais during the vote. Authorized the City Attorney's Office to settle the claim (worker's compensation) of Jamaine Williams for \$65,000.00.)**

MISCELLANEOUS

35. Approval of Major Subdivision Sweetwater Station Phase 12. The subject property is the twelfth phase in a subdivision named Sweetwater. This proposed phase totals 13.156 acres and will consist of 42 single family lots with varying lot sizes. The property is Aldermanic District 6 at Street Location: Sessile Oak Drive and Snowbell Court. **(APPROVED #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



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Following the announcements made by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 5:21 p.m.