



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 Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz who introduced Pastor-Elect Janice Swan Butts, First Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church who offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited in unison. Mayor Johnson asked everyone to keep our friends from Texas in their thoughts and prayers, as a result of the recent flooding and related deaths.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Carolyn H. Bell, Post 1 – 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

ABSENT:
Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 – At-Large

ALSO, PRESENT:
City Manager Jay Melder
Assistant City Manager Taffanye Young
Neighborhood Services Manager Kahntilida Coleman
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 July 10, 2025. **(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0, as stated to hold the first reading for related agenda items #13 and #14 without a public hearing, since it was not advertised for one, and to postpone agenda item #44 to the**



August 14, 2025 City Council Meeting as requested by the petitioner. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on June 26, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on June 26, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

PRESENTATIONS

4. An Appearance by Dr. Mildred McClain to Award \$5,000 Grants to 12 Neighborhood Associations to Support Community-Driven Growth and Engagement Through The "Mustard Seeds of Community Investment", A Combined Initiative of Savannah State University, Georgia Tech, CLEAR Hub, Harambee House and Savannah Mayor Van R. Johnson, II. **(PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Dr. Mildred McClain)**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

5. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Vlinda Sayyavon for PJ's Thai Restaurant at 147 Abercorn Street, a Restaurant. The Establishment is Located Between East Oglethorpe Avenue and East York Street in Aldermanic District 2.
Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for #5.
No speaker(s).
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.
(APPROVED #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)



ZONING HEARINGS

6. Petition of Timothy Kinsey on Behalf of Ambaji Properties, LLC to Amend the Future Land Use Map from Commercial-Regional to Residential-General for the ~16.19-Acre Property Located at 0 Ft. Argyle Road (PIN 21033 01002) in Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 25-002525-ZA). (This Item was continued from the June 26, 2025 City Council Meeting.)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for agenda items #6 and #7. See the related agenda items #10, and #11.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #6 and #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.

7. Petition of Timothy Kinsey on Behalf of Ambaji Properties, LLC to Amend the Zoning Map from B-C (Community Business) to RMF-2-20 (Residential Multifamily-2-20) for the ~16.19-Acre Property Located at 0 Ft. Argyle Road (PIN 21033 01002) in Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 25-002524-ZA). (This Item was continued from the June 26, 2025 City Council Meeting.)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearings open for agenda items #6 and #7. See the related agenda items #10, and #11.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**

CLOSED ZONING HEARINGS for agenda items #6 and #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.

8. Petition of Robert McCorkle III on Behalf of 9 West 43rd Street for a Special Use Permit to Allow Alcohol Sales in Association with a Restaurant in the TC-1 Zoning District at 9 W. 43rd Street (PIN 20074 24002) in Aldermanic District 2 (File No. 25-002527-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for #8.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**



CLOSED ZONING HEARING for agenda item #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0.

Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.

(APPROVED #8 – Special Use Permit – UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)

9. Petition of Robert McCorkle III on Behalf of Northpoint Industrial XVI, LLC for the Owner Speir Property, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment for a Planned Development to Permit Mixed-Use Residential, Single Family, Apartments, and Townhouses for 671.53 Acres at 302 Bush Road and 420 Bush Road (11026 01017 and 11026 01002C) (File No. 25-001709-ZA). This Property was Annexed into the City on January 9, 2025.

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing open for agenda item #9. See the related agenda item #12.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Kerrie Bieber – requested the updated conditions written in red**
- **Robert McCorkle III, representing the petitioner**

CLOSED ZONING HEARING for agenda item #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0.

Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.

Written comment(s):

- **Kerrie Bieber – Requested an additional IGA for this area**

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

10. Petition of Timothy Kinsey on Behalf of Ambaji Properties, LLC to Amend the Future Land Use Map from Commercial-Regional to Residential-General for the ~16.19-Acre Property Located at 0 Ft. Argyle Road (PIN 21033 01002) in Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 25-002525-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second, APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
11. Petition of Timothy Kinsey on Behalf of Ambaji Properties, LLC to Amend the Zoning Map from B-C (Community Business) to RMF-2-20 (Residential Multifamily-2-20) for the ~16.19-Acre Property Located at 0 Ft. Argyle Road (PIN 21033 01002) in Aldermanic District 5 (File No. 25-002524-ZA). **(After the first**



reading was considered the second, **APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0.** Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)

12. Petition of Robert McCorkle III on Behalf of Northpoint Industrial XVI, LLC for the Owner Speir Property, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment for a Planned Development to Permit Mixed-Use Residential, Single Family, Apartments, and Townhouses for 671.53 Acres at 302 Bush Road and 420 Bush Road (11026 01017 and 11026 01002C) (File No. 25-001709-ZA). This Property was Annexed into the City on January 9, 2025. **(After the first reading was considered the second, APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

13. An Ordinance to Amend Division II, Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter I, Business and Occupations, Article R, Tour Services for Hire, Division 3, Horse Drawn Carriages, of The Code of The City of Savannah to Provide for Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Heat Stress Measurements; to Repeal All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. **(LISTED for First Reading Only)**

Written comment(s):

- **Ruth Arnone – OPPOSED to #13 and #14**
- **Robyn Lowe – OPPOSED to #13 and #14**
- **Amy E. Soeldner – OPPOSED to #13 and #14**
- **Janet & Jeff Champlin – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **Jessica Malki – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **E. Burcin Dengiz Olin – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **Karen Elger – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **Ann Sosbe – IN SUPPORT of the carriage horse industry**
- **Sara Crane – IN SUPPORT of restricted carriage use**
- **Elsa Moczulski – IN SUPPORT of restricted carriage use**
- **Reece Myran DVM – IN SUPPORT of the carriage horse industry**
- **Kathleen O’Sullivan – IN SUPPORT of #13**
- **Ilene Shuman – IN SUPPORT of the carriage horse industry**



14. An Ordinance to Amend Division II, Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter I, Business and Occupations, Article R, Tour Services for Hire, Division 3, Horse Drawn Carriages, of The Code of The City of Savannah to Provide for Temperature Heat Stress Measurements; to Repeal All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. **(LISTED for First Reading Only)**

Written comment(s):

- **Ruth Arnone – OPPOSED to #13 and #14**
- **Robyn Lowe – OPPOSED to #13 and #14**
- **Amy E. Soeldner – OPPOSED to #13 and #14**
- **Janet & Jeff Champlin – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **Jessica Malki – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **E. Burcin Dengiz Olin – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **Karen Elger – IN SUPPORT of #14**
- **Ann Sosbe – IN SUPPORT of the carriage horse industry**
- **Sara Crane – IN SUPPORT of restricted carriage use**
- **Elsa Moczulski – IN SUPPORT of restricted carriage use**
- **Reece Myran DVM – IN SUPPORT of the carriage horse industry**
- **Kathleen O’Sullivan – IN SUPPORT of #13**
- **Ilene Shuman – IN SUPPORT of the carriage horse industry**

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

15. Petition to Annex ~4.62 Acres Located at 4119 Ogeechee Road (10791 02007) from Chatham County to the City of Savannah (25-215). **(APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

16. Petition of Harold B. Yellin on Behalf of Dennis Hoffman for the Owner 17 South Mini Storage to Amend the Future Land Use Map of a 4.62-Acre Property at 4119 Ogeechee Road (PIN 10791 02007) from Industry-Light to Commercial Suburban (25-002531-ZA). An Annexation Petition Accompanies This Request. **(APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

17. Petition of Harold B. Yellin on Behalf of Dennis Hoffman for the Owner 17 South Mini Storage to Amend the Zoning Map of a 4.62-Acre Property at 4119



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Ogeechee Road (PIN 10791 02007) from P- B (Planned Business – Chatham County) and B (Business) to B-C (Community Business) (25-002530-ZA). An Annexation Petition Accompanies This Request. **(APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

18. Approval To Amend The 2025 Revenue Ordinance to Adopt the Rollback Millage Rate Of 11.749 Mills as The Final Millage Rate For 2025. **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

19. Motion to Amend Article R and Article U of the 2025 Revenue Ordinance. **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless for the Provision of Street Outreach & Transportation Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in an Amount Not to Exceed \$273,715. This Team will Target Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness and/or at Risk of Homelessness to Expand The Points of Access to Services and Provide Transportation Services Needed to Increase Their Health, Safety, and Quality of Life. (This item was continued from the June 26, 2025 City Council Meeting) (Human Services) **(APPROVED #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Garney Companies, Inc. to Perform Pre-Construction Services Related to the Expansion and Upgrade of the Industrial & Domestic (I&D) Water Treatment Facility in an Amount Not to Exceed \$700,000. (This item was continued from the June 26, 2025 City Council Meeting) (Water Supply & Treatment) **(APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-1-0. Ald. Lanier voted no, and Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Equity-Driven Public Engagement Services for the Savannah Civic Center with Bluknowledge, LLC (LOCAL) in an Amount not to Exceed \$70,000. The Consultant will Develop and Implement a Comprehensive, Equity-Driven Public Engagement Initiative in



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Support of the Redevelopment for the Site Focus on the Civic Center Site's Redevelopment, all in Alignment with the City's Priorities Identified in the Resolution Adopted by City Council on June 24, 2024. (Planning and Urban Design) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 2 for Crushed Stone with Martin Marietta Materials in an Amount Not to Exceed \$140,000. This is Used for Crushed Stone to Grade Unpaved Lanes and Stabilize Unpaved Surfaces. The Proposed Increase will be used for Street Repairs, Water Line Repairs, Sewer Department Repairs, and Stormwater Department Repairs. (Transportation Services) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Governance and Advisory Services with McLean & Company in the Amount of \$58,394. The Human Resources Department will use this for Service for Research and Advisory, Providing Human Resources Governance and Core Process Analysis in Building a Strategic Data-Driven Plan. It will be a Pivotal Partner for the Human Resources Department. This Contract Encompasses an On-Site Performance Management Workshop, HR Technology Software Contract Review, Employee Life Cycle Survey Platforms, Staff Development, Best Practices Guidance, and Networking Opportunities for Municipal Government HR Professionals, Serving as a Cornerstone for Solving Key Strategic and Tactical Enterprise-Wide HR Initiatives. (Human Resources) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Renovations for the W.W. Law Community Center from F.H. Paschen in an Amount Not to Exceed \$450,000. The W.W. Law Community Center Renovations will Include Painting, Flooring and Refurbishing of the Kitchen and Locker Rooms. (Facilities) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**



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26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for New Lift Station and Force Main with BRW Construction Group, LLC in the amount of \$14,553,454. The Scope of Work Includes the Construction of Approximately 6,500 Linear Feet of 30-Inch Force Main along Pipemaker's Canal Right of Way, from Dean Forest Road to the Travis Field Water Reclamation Facility. (Public Works and Water Resources) **(APPROVED #22, #23, #24, #25, and #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

27. Approval to Participate in Visit Savannah's International Marketing Effort, in the Amount of \$100,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

28. Approval of an Advertising Campaign for Spirit Airlines with Agency of Record RobMark, in the Amount of \$150,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

29. Approval of a Five-Year Renewal Service Agreement with INFAX, Inc. in the amount of \$330,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

30. Approval of a Five-Year Microsoft Office 365 Service Subscription Agreement with Microsoft Corporation, in the Amount of \$240,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

31. Approval to Execute Task Work Order No. 12 with Mead & Hunt for Cybersecurity and AI Strategic Planning Services, in the Amount of \$95,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

32. Approval to Execute Task Work Order No. 15 with AECOM for the Demo Air Cargo - Construct Apron Phase 2 Project, in the Amount of \$593,475.



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(APPROVED #32, 7-0-1. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz recused herself/abstained due to business purposes, and Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)

33. Approval to Execute a Contract with E.E. Reed Construction-East Coast, LLC for Construction Services Associated with the Reconstruct & Expand North Apron Project, in the Amount of \$10,269,864. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
34. Approval of Change Order No. 3 with Lugis Construction, Inc. for the Terminal Concourse Expansion Project, in the Amount of \$294,507. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
35. Approval to Execute a Contract with Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) for Natural Gas Installation for the Air Cargo Facility Project, in the Amount of \$47,408. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
36. Approval to Purchase 2025-2026 Property Liability Insurance with Sterling Seacrest Pritchard Inc., in the Amount of \$1,610,738. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
37. Approval to Execute a Contract with Arentz General Contracting for Construction Services Associated with the Maintenance Equipment Storage Building Project, in the Amount of \$495,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
38. Approval to Execute a Contract with W.S. Nielson Company, Inc., to Reseal the Skylight Structures in Savannah Square and Hilton Head Market Place, in the Amount of \$214,000. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**



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39. Approval to Purchase One Front Deck Mower with a Cab from Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation, in the Amount of \$74,624. **(APPROVED #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, and #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

AGREEMENTS

40. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Starland Property Company, LLC for Starland Village. This is for a Development consisting of Event Space, Office Space, Retail Space, Restaurant Space and Residential Units. **(APPROVED #40 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**
41. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Chatham County for the Use and Distribution of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Proceeds and Capital Outlay Projects commencing October 1, 2026. **(APPROVED #41 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais, and Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

42. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and Chatham County (Board) for City use of the Board-Owned Jenkins Pool Located at 1800 E. Derenne Avenue. **(APPROVED #42 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais, and Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

Written comment(s):

- **Sam Brannen – Requested sound barriers along the Truman Parkway**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

43. Settlement #1. **(APPROVED #43 UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais, and Ald. Miller Blakely was absent. Authorized the City Attorney's Office to settle the injuries/damages claim of Ahyunjah Middleton for \$65,000.00.)**



MISCELLANEOUS

44. Petition of Gary Wiggins on Behalf of Highlands Park Commercial, LLC for a Master Plan Amendment of 9.8 Acres of Property for the Highlands Park – Godley Station PD (Planned Development) Located at 143, 149, and 155 Shellbark Way (PINs 21016 02120, 21016 02119 and 21016 02118) to Establish a Multifamily Residential Land Use in Aldermanic District 1 (File No. 25-000046-ZA). **(RECONSIDERED #44 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0, and to be placed on August 14, 2025 City Council Meeting agenda as requested by the petitioner. Ald. Miller Blakely was absent.)**

***Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition, provides that a motion to reconsider means that the original vote is thus canceled, and before any new vote on it is taken, the question is again open to debate, amendment, or any other action appropriate in the case, per RONR Sec. 37:7.**

Following the announcements made by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 3:50 p.m.