



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 12:02 p.m., in the 2nd Floor Media Room. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order, then recognized Alderman Kurtis Purtee to offer a prayer. Ald. Leggett asked Mayor Johnson to remember the people of Minneapolis who were recently impacted by the tragedy/shooting.

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
Assistant City Manager Taffanye Young
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Vision Zero Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Chief of Planning & Economic Development Faye DiMassimo, Senior Director of Transportation Stephen Henry, Transportation/Vision Zero Coordinator Harold Taylor, Jr., and Police Captain Bradley Beddow]**
2. ~~Closed Executive Session Regarding Real Estate, Personnel and Litigation.~~
3. ~~City Manager Updates.~~

Following comments and questions raised by members of the City Council, Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session at 1:31 p.m.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:04 p.m., in Council Chambers. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order, then introduced Pastor Derrick L. Grant, Sanctuary of Praise Christian Assembly to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited in unison. Mayor Johnson asked for everyone to keep the people of Minneapolis in their thoughts and prayers and he asked for a moment of silence due to the recent tragedy/shooting.

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
Assistant City Manager Taffanye Young
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for August 28, 2025.
(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended by Mayor Johnson to include unnamed presentations)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
(Preliminary)
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 28, 2025

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session/Executive Session Held on August 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, and #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on August 14, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, and #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
4. Approval of the Minutes for the Show Cause Hearing for Henry Street Bistro Held on August 14, 2025, at 6:52 p.m. **(APPROVED #2, #3, and #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

***Mayor Johnson entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign an affidavit/resolution that an executive session regarding personnel, real estate, and litigation was held following the work session (August 14, 2025), for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-0. Ald. Wilder-Bryan was away from the dais during the vote. All members were present for the executive session, including the City Manager, City Attorney, and Clerk of Council.**

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Johnson Proclaimed September 1, 2025 as Labor Day in the City of Savannah. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Savannah Regional Central Labor Council (SRCLC) President Christi Hulme and other members]**

5. Presentation and Acknowledgement of Savannah State University, Georgia Southern University and Savannah Technical College MOU Partnerships for the City of Savannah Bridge to Success Student Internship Program Inaugural Cohort. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson, City Manager Melder, and Human Resources Director Jeff Grant to the college presidents of Savannah State University Dr. Jermaine Whirl, Georgia Southern University Dr. Kyle Marreo, and Savannah Technical College Dr. Ryan Foley]**



6. Presentation of the Employee Engagement Team and Recognition of the 2025 2nd Quarter Employee of the Quarter Winners. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and EET Chair Kristina Chandler to the following: Brittney Kempson, Community Services, Moses Jackson Advancement Center; Benjamin Mitchell, Government Operations, Park and Tree; Jessica Primus, Information and Public Affairs, 311 Action Center; Robert Mitchell, Management Services, Purchasing; Zarina Davis, Planning & Economic Development, Planning and Urban Design; Angela Kalb, Savannah Fire; Dusean Williams, Savannah Police; and, Tue Vu, Water Resources, Water Planning and Engineering.**

City Manager Melder recognized and introduced the new Chief Operating Officer who will lead the Management Services Service Center, Saesha Carlile.

Mayor Johnson recognized the birthday of City Manager Melder, a party being held across the hall at the conclusion of the City Council Meeting.

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

7. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Maronda Pierce for Kim's Cafe Midtown, a Restaurant Located at 714 Martin Luther King Boulevard. The Establishment is Located between West Gwinnett and West Hall Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7 and #8.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7 and #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

8. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) Alcohol License with Sunday Sale to Vasilis Varlagas for Olympia Cafe, a Restaurant, Located at 5 East River Street. The Establishment is Located Between Drayton Street and Abercorn Street Ramps in Aldermanic District 2. This is for a new manager/existing business.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for #7 and #8.

No speaker(s).



CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #7 and #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Public Hearing on State-Mandated Annual Update to the Community Work Program Portion of the Capital Improvements Element (Adopted by City Council in February 2023), Which Amended the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan (Plan 2040).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for agenda item #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

10. Petition of Hitendra Patel and Dipika Patel for a zoning map amendment of a ~0.76 acres at 1402 Stiles Avenue (20068 09025) from B-L (Business Limited) to B-N (Neighborhood Business) with Conditions in Aldermanic District 1 (25-002835-ZA). **(APPROVED #10, 5-4-0. Mayor Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz, Ald. Leggett, and Ald. Wilder-Bryan voted no.)**
11. Petition of P. Bart Smith on behalf of Progressive One Realty, LLC for a Future Land Use Amendment of ~0.2 acres from Residential Suburban - Single Family to Commercial - Neighborhood at 1103 E. 69th Street (20114 19002) in Aldermanic District 3 (25-003226-ZA). **(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
12. Petition of P. Bart Smith on behalf of Progressive One Realty, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment of 0.2 Acres from O-I (Office-Institutional) to B-N (Neighborhood Business) with Conditions at 1103 E. 69th Street (20114 19002) in Aldermanic District 3 (25-003170-ZA). **(APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



PURCHASING ITEMS

13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for (27) Mowers from John Deere c/o Beard Equipment in the Amount of \$105,788. The (27) Mowers will be Purchased from Beard Equipment at the Dealer's Cost, with No Markup Included in the Purchase Price. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Rebuilding One Primary Clarifier in an Amount Not to Exceed \$800,000. The Primary Clarifiers Play a Critical Role as the First Stage in the Wastewater Treatment Process. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #14, #15, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for SCADA Annual Maintenance for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System with Layer 3 Communications, LLC (LOCAL) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$126,291. The Annual Maintenance Agreement Maintains the SCADA Network Utilized by the Industrial & Domestic Water Treatment Plant. (Industrial & Domestic Treatment Plant) **(APPROVED #14, #15, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Reconstruction of Basketball Courts at 11 Neighborhood Parks throughout the City with Court Makers, Inc in an Amount Not to Exceed \$252,870. These Outdoor Courts are Experiencing Significant Cracking, Surface Fading, and Equipment Deterioration Creating both Aesthetic and Safety Concerns. (Recreation and Leisure Services) **(APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Christaline LLC for the Reconstruction of Tennis Courts at Bacon Park in an Amount Not to Exceed \$148,240. The 16-court facility is One of the City's Most Actively Used Recreation Assets and Experiencing Significant Cracking, Surface Fading, and Equipment Deterioration Creating both Aesthetic and Safety Concerns. (Recreation and Leisure Services) **(APPROVED #14, #15, and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



RESOLUTIONS

18. Public Hearing on State-Mandated Annual Update to the Community Work Program Portion of the Capital Improvements Element (Adopted by City Council in February 2023), Which Amended the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan (Plan 2040). **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Lease/Use Agreement with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Telecommunications Space on the City Telecommunication Tower Located at 1801 Kerry Street. **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

MISCELLANEOUS

20. Authorize the Approval of a Major Subdivision Named Camellia Trail Subdivision. The Subject Property is Located Near the Intersection of Montgomery Cross Road and Hodgson Memorial Drive. This Proposed Subdivision Totals 1.72 Acres and will Consist of 9 Single-Family Lots with Varying Lot Sizes. The Property is Between Eugene & Dennis Streets in Aldermanic District 4. **(APPROVED #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
21. Authorize Supplemental Budget Appropriations to Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Improvement Program. **(APPROVED #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
22. Approval to Remit the Savannah Airport Commission's Committed Funding to the 2033 Strategic Initiative, in the Amount of \$250,000. Added Item. **(APPROVED #22 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

Following announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 3:28 p.m.