



## **Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:03 p.m., in Council Chambers. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz called the meeting to order, then recognized Alderman Alicia Miller Blakely to introduce Pastor Dr. Charles Robert O'Berry, Jr., House of Freedom Worship Center, 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 – **[ABSENT]**  
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  
Assistant City Manager Taffanye Young  
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 September 25, 2025.  
**(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session/Executive Session Held on September 11, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**(Preliminary)**  
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3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on September 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 and #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**PRESENTATIONS**

4. Appearance and Recognition by the City of Savannah Human Resources Team of Human Resources Professionals Day. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz, City Manager Melder, and HR Director Jeff Grant to Human Resources Team Members who were present.]**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS**

5. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Jacob Grier for Garden Square, a Restaurant located at 2400 Bull Street, Suite 6. The Establishment is located between East 40th and East 41st Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz declared the hearings open for agenda items #5, #6, #7, and #8.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #5, #6, #7, and #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.**

**(APPROVED #5 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

6. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to Kayla Black for Savannah Pirates & Treasure Museum, a museum located at 219 West Julian Street. The establishment is located between West Congress and West Bryan Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz declared the hearings open for agenda items #5, #6, #7, and #8.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #5, #6, #7, and #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.**

**(APPROVED #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**



7. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Christopher Clarke for Honky Tonk South, a Restaurant located at 311 West Congress Street. The establishment is located between Montgomery and Jefferson Streets in Aldermanic District 2.

**Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz declared the hearings open for agenda items #5, #6, #7, and #8.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #5, #6, #7, and #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0.**

**Mayor Johnson was absent.**

**(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

8. Approval of a Class C (Beer) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales for Marco H. Sierra for Taqueria Los Compas, a Restaurant at 1101 East Montgomery Crossroads, Unit 5. The Establishment is Located Between Waters and Gohler Avenues in Aldermanic District 4.

**Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz declared the hearings open for agenda items #5, #6, #7, and #8.**

**No speaker(s).**

**CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for #5, #6, #7, and #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0.**

**Mayor Johnson was absent.**

**(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

## **ZONING HEARINGS**

9. Petition of Glynda M. Jones, President of the Liberty City-Richfield Southover Community Improvement Association for a Text Amendment Articles 5 Base Standards, 8 Use Standards, and 9 General Site Standards Pertaining to the Regulation of Vehicle and Freight Terminals and Vehicle Towing and Impound Facilities (25-003914-ZA).

**OPENED HEARING UNANIMOUSLY for agenda item #9. See related agenda item #12.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**



- Glynda M. Jones, petitioner – **IN SUPPORT**  
**(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING for agenda item #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0.**  
**Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

10. Petition of Wesley Green on behalf of Blue Heron Development, Inc. to Amend the Future Land Use Map Amendment from Planned Development to Commercial-Regional for 0 Ft. Argyle Road (11034 01035) (25-002523-ZA).  
**Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz declared the hearings open for agenda items # and #11.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**  
**(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #10 and #11**  
**UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

11. Petition of Wesley Green on behalf of Blue Heron Development, Inc. to Amend the Zoning Map from P-B-C (Planned Community Business-County) to B-C (Community Business-City) with Conditions to Support the Annexation of 66.05 Acres at 5 West Gateway Blvd and 0 Ft. Argyle Rd (11034 01035 and 11034 01031) (25-000359-ZA).

**Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz declared the hearings open for agenda items # and #11.**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**  
**(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #10 and #11**  
**UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING**

12. Petition of Glynda M. Jones, President of the Liberty City-Richfield Southover Community Improvement Association for a Text Amendment Articles 5 Base Standards, 8 Use Standards, and 9 General Site Standards Pertaining to the Regulation of Vehicle and Freight Terminals and Vehicle Towing and Impound Facilities (25-003914-ZA). (Additional Item Added) **(After the first reading was**



considered the second reading, APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0.  
Mayor Johnson was absent.)

#### **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

13. Petition to Annex ~66.05 acres Located at 5 W Gateway Blvd (PIN 11034 01031) and 0 Fort Argyle Road (PIN 11034 01035) from Chatham County to the City of Savannah. **(HEARD FOR FIRST READING ONLY)**
14. Petition of Wesley Green on behalf of Blue Heron Development, Inc. to Amend the Future Land Use Map Amendment from Planned Development to Commercial-Regional for 0 Ft. Argyle Road (11034 01035) (25-002523-ZA). **(HEARD FOR FIRST READING ONLY)**
15. Petition of Wesley Green on behalf of Blue Heron Development, Inc. to Amend the Zoning Map from P-B-C (Planned Community Business-County) to B-C (Community Business-City) with Conditions to Support the Annexation of 66.05 Acres at 5 West Gateway Blvd and 0 Ft. Argyle Rd (11034 01035 and 11034 01031) (25-000359-ZA). **(HEARD FOR FIRST READING ONLY)**

#### **PURCHASING ITEMS**

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for 66 Police Vehicles in an Amount Not to Exceed \$3,821,589 from Santee Automotive LLC. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #16 and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**
17. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Storm Debris Removal from Crowder Environmental Services (primary), Ceres Environmental Services (secondary), and DRC Emergency Services (tertiary) in an Amount that Will Vary Based on the Severity of the Natural Disaster. (Sanitation Department) **(APPROVED #16 and #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**



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18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract for Street Maintenance & Repair Services to Samjay Services Inc. (Primary Contractor) and Savannah Paving (Secondary Contractor) in an Amount not to Exceed \$800,000. (Transportation Services) **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**
19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 to Expand Geographic Boundaries of the Economic and Land Use Study for the Civic Center with Robert Charles Lesser Company in an Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000. (Planning & Urban Design) **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**RESOLUTIONS**

20. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Documents Related to \$146 Million in State of Georgia Funding Package for the City's Phase 1 Improvements to the Savannah Industrial & Domestic (I&D) Water Treatment Plant and Associated Facilities (I&D Department). **(APPROVED #20 and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**
21. Approval of an Amendment to the Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit the FY2024 and FY2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and Grant Agreement with the Subrecipient for Federal Assistance as the Project Sponsor. (Human Services Department) **(APPROVED #20 and #21 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**AGREEMENTS**

22. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the Initial PY25 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant Awards for Adult (\$164,196) and Dislocated Worker (\$312,999) Programs. (WorkSource Coastal) **(APPROVED #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**



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23. Authorize the City Manager to Accept the PY25 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Grant Award in the Amount of \$1,022,865. (WorkSource Coastal) **(APPROVED #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

24. Authorize the City Manager to Accept a FY25 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant Award in the Amount of \$500,000. The award will be used to provide programs from October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 to eligible dislocated workers who have been impacted by a natural disaster, laid off or job displacement and are seeking employment or training opportunities in high-demand industries. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the 10-county region. **(APPROVED #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

25. Authorize the Approval of the Installation of the East Savannah Neighborhood Historical Markers in Aldermanic District 3. (25-003989-HM) (Municipal Archives) **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

26. Authorize the Approval of the Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets Petition to Name the Basketball Court in Crawford Square to Honor Larry "Gator" Rivers in Aldermanic District 2. (25-004049-HM) (Information & Public Affairs) **(APPROVED #26, 6-0-2. Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier abstained, and Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**Speaker(s):**

- **Mrs. Jean Rivers, wife**
- **Lawrence Bryan III**
- **Michael Mays**

27. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Major Subdivision, Meadow Lakes Phase 2. (Development Services Department) **(APPROVED #27 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**



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28. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Major Subdivision, Brookline, Phase 5. (Development Services Department) **(APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Johnson was absent.)**

**Following announcements made by the City Council, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz adjourned the regular meeting at 3:32 p.m.**