



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 11:02 a.m., in the 2nd Floor Media Room. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order, then recognized Alderman Detric Leggett to offer a 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
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. Canal District Plan. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, and Planning & Urban Design Senior Director Bridget Lidy. Ms. Lidy also recognized staff member Zarina Davis, intern DJ Barrett, Denise Grabowski with Symbioscity, and Michael Hightower with The Collaborative Firm]**
2. Citywide Facility Energy Efficiency Project. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Chief of Planning & Economic Development Faye DiMassimo, and the Sustainability Team Members (Nylah, Avni, Joshua, and Diksha)]**
3. Executive Session for Real Estate, Personnel and Litigation.



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[HELD. Mayor Johnson and Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to hold an executive session regarding litigation, seconded by Ald. Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

At 12:39 p.m., Mayor Johnson recessed the work session for the executive session to be held on the 4th Floor in the City Manager's conference room, which began at 12:52 p.m. All members were present, except Ald. Purtee. Also attending were City Manager Jay Melder, City Attorney Bates Lovett joined with Mathew McCoy from McCorkle, Johnson & McCoy LLP, and Clerk of Council Mark Massey.

Ald. Palumbo moved to adjourn the executive session/workshop, seconded by Ald. Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was absent.]

4. ~~City Manager Updates.~~

Mayor Johnson adjourned the work session/executive session at 1:58 p.m.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:10 p.m., in Council Chambers. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order. He then recognized Ald. Bernetta B. Lanier who introduced Pastor Tony E. Reddick, New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited in unison. Mayor Johnson recognized that it was the 246-year anniversary of the Siege of Savannah which occurred in 1779.

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
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 October 9, 2025.
(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended thereby adding a presentation as requested by Mayor Johnson.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



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2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on September 25, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

***Mayor Johnson entertained a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign an affidavit/resolution that an executive session regarding litigation and personnel was held following the work session (October 09, 2025), for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. All members, except Ald. Purtee, were present for the executive session, including the City Manager, City Attorney, Clerk of Council, and outside legal counsel Mathew McCoy with McCorkle, Johnson, and McCoy.**

PRESENTATIONS

3. Proclamation declaring October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to SAFE Shelter CEO Shannon Bates, 4 the Jewel N U CEO/President Karen Denise Alston, board members and staff]**
4. Proclamation declaring October 2025 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to WSAV-TV News Anchor Tina Tyus-Shaw, survivors, and advocates]**

(ADDED) 4B. Proclamation proclaiming Savannah, Georgia as the StoryCon Capital of the World. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Dr. Bertice Berry and other supporters]**

5. Appearance and Recognition of Inaugural 2025 Girls Youth Flag Football League Champions. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to Senior Director of Recreation & Leisure Services Nick Roberts, Savannah Storm Head Coach Ebony Robinson, other coaches and players.]**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

6. Approval to Add a Class C (Liquor) (By the Drink) Alcohol License to the existing Class C (Beer, Wine) Alcohol License to Christina Pirovits for 208 Wine Bar, a



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Bar located at 208 West Bay Street. The establishment is located between Abercorn Street and Lincoln Street Ramps in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9

UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was away from the dais during the vote.

(APPROVED #6 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was away from the dais during the vote.)

7. Approval to Add a Class C (Liquor) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to the existing Class C (Beer) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Christopher Emerick for Squealing Hog BBQ, a Restaurant at 206 East Bay St. in Aldermanic District 2.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9

UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was away from the dais during the vote.

(APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was away from the dais during the vote.)

8. Approval of a Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Amy Stafford for The Palace Diner, a Restaurant at 7202 Abercorn Street. The establishment is located between Eisenhower Drive and Stephenson Avenue in Aldermanic District 4.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9

UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was away from the dais during the vote.



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(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was away from the dais during the vote.)

9. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Viral Patadiya for Marathon at 329 East Montgomery Crossroads, a Convenience Store. The establishment is located between Edgewater Road and Aegean Avenue in Aldermanic District 4.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARINGS for agenda items #6, #7, #8, and #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz was away from the dais during the vote.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Second Public Hearing to Receive Comments Concerning the City's 2026 One Year Action Plan.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #10. See related agenda item #26.

No speaker(s).

(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING UNANIMOUSLY for agenda item #10, 9-0-0)

ZONING HEARINGS

11. Petition for Joshua Yellin on behalf of Christopher Woods, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment from B-C (Community Business) and OI-E (Office and Institutional-Expanded) to RMF-2-25 (Residential Multi-family 2-25 units per acre) for 1.45-acres at 11965 Apache Avenue (20845 01013) in Aldermanic District 6 (25-004180-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #11. See related item #12.

Speaker(s):



- **Edward Morrow, MPC Representative**
(CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING UNANIMOUSLY for agenda item #11, 9-0-0)

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

12. Petition for Joshua Yellin on behalf of Christopher Woods, LLC for a Zoning Map Amendment from B-C (Community Business) and OI-E (Office and Institutional-Expanded) to RMF-2-25 (Residential Multi-family 2-25 units per acre) for 1.45-acres at 11965 Apache Avenue (20845 01013) in Aldermanic District 6 (25-004180-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #12, UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

ORDINANCES – SECOND 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. **(APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
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). **(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
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). **(APPROVED #15 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Tree and Stump Removal Services from ArborNature, LLC in an Amount not to Exceed \$670,000. The Park & Tree Urban Forestry Division will utilize this contract to provide hazard



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tree and stump removal services on various City properties and in the public right-of-ways throughout the City of Savannah. (Park & Tree) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

17. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for Demolition Services at 925 East President Street with Masterful Enterprises, LLC (LOCAL) in the Amount of \$410,610. (Code Compliance) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for "As-Needed" or "On-Call" Geotechnical Engineering Services to Whitaker Laboratory (LOCAL) in an Amount not to Exceed \$250,000 to provide geotechnical engineering services for City projects across multiple departments. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a contract for a roofing application with MetalCrafts (LOCAL) in an amount not to exceed \$165,100. The Facilities Maintenance Department will utilize this contract for labor, and materials for a silicone roof coating at City Hall . (Facilities Maintenance) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for (1) 55 – Ton Lowboy Trailer from Yancey Bros., c/o Trail King, in an Amount not to Exceed \$111,556. Stormwater Management Division will utilize this contract to transport various types of medium and compact equipment. (Fleet Services) (Item Withdrawn by the Request of Staff) **(WITHDRAWN as requested by staff)**
21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for (3) 30-Ton Equipment Trailers and (1) 24-Ton Equipment Trailer from Yancey Bros., c/o Towmaster Trailers, in an Amount not to Exceed \$167,359. Stormwater Management Division will utilize the new trailers to transport various types of medium and compact equipment. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for portable radios from Motorola, in an amount not to exceed \$247,330. Innovation + Technology Services Department will utilize the contract to replace Savannah Fire



Department's aging, obsolete radios, and add to the New Hampstead Location. (ITS) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Reeves Young, LLC for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) pre-construction services for the Civic Legacy - Arena Removal Project in the Amount of \$15,000. The Civic Legacy - Arena Removal Project will include the careful demolition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Arena at the Savannah Civic Center. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Garbutt Construction Company for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Pre-Construction Services for the Water Works Stabilization Project in the Amount of \$0. The project will involve the extensive stabilization of the historic Water Works building located at the corner of Gwinnett Street and Stiles Avenue. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #16, #17, #18, #19, #21, #22, #23, and #24 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

25. Approval of Common Ground: The Master Plan for Savannah's Canal District and Action Playbook: Collective Implementation of the Canal District Master Plan. **(APPROVED #25 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

26. Approval of a Resolution Adopting the City's 2026 One Year Action Plan. **(APPROVED #26 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Leggett was away from the dais during the vote.)**

27. Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the 2025 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update following the approval of the draft report by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to comply with the Georgia Development Impact Fee Act and to maintain the City of Savannah's qualified local government certification. **(APPROVED #27 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

REAL ESTATE ITEMS



28. Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Lease Agreement for Thomas Gamble Ground Floor Lease Space with Galaxy Cafe, commonly known as Olympia Cafe. **(APPROVED #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

Speaker(s):

- **Vasilis Varlagas, co-owner of Olympia Cafe**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

29. Settlement #1. **Authorized the City Attorney's Office to settle the (worker's compensation) claim of Darrell Scott for \$77,000.00. (APPROVED #29 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

Following announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 3:43 p.m.