



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 11:02 a.m., in the 2nd Floor Media Room. Mayor Van R. Johnson, II called the meeting to order, then recognized Ald. Kurtis Purtee to offer a prayer.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderswoman Carolyn H. Bell, Post 1 – At-Large
Alderswoman Alicia Miller Blakely, Post 2 – At-Large
Alderswoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Alderswoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3 – Vice Chair
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4 – Chairman
Alderswoman 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
Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones
Assistant to the Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Adding to the Housing Toolkit Discussion. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Planning & Urban Design Planning Manager John Anagnost]**
2. Civic Legacy Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Municipal Archives & History Officer Luciana Spracher, Real Estate Services and Capital Projects Management Senior Director Cristy Lawrence, Craig Clements with Sottile & Sottile, Dr. Erika Tate with BluKnowledge, and Shedrick Coleman with SHEDDarchitecture]**
3. Executive Session Regarding Personnel, Real Estate and Litigation; As Needed. **[HELD at 1:54 p.m. All members were present, including the City Manager, City Attorney, and Clerk of Council. The executive session was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.]**
4. ~~City Manager Updates.~~

The workshop was adjourned upon conclusion of the executive session.
No action was taken.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:30 p.m., in Council Chambers. Following the roll call, Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order. He then recognized Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Estella Shabazz who introduced Reverend Kaggi Kimathi Scott, Pastor of the West Broad Seventh-day Adventist Church, to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited in unison.

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
Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones
Assistant to the Clerk of Council Renee Osborne

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for December 11, 2025.
(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, with changes read by Mayor Johnson to continue agenda item #20)



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Action Minutes for the Budget Retreat Held on November 17, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 & #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
3. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on November 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. **(APPROVED #2 & #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
4. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on November 25, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #4 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

*** Mayor Johnson entertained a motion that an executive session regarding litigation and real estate was held earlier, following the work session presentation for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. All the members were present, including the City Manager, City Attorney, and Deputy Clerk of Council.**

PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation by Human Resources for Bridge to Success Student Internship Program Fall 2025 Student Completion (Human Resources) **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Human Resources Director Jeff Grant, Human Resources Assistant Director Tiffany Martin, and the HR Team.]**
6. Presentation by Human Resources for National Caregivers Appreciation (Human Resources). **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Human Resources Director Jeff Grant, Human Resources Stephanie Levertt.]**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

7. Approval of a Class E (Beer and Wine) Alcohol License to Dipesh Patel for Chu's at 1336 West Bay Street. The establishment is located between Carolan and Kirkland Streets, a Supermarket in Aldermanic District 1. This existing



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business is in the West Savannah Overlay District, but the business meets the requirements. (New Owner/Existing Business).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #7 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

8. Approval of a Class E (Beer ,Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Bhavesh Patel for Quick Stop #92, at 1450 West Bay Street Between Carolan and Cleland Streets, a Convenience Store in Aldermanic District 1. This existing business is in the West Savannah Overlay District, but the business meets the requirements. (New Owner/Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

9. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for Eliza Thompson House at 5 West Jones Street. The establishment is located between Whitaker and Bull Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. (New Owner/Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) and Class E (Beer and Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for Easy Bay Inn at 225 East Bay Street. The establishment is located between Jefferson and Barnard Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. (New Owner/Existing Business)



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Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

11. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for Kehoe House at 123 Habersham Street. The establishment is located between Whitaker and Bull Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. (New Owner/Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

12. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Travis Shelhorse for The Gastonian Hotel located at 220 East Gaston Street. The establishment is located between Abercorn and Lincoln Streets, a hotel in Aldermanic District 2. (New Owner/Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

13. Approval of a Class D (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Victoria Domingo for All American Liquor LLC, a package shop located at 4317 Ogeechee Road. The establishment is located between Chatham Parkway and Heathcote Circle in Aldermanic District 5. (New Owner/Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13.

No speaker(s).



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CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, and #13, 9-0-0. (APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

PUBLIC HEARING

14. Final Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the 2026 Proposed Service Program and Budget.

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for agenda item #14.

No speaker(s).

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

ZONING HEARINGS

15. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Text Amendment to Section 7.13 Hotel Development Overlay District in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 (25-004589-ZA). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. (Planning & Urban Design)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #15 and #16. See related agenda items #17 and #18.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED**
- **Gloria Williams, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED**
- **David McDonald, Downtown Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED**
- **Courtney Cartledge, SUPPORTED**
- **Travis Coles, NEUTRAL**

Written Comments:

- **Hugh S. Golson, OPPOSED**
- **Jason L. Combs, SUPPORTED**



- **Adris Wood, SUPPORTED**
- **Barry Atwood, SUPPORTED**
- **Morgan Whitney & Kristen Hayes, SUPPORTED**
- **John W. Rimes, SUPPORTED**
- **Brooke Mollenkamp & Charles Herman, SUPPORTED**
- **Adrienne Dickerson, SUPPORTED**
- **Roe Zaplinski, SUPPORTED**
- **Whitney Shephard, SUPPORTED**
- **Ryan Madson, SUPPORTED**
- **Carolina Braunschweig along with signed Letters from various petitioners, SUPPORTED**
- **Michael T. Owens, Tourism Leadership Council, OPPOSED**
- **LaRaine P. Montgomery, SUPPORTED**
- **Sarah Cuda, SUPPORTED**

CLOSED ZONING HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #15 and #16, 9-0-0.

16. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Zoning Map Amendment to Expand the Hotel Overlay in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 (25-004592-ZA). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. (Planning & Urban Design).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #15 and #16. See related agenda items #17 and #18.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED**
- **Gloria Williams, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED**
- **David McDonald, Downtown Neighborhood Association, SUPPORTED**
- **Courtney Cartledge, SUPPORTED**
- **Travis Coles, NEUTRAL**



Written Comments:

- **Hugh S. Golson, OPPOSED**
- **Jason L. Combs, SUPPORTED**
- **Adris Wood, SUPPORTED**
- **Barry Atwood, SUPPORTED**
- **Morgan Whitney & Kristen Hayes, SUPPORTED**
- **John W. Rimes, SUPPORTED**
- **Brooke Mollenkamp & Charles Herman, SUPPORTED**
- **Adrienne Dickerson, SUPPORTED**
- **Roe Zaplinski, SUPPORTED**
- **Whitney Shephard, SUPPORTED**
- **Ryan Madson, SUPPORTED**
- **Carolina Braunschweig along with signed Letters from various petitioners, SUPPORTED**
- **Michael T. Owens, Tourism Leadership Council, OPPOSED**
- **LaRaine P. Montgomery, SUPPORTED**
- **Sarah Cuda, SUPPORTED**

CLOSED ZONING HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #15 and #16, 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES

17. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Text Amendment to Section 7.13 Hotel Development Overlay District in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 (25-004589-ZA). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. (Planning & Urban Design)

(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

18. Petition of Nancy Maia, Victorian Neighborhood Association; Jason Combs, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association; and Bernadette Perry, Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood Association for a Zoning Map Amendment to Expand



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the Hotel Overlay in Aldermanic Districts 1 and 2 (25-004592-ZA). Item Continued from the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting. (Planning & Urban Design)

(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

19. Approval of the 2026 Revenue Ordinance. (Revenue Department) **(APPROVED #19 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

20. Adoption of the Amendment to the 2026 Revenue Ordinance to establish a Stormwater Utility Rate Ordinance within the City of Savannah Code of Ordinances (FY 2026 Revenue Ordinance). (Water Resources Department). This Item is Continued to January 22, 2026. **(POSTPONED until January 22, 2026)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for AI Water Leak Detection Survey Services with Oldcastle Infrastructure in an Amount Not to Exceed \$249,900. (Water Resources) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for (4) Roll-Off Container Trucks for Sanitation with Sansom Equipment Company, c/o Automotive Fleet Group in an Amount Not to Exceed \$977,200. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Axon Skydio Drones, Software, Docking, and Maintenance with Axon Skydio in an Amount Not to Exceed \$53,712. Purchased with SCAD Serves Grant funds. (SPD) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Flock Safety Camera System with Flock Safety in an Amount Not to Exceed \$193,500. Purchased



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with SCAD Serves Grant funds. (SPD) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Cameras, Emergency Phones, and Emergency Call Towers with Netplanner in an Amount Not to Exceed \$232,596. Purchased with SCAD Serves Grant funds.(SPD) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Lab Equipment with Seal Analytical in the Amount of \$54,278. (Water Reclamation) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for On-call Architectural Services to Hussey, Gay, Bell in the Amount of \$500,000. (Capital Projects Management) **(APPROVED #21 through UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification with J.E. Dunn to establish the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Construction of the New Northwest Precinct in the Amount of \$15,600,000. (Capital Projects Management) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
29. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for a Wellness Platform with WellRight, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$85,302. (Human Resources) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract with TIC-The Industrial Company for the Comprehensive Restoration and Revitalization of the Coffee Bluff Marina in the Amount of \$396,262. (Capital Projects Management) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
31. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Bricks, Concrete, Stone Construction and Repairs with Savannah Paving Company in an Amount Not to Exceed \$710,100. (Park and Tree) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
32. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Service Delivery and Infrastructure Expansion with Ernst & Young, LLP in the Amount of \$184,000.



(Planning & Economic Development) **(APPROVED #21 through #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- 33. Approval of a Three-Year Agreement to Sponsor the Club Car Championship in Partnership with SEDA and the Savannah Chamber, in the Amount of \$47,500. **(APPROVED #33 through #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
- 34. Approval of Change Order No. 4 with Shamrock Concrete Construction for the Demo Air Cargo Phase 1B Project, in the Amount of \$61,955. **(APPROVED #33 through #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
- 35. Approval of Task Work Order No. 15 with Mead and Hunt, Inc. for the Northwest Area and Runway 10 Tree Clearing Project, in the Amount of \$209,471. **(APPROVED #33 through #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

- 36. Adoption of the 2026 Service Program and Budget, Five-Year Capital Plan. **(APPROVED #36, excluding the Stormwater Utility, UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
- 37. Approval of a Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Chatham County, the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA), and the Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA) to Establish and Provide First Year Funding for the New Countywide "Housing United" Initiative. (Housing Services Department) **(APPROVED #37 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
- 38. Resolution Renaming the Savannah Civic Center to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center. **(APPROVED #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

39. Settlement #1 (**APPROVED #39 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0**, authorizing the City Attorney's Office to settle the workers' compensation claim of Tyrone Houston for \$60,000.)

MISCELLANEOUS

40. Approval of the City of Savannah's 2026 State Legislative Agenda. (IPA)
(APPROVED #40 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)
41. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Major Subdivision, Edgewater Phase 2A, New Hampstead. Aldermanic District 5. (Development Services Department)
(APPROVED #41 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

Following announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 4:40 p.m.