



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:05 p.m., in Council Chambers. Following the roll call, Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order. Mayor Johnson introduced Reverend Dr. Andrew Harmon, Christ 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
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 January 22, 2026.
(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0, as amended to continue/postpone agenda item #15 to the February 12, 2026 City Council Meeting.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on January 8, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.
(APPROVED #2 & #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)



3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on January 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 & #3 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

PRESENTATIONS

4. Appearance and Recognition by Savannah Book Festival. **[APPEARED Executive Director Tara Setter]**
5. Appearance and Recognition by the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) in Recognition of the Authority's 100th Anniversary, including the Presentation of an Official Proclamation. **[APPEARED President and CEO Trip Tollison, Executive Director, board members and staff, and PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson]**
6. Appearance and Recognition by WSAV-TV in Recognition of the Station's 70th Anniversary, including the Presentation of an Official Proclamation. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to WSAV-TV Vice President and General Manager David Hart, anchors, sales team, and other staff]**
7. Appearance and Recognition by the Savannah Interagency Diversity Council (SIDC) to formally Announce Traffick Jam 2026, to be held January 23-24, 2026, at The Savannah State University, Highlighting its Mission to Raise Awareness and Prevent Human Trafficking. **[APPEARED Board Chairman Bill Gettis, other board members, and staff]**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

8. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Mark Lehman for Foley House at 14 West Hull Street. A Hotel Located Between Whitaker Street and Bull Street in Aldermanic District 2. (New Applicant/ Existing Business)
Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #8 through #14.
No speaker(s).



CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items #8 through #14, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #8 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

9. Approval of a Class A (Liquor, Beer, Wine), (Caterer) Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) with Sunday Sales and Class E (Beer and Wine) (By the Package) Alcohol License to Mark Lehmen for J.W. Marriott at 300-500 West River Street. A Hotel Located Between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Barnard Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2. (New Applicant/ Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #8 through #14.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items #8 through #14, 9-0-0.

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

10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) with Sunday Sales Alcohol License to Mark Lehman for JW Marriott Hotel Pavilion 1 at 300-500 West River Street. A Restaurant Located Between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Barnard Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2. The Applicant Plans to Continue to Operate as a Restaurant. (New Applicant/ Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #8 through #14.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items #8 through #14, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

11. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) with Sunday Sales Alcohol License to Mark Lehman for JW Marriott Pavilion 2, at 300-500 West River Street. A Restaurant Located Between Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard and Barnard Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2. The Applicant Plans to Operate as a Restaurant. (New Applicant/ Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #8 through #14.

No speaker(s).



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CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items #8 through #14, 9-0-0.
(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

12. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) with Sunday Sale Alcohol License to Mark Lehman for JW Marriott Pavilion 3 at 300-500 West River Street. A Restaurant Located Between Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard and Barnard Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2. The Applicant Plans to Continue to Operate as a Restaurant. (New Applicant/ Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #8 through #14.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items #8 through #14, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #12 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

13. Approval of Class C (Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Sunzhu Ye for Sushi Kingdom at 7804 Abercorn Street. Suite. 63A. A Restaurant Located Between Mall Boulevard and East Fairmont Avenue in Aldermanic District 4. (New Applicant/ New Request)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #8 through #14.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items #8 through #14, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #13 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

14. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Stacy Ritchie for J. Christopher's, at 122 East Liberty Street. A Restaurant Located Between Floyd Street and Abercorn Street in Aldermanic District 2. The Applicant Plans to Continue to Operate as a Restaurant. (New Applicant/ Existing Business)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #8 through #14.

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items #8 through #14, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #14 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)



ZONING HEARINGS

15. A Petition of Tom Bolton on behalf of Vintage Home Builders, LLC for a Special Use Permit to Establish a Hotel in TC-1 (Traditional Commercial-1) Zoning District with Conditions on 0.32 acres at 2512 Habersham Street (20075 21007) in Aldermanic District 2 (25-005273-ZA).

(CONTINUED/POSTPONED #15 to the February 12, 2026 City Council Meeting, 9-0-0, upon approval of the agenda)

16. Petition of Josh Yellin on behalf of EJ McLean with First City Brewing, LLC for Midtown Savannah Property Investments, LLC for a Special Use Permit to Establish a Microbrewery with Conditions in the TC-1 (Traditional Commercial - 1) Zoning District on 0.57 acres at 1722 Habersham Street (20064 09015) in Aldermanic District 2 (25-005686-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for item #16.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**

CLOSED HEARING UNANIMOUSLY for item #16, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY for the Special Use Permit, 9-0-0)

17. Petition of Jack Parker of Catalyst Design Group for Todd Maxwell of Savannah Health Services, LLC for a Map Amendment to Rezone 92.92 acres at 4700 Waters Avenue (PINs listed in Description) from PD (Planned Development) to PD (Planned Development) for Uses Allowable in OI (Office and Institutional) and OI-E (Office and Institutional-Expanded) in Aldermanic District 3 (25-005241-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for item #17. See related item #20.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**
- **Marilyn Jivens, neighborhood president**

CLOSED HEARING UNANIMOUSLY for item #16, 9-0-0.



18. Petition of Bridget Lidy on behalf of The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Future Land Use Map Amendment from Residential-Single Family, Industry-Light and Commercial-Neighborhood to Planned Development for 9.99 acres along Dawes Avenue (PINs listed in Description) in Aldermanic District 5 (25-005810-ZA). (Planning and Urban Design)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #18 and #19. See related items #21 and #22.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**

CLOSED HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items 18 and #19, 9-0-0.

19. Petition of Bridget Lidy on behalf of The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Zoning Map Amendment from RSF-5 (Residential Single Family-5), C-P (Conservation Park), and (Light Industrial) Zoning Districts to Planned Development for 9.99 acres along Dawes Avenue (PINs listed in Description) to permit the construction of 32 single family homes in Aldermanic District 5 (25-005811-ZA). (Planning and Urban Design)

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for items #18 and #19. See related items #21 and #22.

Speaker(s):

- **Edward Morrow, MPC representative**

CLOSED HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for items 18 and #19, 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES – FIRST AND SECOND READING

20. Petition of Jack Parker of Catalyst Design Group for Todd Maxwell of Savannah Health Services, LLC for a Map Amendment to Rezone 92.92 acres at 4700 Waters Avenue (PINs listed in Description) from PD (Planned Development) to PD (Planned Development) for Uses Allowable in OI (Office and Institutional) and OI-E (Office and Institutional-Expanded) Zoning Districts in Aldermanic District 3 (25-005241-ZA). (Planning and Urban Design) **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #20 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



21. Petition of Bridget Lidy on behalf of The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Future Land Use Map Amendment from Residential-Single Family, Industry-Light and Commercial-Neighborhood to Planned Development for 9.99 acres along Dawes Avenue (PINs listed in Description) in Aldermanic District 5 (25-005810-ZA). (Planning and Urban Design) **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #21, 7-2-0. Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voted no.)**
22. Petition of Bridget Lidy on behalf of The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Zoning Map Amendment from RSF-5 (Residential Single Family-5), C-P (Conservation Park), and (Light Industrial) Zoning Districts to Planned Development for 9.99 acres along Dawes Avenue (PINs listed in Description) in Aldermanic District 5 (25-005811-ZA). (Planning and Urban Design) **(After the first reading was considered the second reading, APPROVED #21, 7-2-0. Ald. Miller Blakely and Ald. Lanier voted no.)**

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

23. 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) **Mayor Johnson declared the hearing open for item #23.**

Speaker(s):

- **Lauren Boles – SUPPORTED**
- **Glynda Jones – SUPPORTED**
- **Pastor Andre Osborne – OPPOSED**

CLOSED HEARING for item #23 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.

(APPROVED #23, 5-4-0. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Shabazz, Ald. Bell, Ald. Miller Blakely, and Ald. Lanier voted no.)

PURCHASING ITEMS

24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 of the Awarded Primary Vendor for Section A- Concrete Work and the Secondary



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Vendor for Section B- Brick Work of Sidewalk, Curb, and Cobblestone Repair Contract. (Transportation Services) **(APPROVED #24, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 2 for Illegal Dump Clearing with Samjay Services, Inc in an Amount Not to Exceed \$115,000. (Park and Tree) **(APPROVED #24, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

26. Authorize the City Manager to Award a Construction Contract to Dabbs-Williams Contractors, LLC for the Construction of a New Columbarium at Greenwich Cemetery in the Amount of \$1,327,544. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #24, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract with Lynn Construction Company for Roof and Lighting Repairs at the Southside Fleet Maintenance Facility - Shop 1 Located at 6900 Sallie Mood Drive in the Amount of \$294,909. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #24, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Metro Elevator for the Modernization of the City Hall Elevator in the Amount of \$1,000,000. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #24, #25, #26, #27, and #28 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

29. Approval of Change Order No. 4 with Iugis Construction, Inc. for the Terminal Concourse Expansion Project, in the Amount of \$3,242,738. **(APPROVED #29 through #34 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

30. Approval to Renew Services for the Embross Common Use Passenger Processing System and Common Use Self-Service System from Infax Inc., in the Amount of \$40,135. **(APPROVED #29 through #34 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



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31. Approval to Purchase Hold Room Seating from Herman Miller, Inc., dba National Office Systems, in the Amount of \$774,307. **(APPROVED #29 through #34 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
32. Approval to Renew Contract for Professional Services with Ailevon Pacific Aviation Consulting, in the Amount of \$173,250. **(APPROVED #29 through #34 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
33. Approval to Execute a Contract with Marketing and PR Consultant Jo Piani of Luna PR, in the Amount of \$55,000. **(APPROVED #29 through #34 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
34. Approval to Award Change Order No. 1 to Arentz General Contracting, Inc., for the Equipment Storage Building Project, in the Amount of \$554,190. **(APPROVED #29 through #34 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

AGREEMENTS

35. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Cowan Industrial, LLC for Hill Durrence Townhomes in An Amount Not to Exceed \$614,800 in Aldermanic District 5. (Water Resources) **(APPROVED #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Bell was away from the dais during the vote.)**

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

36. Settlement #1. **(APPROVED #36, #37, and #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Bell was away from the dais during the vote.)** Authorizing the City Attorney's Office to settle the (vehicle wreck) claim of Raynard Byrd for \$78,732.50.
37. Settlement #2. **(APPROVED #36, #37, and #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Bell was away from the dais during the vote.)** Authorizing the City Attorney's Office to settle the (vehicle wreck) claim of Michelle Dukes for \$225,000.00.



38. Settlement #3. (**APPROVED #36, #37, and #38 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Bell was away from the dais during the vote.**) Authorizing the City Attorney's Office to settle the (worker's compensation) claim of Brandon Moore for \$42,500.00.

MISCELLANEOUS

39. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Major Subdivision, The Pines at New Hampstead, Phase 5A in Aldermanic District 5. (Development Services Department). (**APPROVED #39 and #40 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Bell was away from the dais during the vote.**)
40. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Major Subdivision, Edgewater Phase 2B, New Hampstead neighborhood, in Aldermanic District 5. (Development Services Department) (**APPROVED #39 and #40 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Bell was away from the dais during the vote.**)

Following announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 5:16 p.m.