



Work Session and City Manager's Briefing

The work session was held at 11:03 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
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
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Clerk of Council Gwendolyn Jones

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. St. Patrick's Day Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Special Events, Film & Tourism Senior Director Jason Pagliaro]**
2. Public Safety Update. **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder, Fire Chief Minard, Deputy Fire Chief Handy, Police Chief Gunther, Assistant Police Chief Adams, and Assistant Police Chief Gavin.]**
3. Executive Session Regarding Personnel, Real Estate and Litigation; As Needed. **[HELD at 1:39 p.m. All members were present, including the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the Clerk of Council. Also attending were Housing Services Director Martin Fretty and Assistant City Attorney Tara Hicks.]**
4. ~~City Manager Updates.~~



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The workshop was adjourned at 2:03 p.m., upon motion/vote the executive session concluded for which no action was taken.



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:14 p.m., in Council Chambers. Following the roll call, Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order. He then recognized Ald. Carolyn H. Bell who introduced Elder Jamal Barrow, Jonesville Baptist 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
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 February 12, 2026.
(ADOPTED/APPROVED #1 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on January 22, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. **(APPROVED #2 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



* **Mayor Johnson entertained a motion that an executive session regarding personnel, real estate, and litigation was held earlier, following the work session presentation for which no action was taken. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0. All members were present, including the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the Clerk of Council. Also attending were Housing Services Director Martin Fretty and Assistant City Attorney Tara Hicks.**

PRESENTATIONS

3. Appearance and Recognition of the 37th Annual Savannah Black Heritage Festival. **[APPEARED Amanda Hollowell, Color Of Change]**
4. An Appearance by Visit Savannah in observance of its 50th Anniversary, recognizing five decades of promoting Savannah as a premier destination. **[APPEARED Joe Marinelli and Visit Savannah staff]**
5. An Appearance by the Savannah Trustees' Garden Club to receive a proclamation in observance of its 100th Anniversary, honoring a century of service and countless contributions to the beauty and heritage of the City of Savannah. **[APPEARED Garden Club President Ena Shelley and other trustees]**
6. An Appearance by the Park and Tree Commission Recognizing February 20, 2026, as The Annual Arbor Day and Tree Planting Celebration in the City of Savannah for 43 years of commitment to effective urban forest management. (Park and Tree Department). **[APPEARED Park and Tree Director Gordon Denney]**
- 6B. Proclamation recognizing 211 Day. **[PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson to United Way of the Coastal Empire President & CEO Kimberly Waller]**
7. Presentation By the Employee Engagement Team for Recognition of the 2025 4th Quarter Employee of the Quarter Winners. (Human Resources)



[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and the Employee Engagement Team]

8. Appearance and Recognition of the City Manager's Emerging Leaders Academy Cohort IV Participants. (I&PA Chief's Office). **[PRESENTED by City Manager Melder and Organizational Development Officer Dr. Jennifer Blalock]**

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

9. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) with Sunday Sales Alcohol License to Mitul Patel for Pump and Pantry at 2014 Waters Ave., a Convenience Store Located between SE 36th Street and East 37th Street in Aldermanic District 2. The Applicant Plans to Operate as a Convenience Store. (New Applicant/Existing Business)

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

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #9, #10, and #11, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.

(APPROVED #9 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)

10. Approval of a Class C (Liquor, Beer, Wine) (By the Drink) Alcohol License with Sunday Sale to Arthur Rudy Gasdik for The Brass Coyote at 309 West River Street., a Bar/Lounge Between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Barnard Street Ramp in Aldermanic District 2. The Applicant Plans to Continue to Operate as a Bar/Lounge. (New Applicant/Existing Business)

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

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #9, #10, and #11, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.

(APPROVED #10 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)



11. Approval of a Class E (Beer, Wine) (By the Package) with Sunday Sales Alcohol License to Tarrakkumar Patel for Waters BP at 5806 Waters Ave., a Convenience Store Located Between East 72nd Street and East DeRenne Ave in Aldermanic District 3. The Applicant plans to continue to operate as a Convenience Store. (New Applicant/Existing Business)

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

No speaker(s).

CLOSED ALCOHOL HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #9, #10, and #11, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.

(APPROVED #11 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)

ZONING HEARINGS

12. 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 from the January 22, 2026 City Council meeting. **(Mayor Johnson stated this item was requested to be continued at the request of the petitioner. A list of 35 emails/letters of opposition were filed with the Clerk of Council.)**

Speaker card completed, but did not speak:

- **Whitney Shephard - OPPOSED**

13. Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Text Amendment to Section 7.7 Historic Property Overlay District (25- 005000-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #13 and #14.

Speaker(s):

- **Subhashi Karunaratne, MPC representative**
- **Tommy Holland – IN SUPPORT**
- **Collier Neeley, Historic Savannah Foundation – IN SUPPORT**
- **Ellie Isaacs – IN SUPPORT**

CLOSED HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #13 and #14, 9-0-0.



14. Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Zoning Map Amendment to Designate 14.61 acres at Ogeechee Road (20836 02002) as a Local Historic Property Overlay (H-P-O-1) in Aldermanic District 5 (25-005001-ZA).

Mayor Johnson declared the hearings open for agenda items #13 and #14.

Speaker(s):

- **Subhashi Karunaratne, MPC representative**
- **Tommy Holland – IN SUPPORT**
- **Collier Neeley, Historic Savannah Foundation – IN SUPPORT**
- **Ellie Isaacs – IN SUPPORT**

CLOSED HEARINGS UNANIMOUSLY for agenda items #13 and #14, 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES

15. Approval of Amendment to the Stopping, Standing, and Parking Prohibited Ordinance. (Transportation Services) **(FIRST READING ONLY)**

16. Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Text Amendment to Section 7.7 Historic Property Overlay District (25- 005000-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered to be the second reading, APPROVED #16 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.)**

17. Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia for a Zoning Map Amendment to Designate 14.61 acres at Ogeechee Road (20836 02002) as a Local Historic Property Overlay (H-P-O-1) in Aldermanic District 5 (25-005001-ZA). **(After the first reading was considered to be the second reading, APPROVED #17 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0.)**

PURCHASING ITEMS

18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 to the Construction Contract with Reeves Young to Establish the Guaranteed



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Maximum Price (GMP) for the Civic Legacy - Arena Removal Project of \$10,900,000. (Capital Projects) **(APPROVED #18 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

19. Authorize the City Manager to Award a Construction Contract to Griffin Contracting, Inc. for Canal Drainage Improvements in the Amount \$1,348,488. (Stormwater Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
20. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 1 for Landfill Cover Material with Savannah River Utilities (LOCAL) in an Amount up to \$450,000. (Sanitation Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
21. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Crushed Stone from ZBS & Associates LLC, (Local) in an Amount Not to Exceed \$200,000. (Transportation Services) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
22. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Sunset Park Multi-Station Play Structure with GameTime c/o Dominica Recreation Products, Inc., in an Amount Not to Exceed \$317,809. (Recreation and Leisure Services) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
23. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 with Central Industries (LOCAL) for the Upgrade of the Fueling Station at the Sanitation Headquarters in the Amount of \$74,661. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for (2) Heavy Duty Rescue Trucks from Ten-8 Fire & Safety, c/o Pierce Manufacturing in an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,529,253. (Fleet Services) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Fire Department Uniforms from A-1 Uniforms in an Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000. (Savannah Fire Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**



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26. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Temporary Staffing Services from Robert Half International, Inc. c/o, H-GAC Buy in an Amount Not to Exceed \$100,000. (ITS Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
27. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for (2) Sets of Heavy Capacity Mobile Lifts from Liftnow Automotive Equipment, c/o Steril-Koni (USA) in an Amount of \$167, 904. (Fleet Services Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
28. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for VMware from MGT Impact Solutions, LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$71,680. (ITS Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
29. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for Generator and Switchgear from WW Williams in an Amount Not to Exceed \$313,918. (Water Reclamation Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 1 for the Multimodal Transportation Implementation Plan Contract (Event #11183) with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. in the Amount of \$72,600. (P&ED Chief's Office) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**
31. Authorize City Manager to Execute a Contract Modification No. 1 for Generator Maintenance for Stormwater Management with Current Edge in the Amount of \$300,000. (Stormwater Department) **(APPROVED #19 through #31 UNANIMOUSLY, 9-0-0)**

RESOLUTIONS

32. Motion to Adopt a Resolution to Accept a Donation from the Bonaventure Historical Society in the Amount of \$6,975. (Park & Tree Department) **(APPROVED #32 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)**



AGREEMENTS

33. Authorize the City Manager to Accept a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act FY2026 Rapid Response Grant Award from Technical College System of Georgia in the Amount of \$70,000. (WorkSource Coastal) **(APPROVED #33, #34, and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)**
34. Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Chatham County for County Roadway & Drainage Improvements. (Water & Sewer Planning & Engineering Department) **(APPROVED #33, #34, and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)**
35. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Little Ogeechee Partners, LLC for Hopeton West Development in the Travis Field Treatment Plant Service Area Located in Aldermanic District 5. (WR- Planning & Engineering Department) **(APPROVED #33, #34, and #35 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)**

MISCELLANEOUS

36. Authorize the Approval of the Installation of a Bronze Plaque at 122 W. Broughton Street in Aldermanic District 2 (25-004882-HM) (Planning & Urban Design Department) **(APPROVED #36 and #37 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)**
37. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Major Subdivision, Meadow Lakes Phase 3, in Aldermanic District 5. (Development Services Department) **(APPROVED #36 and #37 UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0. Ald. Purtee was away from the dais during the vote.)**

Following announcements made by the Mayor and Aldermen, Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting at 3:56 p.m.