



December 7, 2017 City Council Regular Meeting

**CITY GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

PRESENT: Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding

Aldermen Carol Bell, Brian Foster, Bill Durrence, Van Johnson, Tony Thomas, John Hall, Estella E. Shabazz

Rob Hernandez, City Manager

Brooks Stillwell, City Attorney

Williams Shearouse, Assistant City Attorney

Lester Johnson, Assistant City Attorney

ABSENT: Julian Miller

The regular meeting of Council was held this date at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison followed by the Invocation by Pastor Timothy Sheppard, Central Missionary Baptist Church in Thunderbolt.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AFFIDAVIT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah as follows:

At the meeting held on the 7th day of December, 2017 the Council entered into a closed session for the purpose of discussing Real Estate, Litigation and Personnel. At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Council reentered into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

1. The actions of Council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for the closed session purposes are hereby ratified;
2. Each member of this body does hereby confirms that to the best of his or her knowledge, the subject matter of the closed session was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above;
3. The presiding officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of the Council in order to comply with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b); 17
4. The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: DECEMBER 7, 2017 upon motion of Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Shabazz, and unanimously carried.

Mayor DeLoach and Council recognized Officer William Eng for saving the life of 29 day old baby Bella who was unresponsive on December 1, 2017. Cpl Hilary Nielson stated Officer Eng raced up three flights of stairs and began chest compressions to restart baby Bella's breathing. When paramedics arrived they took her to the hospital and it has been documented that because of Officer Eng's bravery he saved the life of baby Bella. Cpl. Nielson stated the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD) has been

receiving positive attention across the globe because of this, in an incident Chief Joseph Lumpkin is describing as a heartfelt life saving performance. Tina Adkins, mother and family members of baby Bella were also present. In addition, Assistant Chiefs Kerry Thomas and Robert Gavin were also present.

Chief Lumpkin stated Officer Eng is representative of the fine young men and women the City has protecting it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[1. Motion to Approve the Summary/Final Minutes of the City Council Meeting of November 21, 2017](#)

 [11.21.17 Minutes.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Shabazz, and unanimously carried.

[2. Motion to Approve the Summary/Final Minutes of the Council Work Session/City Manager Briefing of November 21, 2017](#)

 [11.21.17 WS Minutes.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Shabazz, and unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS

[3. Appearance by St. Joseph's/Candler Health Systems President/CEO Paul P. Hinchey to Present a \\$15,000 Donation to the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund](#)

St. Joseph's/Candler Health Systems (SJCHS) President/CEO Paul P. Hinchey, along with fellow SJCHS leadership executives, are presenting a check for \$15,000 to the Mayor and Aldermen for deposit into the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) in continued support of the St. Joseph's/Candler Home Ownership Program. They are accompanied by Vera Williams, a pharmacy technician and SJCHS employee, who purchased her first home through the program. SAHF Advisory Committee and Community Housing Services Agency, Inc. (CHSA) officials are also participating in the presentation.

During the previous three years, SJCHS has invested \$45,000 in the SAHF for down payment assistance to its modest wage employees interested in purchasing homes in Savannah. The Hospital's investment has helped 13 SJCHS employees purchase their first homes since the program started. SAHF and SJCHS officials hope this partnership will lead to similar partnerships with other Savannah area employers. The SAHF is a local fund that leverages significant private investment to help address local workforce and affordable housing needs and opportunities. A motion to formally accept this donation appears in the resolution section of the agenda.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE HEARINGS

[4. Motion to Approve Transfer of Liquor, Beer and Wine \(drink\) License with Sunday Sales from Christopher Martindale to Nathan Shaw of Bonefish Grill, LLC t/a Bonefish Grill](#)

 [Density Map - Bonefish Grill20171125_0069.pdf](#)

 [Alcohol Documents - Bonefish Grill20171127_0076.pdf](#)

Hearing closed upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Foster, and unanimously carried.

Approved upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Thomas, and unanimously carried.

[5. Motion to Approve Beer and Wine Package License for Laukik Patel of City Market Cafe, LLC t/a Buzzin Cafe](#)

 [Density Map - Buzzin Cafe20171125_0067.pdf](#)

[Alcohol Documents - Buzzin Cafe20171127_0078.pdf](#)

Hearing closed upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Foster, and unanimously carried.

Approved upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Thomas, and unanimously carried.

[6. Motion to Approve Wine \(drink\) License with Sunday Sales for Jennifer Jenkins of Fox & Fig, LLC t/a Fox & Fig](#)

[Density Map - Fox & Fig20171125_0070.pdf](#)

[Alcohol Documents - Fox & Fig Cafe20171127_0075.pdf](#)

Hearing closed upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Foster, and unanimously carried.

Approved upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Thomas, and unanimously carried.

[7. Motion to Approve Transfer of Liquor, Beer and Wine \(drink\) with Sunday Sales, and Liquor, Beer and Wine \(package\) license from Joanna Harber to Barbara A. Bachman of Island Hospitality Management III, Inc. t/a Springhill Suites by Marriott](#)

[Density Map - Springhill Suites by Marriott20171125_0071.pdf](#)

[Alcohol Documents - Springhill Suites20171127_0077.pdf](#)

Hearing closed upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Foster, and unanimously carried.

Approved upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Thomas, and unanimously carried.

[8. Motion to Approve Addition of Liquor Package License to existing Beer and Wine Package License for Pavan Putra Enterprises, Inc. t/a Broughton Street Liquor](#)

[Density Map -Broughton Street Liquor20171109_0055.pdf](#)

[Alcohol Documents -Broughton Street Liquor20171113_0061.pdf](#)

[Broughton Street Urban Renewal Plan.pdf](#)

Hearing closed upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried.

Approved upon motion of Alderman Durrence, seconded by Alderman Johnson, and unanimously carried.

ZONING HEARING

[9. Motion to Approve Rezoning of 2415 E DeRenne Ave from R-6 to R-M-6 \(Petitioner: Neil Dawson for St. John Baptist Church\)](#)

[2415 E DeRenne Ave Rezoning 20171031 Planning Commission Recommendation.pdf](#)

[2415 E DeRenne Ave Rezoning Draft Ordinance 17-005892-ZA.pdf](#)

Marcus Lotson, Metropolitan Planning Commission, appeared to briefly describe the petitioner's request. He stated the property is the former Savannah Christian School which is now owned and operated by St. John Baptist Church. The church's intent is to establish an adult daycare as a part of their campus.

Alderman Bell asked Mr. Lotson for clarification of the multi-family designation use. Mr. Lotson replied multi-family could technically be permitted under this use. However, because the zoning density is so low at 6 units per acre which is the same as the single family classification which currently exists, it is highly unlikely that it would ever be used for multi-family.

Alderman Hall asked Mr. Lotson to describe the definition of an adult daycare. Mr. Lotson replied the way it is described in the zoning ordinance is a service for the elderly who need assistance during the day.

Alderman Hall then asked if any additional traffic will be on DeRenne Avenue in the area. Mr. Lotson stated the MPC looked at it

and did not believe there would be any additional impacts to the area.

Hearing closed upon motion of Alderman Hall, seconded by Alderman Shabazz, and unanimously carried.

Approved upon motion of Alderman Hall, seconded by Alderman Shabazz, and unanimously carried.

PETITIONS

[10. Motion to Approve Petition 170385 from VZW for Six Additional Stealth Cellular Antennas in the Downtown Area.](#)

 [VZW Exhibit.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Thomas, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[11. Motion to Approve Petition 170287 to Clear Title Issues Related to Lift Station Site](#)

 [Nettled Ind Pk Exhibit.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Thomas, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[12. Motion to Repeal and Replace Part 9, Chapter 5 of the Animal Control Ordinance to Address Menacing Dogs and Regulate Breeding Practices](#)

 [Draft Animal Control ORD Revisions 2017.pdf](#)

No Action Necessary

Alderman Thomas asked if this is consistent with the new Animal Control ordinance the City is being asked to pass. Attorney Stillwell replied there are some minor changes to the ordinance the County is asking the City to adopt but the substantive part is identical. The City and County will have a mirrored ordinance more or less.

Alderman Thomas asked Attorney Stillwell if he or a member of his staff met with the County Attorney to discuss the issue he raised in reference to the little old ladies that feed stray cats. Attorney Stillwell stated Jennifer Herman has been working on this ordinance and he will have an answer for him by the next meeting.

Josh Wigsner, Executive Director of Fix Georgia Pets, appeared asking Council to reconsider adopting the ordinance as there is a portion of the ordinance related to stray cats that concerns him and other organizations. He stated the language in the ordinance provides a barrier for his organization to invest in reducing the cat population over time.

Michelle Thevenin, Humane Society of Greater Savannah, also appeared stating the adoption of the ordinance would be a step backwards. She stated the clause that criminalizes cats is problematic and unenforceable. There is an absence of language to support a community cat program, as there is clearly a community cat problem in Savannah. She is asking that the ordinance be amended to include a community cat program.

Alderman Bell asked if the suggested changes were given to the City. Mr. Wigsner replied yes and he has also been asked to provide the suggestions of another organization Best Friends.

Alderman Thomas asked Attorney Stillwell, as he understands it under the current ordinance the City has a 5 cat/5 dog cap on city residents. Attorney Johnson replied yes. Alderman Thomas expressed his concerns stating under the new ordinance, it suggests for every 500 square feet you can have a dog, just using his own property as an example he can legally have 66 dogs. He stated he's not trying to beat up on the cats and dogs but he doesn't want someone living next to him with 66 dogs, as there is not a cap on the number legally allowed. He stated before taking any permanent action these concerns need to be addressed. He concluded stating he wants the City to be mirrored with the County, and wants it to be as easy, seamless and humane as possible, working with the

agencies that are present and others that have been mentioned.

Attorney Stillwell stated staff will set up a meeting prior to the next Council meeting to address the concerns of Council.

ORDINANCES - FIRST AND SECOND READING

[13. Motion to Amend Sec.7-1091, Appendix 1, of the City of Savannah Code of Ordinances to Prohibit Parking on Causton Bluff Road](#)

[Causton Bluff Parking Restriction Map.docx](#)

Ordinance read for the first time in Council December 7, 2017, then by unanimous consent of Council read a second time, placed upon its passage, adopted and approved upon a motion by Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTIONS

[14. Motion to Adopt 2018 Savannah Affordable Housing Fund Policy Guidelines and Work Program](#)

[2018 SAHF City Council Resolution.pdf](#)

[2018 SAHF Policy Guidelines & Work Program.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Durrence, seconded by Alderman Shabazz, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[15. Motion to Adopt Resolution Accepting \\$15,000 Donation from St. Joseph's/Candler Health Systems for the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund \(SAHF\)](#)

[SJCHS SAHF Donation Resolution.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Hall, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

BIDS AND CONTRACTS

[16. Motion to Award Deliberately Phased Construction Contract for Central Precinct to Johnson-Laux Construction \(Event No. 5688\)](#)

[Central Precinct Funding Verification.pdf](#)

[Central Precinct Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[17. Motion to Award Annual Contract for Savannah Fire and Emergency Services Uniforms to Galls, Inc. \(Event No. 5393\)](#)

[SFES Uniform Bid Tab.pdf](#)

[SFES Uniform Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

[SFES Uniform Scope.pdf](#)

[SFES Uniforms Funding Verification.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[18. Motion to Procure Traffic Signal Cabinets from Temple, Inc. \(Event No. 5704\)](#)

- [☞ Traffic Signal Cabinets Funding Verification.pdf](#)
- [☞ Traffic Signal Cabinets Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[19. Motion to Approve Contract Modification No. 1 for Bilbo Canal Drainage Improvements to Orion Marine Construction, Inc. \(Event No. 4383\)](#)

- [☞ Bilbo Canal Funding Verification.pdf](#)
- [☞ Bilbo Canal Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[20. Motion to Renew Annual Contract and Approve Contract Modification No. 1 for Traffic Signal Construction with Hoffman Electric \(Event No. 5019\)](#)

- [☞ Traffic Signal Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)
- [☞ Traffic Signal Scope.pdf](#)
- [☞ Traffic Signal Bid Tab.pdf](#)
- [☞ Traffic Signal Funding Verification.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[21. Motion to Renew Annual Contract for One-Ton Chlorine Cylinders with Allied Universal Corporation \(Event No. 3492\)](#)

- [☞ Chlorine Cylinders Funding Verification.pdf](#)
- [☞ Chlorine Cylinders Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)
- [☞ Chlorine Cylinders Bid Tab.pdf](#)
- [☞ Chlorine Cylinders Scope.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[22. Motion to Renew Annual Contract for High Visibility Rain Gear with On-Site Supply \(Event No. 4624\)](#)

- [☞ Rain Gear Bid Tab.pdf](#)
- [☞ Rain Gear Funding Verification.pdf](#)
- [☞ Rain Gear Scope of Work.pdf](#)
- [☞ Rain Gear Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[23. Notification of Emergency Purchase of Fire Protection Curtain for the Civic Center from Stage Front \(Event No. 5673\)](#)

[Fire Curtain Funding Verification.pdf](#)

[Fire Curtain Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[24. Notification of Emergency Procurement and Installation of Generator Motor from TAW Power Systems \(Event No. 5703\)](#)

[Generator Funding Verification.pdf](#)

[Generator Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[25. Notification of Emergency Purchase Vehicle Decals from Edwards Interior Graphics \(Event No. 5700\)](#)

[Vehicle Decals Funding Verification.pdf](#)

[Vehicle Decals Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[26. Motion to Renew Annual Contract for Street Repair and Resurfacing with Savannah River Utilities \(Event No. 3013\)](#)

[Street Repair Funding Verification.pdf](#)

[Street Repair Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

[Street Repair Scope.pdf](#)

[Street Repair Bid Tab.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Durrence, seconded by Alderman Foster, and carried per the City Manager's recommendation with the following voting in favor: Mayor DeLoach, Aldermen Bell, Foster, Durrence, Johnson, Thomas and Shabazz. Alderman Hall voted against the motion.

[27. Motion to Award Contract for Software Services to Motorola Solutions, Inc. \(Event No. 5676\)](#)

[Motorola Service Funding Verification.pdf](#)

[Motorola Service Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Foster, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[28. Motion to Award Sole Source Procurement of Six Channel Expansion and Management Software to Motorola Solutions, Inc. \(Event No. 5674\)](#)

[Motorola Expansion Purchasing Summary.pdf](#)

[Six Channel Expansion and Mgmt Software Funding Verification.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's

recommendation.

AGREEMENTS

[29. Motion to approve Water and Sewer Agreement for The Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah Center](#)

 [The Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah Center \(St Marys\).pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[30. Motion to Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Mayor and Aldermen and ROI FUND, Inc](#)

 [MOU.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

[31. Motion to Approve Revocable Encroachment Agreement with HLC Olde Harbour Inn Properties, LLC](#)

 [Olde Harbour Inn Encroachment Agreement.pdf](#)

 [Exhibit A - Olde Harbour Inn Map.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Durrence, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

MISCELLANEOUS

[32. Motion to Approve Supplemental Budget Appropriations to the 2017 Budget](#)

 [December CIP Amendment.pdf](#)

City Manager Hernandez stated this is just a minor budget clean up transferring some capital funds from miscellaneous projects. There are five projects on the list representing approximately \$980,000. The attachment shows where those funds are being moved from and where they're moving to. Two of them are at the Civic Center, one is at the Water Treatment Plant, one deals with the Visitor's Center on Louisville Road, and the last will move funds out of a paving project into the East Savannah water line replacement project.

Approved upon motion of Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Bell, and unanimously carried per the City Manager's recommendation.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

[33. Motion to Approve the Summary/Final Minutes of Day 2 of the City Council Budget Retreat of December 1, 2017](#)

 [12.01.17 Budget Retreat Minutes Day 2.pdf](#)

Approved upon motion of Alderman Bell, seconded by Alderman Shabazz, and unanimously carried.

[34. Public Hearing for the Proposed 2018 Service Program and Budget](#)

Alicia Blakely thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her the opportunity to speak. She expressed her concerns about the crime issues in Savannah involving preteens, teens and adults and asked Council to go back through the budget to find funding to support them. Ms. Blakely referenced the discussion about the community centers being open for extended hours and informed Council that

there is a group of citizens that do not mind volunteering to help the young people. In closing, she stated there were discussions about the Eastside and Westside and asked that Council doesn't forget the Southside.

Alderman Thomas clarified one statement for Ms. Blakely and informed her that the discussions about the extended hours for community centers would only be for two locations in the City.

Linda Wilder-Bryan appeared stating she has a non-profit organization LB4, which is named after her son who was murdered in Savannah in August 2015. She has a new found respect for many of the Council members that fought diligently during the Budget Retreat. She commended the Mayor for wanting to partner and create a program with preschool kids which is awesome as we need to start while children are small before they become indoctrinated into the community. She asked that the young adults in the community be considered, youth ages 15 to 24 because they need leaders who are not going to fail them, and she suggested creating supervised free activities. She concluded stating mothers are not to blame alone, we are all to blame.

Keisha Gibson-Carter, Executive Director Rape Crisis Center appeared stating their budget has been cut by the City of Savannah. The grant application process was so rigorous this year; she is surprised any non-profit organization received funding. She asked that funding be reinstated for the sexual assault nurse examination program and award a full allocation to tackle alcohol consumption as it facilitates rape.

City Manager Hernandez stated in reading the description of what was submitted in this funding request, it was to provide prevention and education programs to youth in the public school system.

Ms. Gibson-Carter replied there is full content within this application. In addition to providing prevention and education in the school system, it was also to launch a strategic prevention education program for the bar and liquor serving establishments in the Savannah area because more than half of their cases involve alcohol consumption by one or both parties. She continued stating the only reason she had to create an opportunity for the grant application is because of the way the application was written, in that she could no longer apply for the same program.

Alderman Shabazz stated no one wants to discuss rape or the backlog of kits. She suggested revisiting this issue and a reconsideration of the decision.

Alderman Bell asked what can Council do to assist with the backlogs. Ms. Gibson-Carter replied hold the police department accountable and requests that numbers are increased; and reinstitute the funding needed for the Rape Crisis Center.

Alderman Thomas asked Ms. Gibson-Carter how much funding was received from the County. Ms. Gibson-Carter replied \$60,000. Alderman Thomas asked her if she receives funding from the other municipalities. Ms. Gibson-Carter replied yes, between \$100-\$500/year.

Alderman Thomas asked Chief Lumpkin to come forward to dispel some of the accusations. Chief Lumpkin stated the department is reporting and working rapes significantly better than when he first arrived to the City. One of the challenges is once alcohol is involved from one or both parties as Ms. Gibson-Carter indicated in many cases it is no longer a prosecutable offense. The definition of rape has expanded significantly in the past two years. He concluded stating can the department get better and have additional staffing, yes but officers are working the cases and getting better.

Alderman Thomas asked Chief Lumpkin if we are 1600 cases backlogged. Chief Lumpkin replied, the State may be but SCMPD is not.

City Manager Hernandez stated he wanted to clarify a few statements which were made and doesn't want his comments to seem adversarial towards Ms. Gibson-Carter or the Rape Crisis Center. We feel the agency had an opportunity to submit their existing plan under the community partnership program categories, under community intervention and prevention which talks about providing assistance during crisis events. The agency did not submit an application under that category, nor did the agency atte