



August 1, 2019 City Council Workshop

SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION & CITY MANAGER'S BRIEFING
August 1, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.

The work session of the City Council was held at 11:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Media Room of City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding
 Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn H. Bell
 Alderman Julian Miller, Chairman of Council
 Alderman Brian Foster, Vice-Chairman of Council
 Alderman Van R. Johnson, II, District 1
 Alderman Bill Durrence, District 2
 Alderman John Hall, District 3
 Alderwoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5
 Alderman Tony Thomas, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Patrick C. Monahan
 Assistant to the City Manager Bret Bell
 City Attorney Bates Lovett
 Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman
 Assistant City Attorney William Shearouse
 Clerk of Council Mark Massey

Mayor DeLoach called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and recognized the Interim City Manager, Pat Monahan who began with the first presentation.

Workshop Agenda Items

[1. Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber of Commerce Update](#)

Board Member Dr. A. Jamal Toure' gave a brief overview of the Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber of Commerce's presence in the coastal area. He then introduced the Executive Director, Sabrina Newby.

Ms. Newby's presentation included information on the purpose of the Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber of Commerce. She described how the Chamber provides assistance to minority business development in the Savannah area. She invited the City of Savannah to partner with the Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber of Commerce.

Alderman Miller asked if the Chamber was membership based and how they define minority. Ms. Newby answered Alderman Miller by saying that they are membership based and minority is

defined like the Federal Government definition (African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, South Islanders, Asian Pacific and Women).

Mayor DeLoach stated there was a minority chamber in Savannah and inquired as to the status. Ms. Newby discussed the Urban Savannah Chamber as the earlier minority chamber from 2015 & 2016 but has since dissolved. There is now a new minority chamber in Savannah called, Multi-Cultural Chamber which is more social. The Coastal Georgia Minority Chamber of Commerce is more information based and welcomes the opportunity to work jointly with the Multi-Cultural Chamber in some capacity. She indicated they have met with and worked with the Hispanic Chamber and look forward to continuing dialogue in the near future.

[2. Public Safety Quarter 2 Update](#)

[Exhibit 1: Presentation - Police 2nd Quarter Review.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Presentation - Fire Rescue 2nd Quarter Review.pdf](#)

Interim City Manager Pat Monahan introduced Police Chief Roy Minter for the Public Safety Second Quarter Update. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Chief Minter detailed the following:

- Auto break-ins (guns stolen)
- Crimes by type (homicide, rapes, robbery, assaults shoplifting, etc.)
 - Included a break-down of crimes by age group (pre-teens & teens)
- Violent crimes Task Force updates
- Traffic fatalities (down)
- Berkshire Study Recommendations (explanation and uses)
- Relationship-Based Policing (Youth [PAL Summer Program] and Community Outreach)
- Officer Training, turnover and promotion updates

Mayor DeLoach asked for the number of children enrolled in the PAL Summer Camp and when the Program will restart. The PAL Summer Camp Program had 98 participants and the Program is estimated to re-start during the Fall (September/October).

Alderman Miller inquired as to the adjustments for the Police Department in the Pay & Class Study discussed in early 2016. Interim City Manager Monahan informed Council they should see some changes by the end of the month.

Alderman Hall requested information about shoplifting incidents. Chief Minter stated most shoplifting takes place at larger retail stores like Target, Walmart, Family Dollar, etc.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bell requested the statistics for summer crimes for ages 16-19. Chief Minter will supply Ms. Bell with those statistics.

Interim City Manager Monahan introduced Fire Chief Derik Minard for the First and Second Quarter Updates. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Fire Chief Minard detailed the following:

- Fire calls by type
- Fire Rescue by type
- Response time statistics
- Re-Accreditation (on-going)
- Staff overview including Organizational Chart
- Current Projects and Future Goals (Developing the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan)
- Community Assessments (inspecting buildings)
- EMS Implementation
- Savannah Fire Rescue Future

Mayor DeLoach asked for the steps for EMS from phone call to response time. Chief Minard gave the Council the break-down on the response steps and who responds according to the type of emergency.

Alderman Johnson had concerns about the goals for EMS response time in the outlying areas, pursuit of cost benefit analysis. Chief Minard recognized the concern for the outlying areas and stated the Fire Department is now working on a plan to address those areas for EMS timely responses.

Alderman Thomas asked if the Fire Chief is looking at transport too. Fire Chief Minard replied, not concerned with transport at this time.

Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz questioned, in forecasting if the Fire Chief had some type of plan or estimation of a plan in place for the outlying areas to the West with respect to fire rescue services. Chief Minard indicated they are working on a plan of evaluation and resources depending on the area development.

Alderman Miller encouraged the Fire Chief to continue working on EMS response time for those individuals in crisis. He also inquired about Marine One and if it was staffed. The Fire Chief indicated the boat is still there and it is used as a boat for emergencies.

Alderman Hall asked if there was trained/assigned staff for Marine One. Fire Chief Minard answered, yes, they have staff assigned and trained for Marine One. It is docked by the Marriott and trained/assigned staff from Engine Three will respond when called.

Alderman Foster asked about response time for neighboring jurisdictions on the South such as New Hamstead, is there an agreement in place for responding. Chief Minard indicated there have been meetings but there is no agreements with the outlying areas. If there is a fire, the Savannah Fire Department would respond.

Alderman Thomas asked about shared cost of Marine One with Coast Guard/Marine Patrol. The Fire Chief discussed some of the meetings taking place but no definite decisions on shared cost were finalized.

Alderman Durrence questioned why the City picks up the tab for Marine One. Alderman Hall added everyone meets and talks about the shared cost, but do not share the cost. Alderman Johnson acknowledged the City of Savannah is a riverfront City and we will have to foot the cost.

[3. Civic Center Operations Update](#)

[Exhibit 1: Presentation - Civic Center Operations Update.pdf](#)

Assistant to the City Manager Bret Bell presented an update of the Civic Center Operations. He indicated there would be a Ground Breaking Ceremony on September 13th at 10:00am and a Community Celebration on September 14th, 11:00am - 1:00pm.

Mr. Bell informed Council of the resignation of the Civic Center Director, Justin Strickland and the Civic Center Box Office Manager. Two key vacancies of the Civic Center operations. The Director accepted a new position as County Manager elsewhere in Georgia.

Council has approved a contract with OVG. Council will now need to make a decision on the services OVG will provide to the City with one of the three following options. Staff recommends getting OVG in early, so they can maximize their operations (option #1).

1. Contract with OVG for both Civic Center management and Arena Operation (OVG will give the City a \$5 million contribution for a 5-year contract with an option for a 5-year renewal)
2. Contract with OVG for Civic Center management only
3. Advertise and have new Director for Civic Center (3-year opportunity for the right person)

Alderman Thomas wants to ensure that employees are secure and treated fairly. He does not want the City's staff intentionally weeded-out. He questioned how an employee would be replaced if they resigned. Interim City Manager Monahan explained that if a City employee resigned, they would be replaced by an OVG employee. Alderman Thomas requested to see the resume' of the person who would supervise the City's employees.

Alderman Johnson has concern for the OVG contract and would like to hire a new Director for the Civic Center. He is concerned for the treatment of City employees vs. OVG employees.

Alderwoman Dr. Shabazz questioned if the City has ever had an outside Director/Supervisor over a City Department? Human Resource Director Jeff Grant indicated the 911 Department has been in such a role for a year with the County. Dr. Shabazz is also concerned with employees being treated fairly and she will continue to watch the situation.

Alderman Durrence asked if there were opportunities for City employees to become OVG employees. Mr. Monahan indicated this has not been discussed at this time.

Alderman Miller supported Options #1 & #2. Aldermen Hall and Foster supported Item #1. The Council consensus was Option #1.

Interim City Manager Monahan advised Council this was an information session and this will be an action item on the next Regular City Council Meeting Agenda.

[4. Real Estate, Personnel, Litigation](#)

Alderman Johnson moved to recess the Work Session to hold a closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel, Alderman Durrence seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Session began at 12:35 p.m.

Alderman Johnson moved to adjourn the Executive Session, Alderman Thomas seconded. Hearing no objections, the Executive Session was closed.

There was no action taken in the Executive Session.

Alderman Miller moved to adjourn the work session. Hearing no objections, the Mayor adjourned the Work Session at 1:50 p.m.

[5. Review of Agenda](#)

Mayor and Council reviewed the Regular Meeting Agenda.

The video recording of the Council meeting can be found by copying and inserting the below link in your url:

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=RIz4Vr8SXXMm>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____

