



November 15, 2019 Special City Council Meeting

SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION
November 15, 2019 – 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach, Presiding
 Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bell
 Alderman Julian Miller, Chairman of Council
 Alderman Brian Foster, Vice-Chairman of Council
 Alderman Van 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:

City Manager Pat Monahan
 Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd
 Assistant to the City Manager Daphanie Williams
 Interim Chief Operating Officer Bret Bell
 City Attorney Bates Lovett
 Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman
 Chief Financial Officer David Maxwell
 Chief Budget Officer Melissa Carter
 Human Resource Director Jeff Grant
 Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

Special Meeting Agenda Items

[1. Budget Work Session](#)

The Budget Work Session meeting of Council was held at 8:30 a.m. at the Critical Workforce Shelter located at 1 Water Filtration Plant Road, Port Wentworth, GA 31407.

Call to order by Mayor DeLoach

Following breakfast, the meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m.

Opening Remarks **(Presented by City Manager Monahan)**

FY19 Year End Review **(Presented by David Maxwell, Chief Financial Officer)**

FY20 Budget Overview **(Presented by Melissa Carter, Chief Budget Officer)**

Break **(10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.)**

FY20 Projected Revenues **(Presented by David Maxwell, Chief Financial Officer)**

FY20 Proposed Expenditures **(Presented by Melissa Carter, Chief Budget Officer)**

FY20 Community Partnerships/Cultural Arts **(Presented by Melissa Carter, Chief Budget Officer)**

Lunch **(12:34 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.)**

FY20 Debt Service Overview **(Presented by David Maxwell, Chief Financial Officer)**

2020-2024 Capital Plan Overview **(Presented by Melissa Carter, Chief Budget Officer)**

Council Discussion and Direction

The following parking lot of questions was compiled by the Budget Office:

CSO / SANITATION

Question: Cost of recycling program, participation rate, sustainability plans (talk about in workshop).

Response: Per Sanitation Director, the City could remove glass materials from the recyclables list to save cost or move glass disposal in-house to reduce contracted services expense. 5,400 tons of recyclables per year @ \$100/ton is paid out to vendors. The recycling program has a higher participation rate than what has been surveyed. The program also attracts businesses looking for municipalities that offer greener solutions.

Additional strategies such as pay-as-you-throw waste management will be explored for feasibility in the future.

FLEET SERVICES

Question: Status of policy on the use of electric vehicles?

Response:

Question: Local sourcing for fleet replacement? Does the City engage local suppliers and dealers?

Response:

COO/ CIDO/ PARKING

Question: Arena Area Parking Facility Funding

Response: Surface parking lot to be funded by the Parking Fund. The 400-500 space garage structure to be funded by both Parking Fund and SPLOST VI Funds

Question: When will the Eastern Wharf Garage be open?

Response:

CMO/CIDO

Question: Details of capital projects funded by SPLOST 6 collections over \$400M and 2019 Capital Amendments.

Response: Staff recommendations are based on current initiatives, risk avoidance strategies and various maintenance priorities. These appropriations will be included on the Dec 5th council agenda under *Adoption of the 2020 Budget Ordinance* as well as within the *Supplemental Capital Budget Appropriations* for FY19.

The below table provides each project, funding source and reference.

2020 Budget Retreat Parking Lot - CIP Detail

Project Name	Short Description	Category	Funding Source	Amount	Reference	Funding Year
Benton Blvd. Widening	Widen Benton Blvd. from Jimmy DeLoach to Highlands Blvd.	Traffic	General Fund - Prefunding	\$ 2,000,000	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
LMIG Match Reserve	To provide grant match reserve for GDOT Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant.	Other	Road Sales Tax Fund II	\$ 104,984	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
LMIG Match Reserve	To provide grant match reserve for GDOT Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant.	Other	SPLOST III	\$ 218,146	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
LMIG Match Reserve	To provide grant match reserve for GDOT Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant.	Other	SPLOST IV	\$ 658,893	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
Acq 2155 W Gwinnett St	To fund property acquisition at 2155 W Gwinnett Street in support of a Fire Department facility being established.	Public Building	SPLOST V	\$ 1,500,000	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
Bridge Rehabilitation	Annual inspections and maintenance of 40+ bridges within our inventory	Streets & Sidewalks	Wage Adjustment Reserve	\$ 200,000	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
MLK Visitor Center Renovation	To repair the fire alarm system at the MLK Visitor Center.	Public Building	Wage Adjustment Reserve	\$ 126,740	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
Cohen St Extension	Extend Cohen street as a downtown connector to the Canal District.	Streets & Sidewalks	Wage Adjustment Reserve	\$ 2,130,610	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
Blighted Property Acquisition & Redevelopment	Funding to acquire blighted, abandoned, residential property for redevelopment as outlined in April 25, 2019 City Council Work Session presentation.	Community Development	Wage Adjustment Reserve	\$ 1,000,000	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
Springfield Basin Stormwater Management Plan	To conduct drainage and stormwater planning in the Canal District.	Drainage	Wage Adjustment Reserve	\$ 122,650	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
SPD Headquarters Rehabilitation	To make various Public Safety facility improvements.	Public Building	Wage Adjustment Reserve	\$ 300,000	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
Project Management Cost Reserve	To provide project management funding.	Other	Wage Adjustment Reserve	\$ 420,000	CIP Budget Amendment #7	2019
Arena Construction	To provide Tier 3 funding as planned in the SPLOST VI Resolution.	Public Building	SPLOST VI	\$ 15,000,000	2020-2024 Proposed Budget	2020
Arena Parking Facility	To contribute SPLOST VI funding to be combined with Parking Services funding to construct a 400-500 space parking structure at the Arena site.	Public Building	SPLOST VI	\$ 5,000,000	2020-2024 Proposed Budget	2020
John Delaware Center Renovation	Renovations to the interior and exterior of John Delaware Center.	Public Building	SPLOST VI	\$ 1,600,000	2020-2024 Proposed Budget	2020
Public Safety Equipment	To provide public safety fleet equipment.	Other	SPLOST VI	\$ 1,384,212	2020-2024 Proposed Budget	2020
Benton Blvd. Widening	Widen Benton Blvd. from Jimmy DeLoach to Highlands Blvd.	Traffic	SPLOST VI	\$ 1,200,000	2020-2024 Proposed Budget	2020
Tricentennial Park Facility Improvements	To repair roof damage and wood decking behind the Visitor Center.	Public Building	SPLOST VI	\$ 115,788	2020-2024 Proposed Budget	2020

CMO/CIDO

Question: Should the City be collaborating with GSU regarding their proposed master plan for the Southside? Look for opportunities to develop a Southside Police Precinct to serve Aldermanic Districts 4, 5, and 6?

Response:

Question: Is there any collaboration w/ the County from a staff level to address the issues of homelessness?

Response: No staff request has been made in this regard

Question: Next steps for road assessment? Where are the projects geographically located for sidewalks funded by SPLOST VII?

Response:

Question: Tricentennial Master Plan: Include resident participation in this project.

Response: Noted by staff.

Question: Discussion with GPA regarding support for Fire Boat (follow up by City Manager)

Response: CM will initiate discussion with GPA

CMO/ FINANCE

Question: What steps are we taking to move to AAA bond rating?

Response: See the City’s comparison of bond ratings and other related information below.

General Fund Comparison With Comparable Cities

	<u>As of</u>	Unassigned Fund Balance as a Percent of Expenditures and Transfers Out	Total Expenditures and Transfers Out	Unassigned Fund Balance	Moody's Bond Rating
Macon/Bibb County	2018	2.7%	\$ 154,737,118	\$ 4,239,926	A1
City of Jacksonville, FL	2018	13.0%	1,125,003,000	146,431,000	Aa2
Athens/Clarke County	2018	14.6%	125,573,914	18,394,193	Aa1
Augusta Consolidated	2017	14.8%	144,888,932	21,491,999	Aa2
City of Asheville, NC	2018	15.9%	114,897,499	18,288,714	Aaa
Columbus Consolidated	2018	18.4%	179,661,755	33,069,269	Aa2
City of Savannah	2018	18.8%	201,680,698	37,945,263	Aa1
City of Charleston, SC	2017	23.2%	157,006,610	36,391,210	Aaa

Note: 1) GFOA recommendation is at least two months of reserves or 16.67%

2) City of Savannah Unassigned Fund Balance does not include the Sales Tax Stabilization Fund of \$5,501,000. With this amount the reserve balance would be 21.5%.

CIDO / FINANCE / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question: What development in the TAD is eligible for opportunity zone credits? How can we spur economic development in this area and take advantage of opportunity zones?

Response:

Question: What is the financial impact of the proposed lift station for Eastern Wharf? Justification for cost?

Response:

CIDO/ GREENSCAPES

Question: Is there an opportunity to utilize interns and returning citizens in Greenscapes contracts?

Response:

LEGAL / REVENUE / CIDO

Question: Add to the legislative agenda a Preservation Fee for the Landmark Historic District to fund capital allocations for River Walk / River Front?

Response:

HUMAN RESOURCES

Question: What recruitment effort and other strategies are being implemented to combat the loss of Police personnel?

Response:

Question: What are the sentiments of employees who tender their resignation from SPD?

Response: HR manager provided this information via email on November 15, 2019. This information was also presented in council workshop August 1, 2019 by Chief Minter.

Question: How many vacancies are in code compliance?

Response: There are currently two vacant positions: Administrative Assistant and Revenue Investigator. All Code Compliance Officer positions are currently occupied / filled.

CSO / CULTURAL ARTS / CPP

Question: Asian Festival funding?

Response: This agency did not apply to the City. GSU has hosted this festival in recent years.

Question: Why are cultural contributions funded less than social services/ CPP contributions?

Response: 30 non-profit organizations requested funding in the CPP process whereas 10 cultural related request were submitted. Funding proposed in the amount of \$833,000 for CPP and \$680,400 for Cultural Arts totaling \$1,513,400. Annually the City receives significantly more social service proposals compared to Cultural Art investment proposals.

Question: What is the notification process for CPP funding and other grant programs that are administered through Community Services?

Responded during budget session

Hearing no objections, the Budget Work Session was adjourned by Mayor DeLoach at 2:54 p.m.

Margaret Fox, Deputy Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____

