



Meeting Begins at 11:00am

December 5, 2019 City Council Workshop

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION & CITY MANAGER'S BRIEFING
December 5, 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
Alderwoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5
Alderman Tony Thomas, District 6

ABSENT: Alderman John Hall, District 3

OTHERS PRESENT:

City Manager Pat Monahan
Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Assistant to Clerk of Council Brittany Hunsaker

Mayor DeLoach called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Workshop Agenda Items

[1. 3rd Quarter Public Safety Update](#)

[Exhibit 1: 3rd Quarter Review - Savannah Fire Department.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: 3rd Quarter Review - Savannah Police Department.pdf](#)

Fire Chief Derik Minard began his presentation by thanking Mayor DeLoach and the Aldermen for their service to Savannah and the community. The PowerPoint presentation started with a general background of the Savannah Fire Department including what kind of work they do and the number of

employees and fire stations. Their Customer Service Rating Positive or Better is 97%. Chief Minard presented the 3rd Quarter Overview which included 1,983 calls for service, 53 structure fires, and 7,227 unit responses. Alderman Tony Thomas asked if people are getting billed for false calls, Chief Minard said that they are. Chief Minard showed the Year to Date numbers that showed 25,042 unit responses. The significant events included three structure fires and Hurricane Dorian. Chief Minard displayed a heat map to show the 2019 Call Data by district. Alderman Durrence asked if the high volume in District 2 was due to population and structure density, Chief Minard told him it is. Alderman Durrence inquired about older buildings and fire safety issues. Chief Minard stated that it is a combination of things; density, type of construction, what's in the buildings, and carelessness. Alderman Durrence asked if there is something we can do to reduce the intensity of it or if we are stuck with it downtown. Chief Minard informed him there are things we can do and they are in the process of hiring a new Fire Marshall. Chief Minard provided highlights which included a five year plan, awards, accreditations, and a City Wide Risk Assessment, which is 98% complete. Alderman Durrence asked if most of the red blocks on the map were hotels, Chief Minard informed him that is correct. Chief Minard began explaining the Fire Department's plans moving forward including engaging with the new City Council, prioritizing projects, and enhancing community engagement. He concluded the presentation and opened the floor for questions. Alderman Miller asked what condition the fleet is in. Chief Minard stated that it is in a difficult state because it is large and tough to keep up with preventative maintenance. Mayor DeLoach asked Chief Minard if he has a recommendation to put forward. Chief Minard stated there are several recommendations that are being looked at as it is high on the priority list. Mayor DeLoach clarified that the mechanics are capable of doing the job they just can't get to it. City Manager Pat Monahan stated that it is problem indicative of having large fleet. He stated that the City should take a look at outsourcing some of the work to get caught up and stay on a strict maintenance schedule. Alderman Miller asked if we have vacancies. City Manager Monahan said yes, particularly with the heavy equipment mechanics. Alderman Miller commented about the trucks not being made well as they tend to tear up a lot. He stated he does not know much about it but he does see a lot of firetrucks in the garage. Chief Minard stated that it is common for any manufacturer. He explained how back in the day everything was mechanical but now everything is electrical so there are a lot of moving parts. Alderman Foster asked Chief Minard if we should continue to buy high-end equipment. Chief Minard said yes. Alderman Foster stated that there are other options that are not nearly as expensive that other fire departments around here use. He stated that he is not criticizing, he is just asking why we continue to do so. Chief Minard stated that we do not buy the most expensive but we do buy very fine apparatus and though there are others we could buy, they typically do not have the reputation or they can bring a higher level of maintenance problems. He stated that is part of the vetting process when we look at other vendors. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked if outsourcing was one of the options they were looking into. Chief Minard stated that it is one of the options and companies have offered solutions to that. City Manager Monahan commented about how Chief Minard started as a firefighter and continued to move up the progression of leadership. Mr. Monahan stated that within a week of Chief Minard's arrival, he brought up the pay disparity issue to him. He thanked Council for setting it as a priority and gave credit to Chief Minard and Chief Minter for addressing the issue.

Chief of Police Roy Minter thanked Mayor and Council for their service. He began his presentation by displaying a crime analysis report that highlighted 2019, 2018, and 2017. He specifically highlighted total property and total part 1 crime, both of which are lower than previous years. He went into detail for each of the precincts, every precinct except for the central precinct are down in crimes. The crimes they continue to struggle with are domestic violence and gun violence crimes. Chief Minter recognized the Violent Crimes Task Force for their continued success. Chief Minter provided an update on the Berkshire Study, which is still in progress. He highlighted items on the agenda for the regular meeting and described the items. The technology being considered includes ShotSpotter Missions, stationary license plate readers, flock cameras, speed trailers, and mobile finger print readers. Alderman Durrence asked if it was voluntary, in regards to the mobile finger print reader. Chief Minter stated that it depends on the situation. They can either verify people who are being arrested at the scene or bring them to jail to verify them. Alderman Durrence inquired about the flock camera and asked how quickly they can respond. The notifications are going right out to the lieutenants and captains and they are immediately getting on the radio and advising officers in that area that they have an alert. He stated this system has helped locate two stolen vehicles so far. Chief Minter continued the presentation and brought up the need for electronic ticket citations. A vendor has been selected and the contract is going through final review at the City Attorney's office. It will most likely go on the agenda after the first of the year. He stated we are one of the only agencies in this area that is still handwriting tickets which is an officer safety issue as well as an issue for the courts due to handwriting. Alderman Miller asked if it will interface with the current court system, Chief Minter informed him yes. Alderman Miller also asked if there are issues with the car if they are notified immediately, Chief Minter informed him that is correct. Chief Minter continued the presentation by talking about Real Time Crime Center and how they plan to implement it. Alderman Johnson commented on how this is a reactive program and we should look into preventing issues

from ever occurring. Chief Minter thanked him for his comment and stated that he will be going over preventative measures. He informed Alderman Johnson that those who work in the crime center would also be monitoring the cameras so they can see if there is any kind of increase in activity in those areas. Chief Minter went on to discuss community outreach and provided a list of upcoming events. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked who is sponsoring the gift cards for the Shop with a Cop event, Chief Minter stated that they are sponsored by the police department as well as private donors. Chief Minter discussed staffing and stated that there are currently 58 vacancies and the recruitment numbers are strong. Chief Minter highlighted department awards and finished his presentation by discussing general updates. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell asked how long it has been since the new director of Crime Stoppers was hired, Chief Minter stated that it was 90-120 days ago. She inquired about whether the success has to do with his prior relationship with the community and police department. Chief Minter stated he believes it does and informed her that he is everywhere. Chief Minter announced that they are looking at putting together a Domestic Violence Advisory Committee that will be led by Deputy Chief Price, an Accident Reduction Program that will be led by Major Gavin, and redesigning the End Gun Violence program, that will be led by Assistant Chief Gunther. Chief Minter finished his presentation and stated that he will take any questions. Alderman Miller commented about the increased number of domestic issues and how it is a difficult thing for police to handle because you don't typically know about it until it happens. Alderman Miller stated he is also concerned with the increase in street robberies because those can lead to other things and asked Chief Minter how he addresses it. Chief Minter started by discussing the Family Violence Issue and the opening of the Family Justice Center. He stated that as for street robberies, we continue to look at it, one thing we are looking at is how many of these robberies include the homeless community as victims and suspects. Alderman Foster commended the Police Department on the increase of citations and asked if we are keeping up in the Recorders Court with the increased volume. He then asked how quickly can we get the electronic ticketing in place. Chief Minter stated that he he has not heard any comments in regards to volume in the Recorder's Court but he has not heard any complaints. As for the electronic citations, he stated as soon as we get the final draft back from the City Attorney's office, he will work with the City Manager to get it on the Council Agenda. Once it is approved by Council, they are saying anywhere between 90-120 days it should be ready to be up and running. Alderman Foster asked if it is in the budget, he was informed that it is. Mayor DeLoach commended Chief Minter for doing a great job. City Manager Pat Monahan commented on the budget in regards to Alderman Foster's previous question.

[2. Archaeology Ordinance](#)

[Exhibit 1: Presentation - Archeology.pdf](#)

Bridget Lidy, Director of Planning and Urban Design began her presentation on the Archaeology Ordinance by giving an update on the process. She defined archaeology as a science that studies human cultures through recovery, documentation and analysis of material remains and environmental data including architecture, artifacts, biofacts, human remains and landscape. She described the rationale for the ordinance which includes the need to protect archaeological resources that are not currently protected and she informed Mayor and Council that the National Park Service recommended adopting an archaeology ordinance because Savannah's status was changed from "satisfactory" to "threatened." Ms. Lidy described the public engagement that has taken place including surveys, meetings, and a presentation for the Metropolitan Planning Commission. The survey results show that a majority of survey participants voted in favor of an archaeological ordinance. Bridget Lidy went on to describe other ordinances in surrounding cities and how they work. She specifically highlighted Alexandria, VA as a model for archaeological ordinances. She stated that Charleston is also in the process of developing an ordinance. Ms. Lidy went into detail about Savannah's ordinance proposal which includes a three phase Archaeology Assessment. Alderman Foster asked for the definition of public property. Ms. Lidy stated public property is real property owned by the Mayor and Aldermen including but not limited to parks, squares, landscaped medians, parking lots, vehicular pedestrian right of ways and public utility right of ways. Alderman Miller asked if the City is building something that is less than 1,500 square feet, would it have to go through this process. Ms. Lidy informed him that it would not need to go through an archaeological assessment. Alderman Durrence asked if it only applies to new construction or if it would apply if you were to renovate one of the squares. Ms. Lidy informed him it would not apply. Mayor Pro-Tem Bell commented on the vocal opposition she heard at a public hearing she attended and asked Bridget Lidy if they understand that this does not apply to private property. Ms. Lidy stated that they have been clear in explaining to the public. She continued the presentation to show what is to come in the next 12-18 months to include setting up a committee, studying impacts of the ordinance and developing an incremental approach to a more robust ordinance. Alderman Foster asked if there was a timeline for establishing a committee. Bridget Lidy stated that the goal would be to make it happen within the first quarter of next year. Ms. Lidy asked Mayor and Council if they were comfortable with the process. Alderman Miller commented on the provision that disallows metal detectors. Bridget Lidy informed him that it was for public property only. If someone wants to go out into a park, they need permission from the City to do that because if things are found we won't know about it. Alderman

Miller asked that instead of banning them if there is way we can work with them. Bridget Lidy stated that we have not banned them, the way it is written requires that if it's on public property, they cannot do it without a permit issued by the City Manager or designee. Alderman Miller stated that as this moves forward, it will extend into private property, which is the reason why we have some people who are concerned with it. Ms. Lidy stated that we have them as members of the task force and we would be working with them and their thoughts and feedback would definitely be included in the efforts.

[3. Litigation, Real Estate, and Personnel](#)

(no executive session was held)

The work session recessed at 12:12 p.m.

Following a lunch break the City Council reconvened to conduct an agenda review at 1:38 p.m.

[4. Review of City Council Agenda](#)

The agenda review concluded at 1:47 p.m.

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=3MmdN7XFBPcg>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____

