



**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.**

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held via Zoom video communications at 2:02 p.m. Following the roll call, Mayor Johnson asked Alderswoman Miller Blakely to introduce Pastor George F. Sharpe, Sr. of Shepherd's House Ministries, who provided the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding

Alderswoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1, Chairman

Alderswoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2

Alderswoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1

Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2

Alderswoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3

Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice-Chairman

Alderswoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem

Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:

Acting City Manager Michael Brown

City Attorney Bates Lovett

Clerk of Council Mark Massey

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for November 12, 2020](#)

Whereupon Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Palumbo who stated there was an outstanding issue that needs to be addressed by the Council for both the Council's closure and the public at-large. As a result of the Savannah's Ethics Board Hearing conducted on October 29, 2020, a recommendation was rendered. Alderman Palumbo further stated he understands more time is needed in this process to assemble documents. Publicly, he let everyone know a resolution to this issue is deserved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve the agenda as presented, Alderswoman Lanier and Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing held on October 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Minutes - October 22, 2020 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 and #3, Alderswoman Lanier seconded. The

motion passed unanimously.

[3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on October 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Minutes - October 22, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Agenda.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 and #3, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Johnson officially welcomed Michael Brown as the Interim/Acting City Manager.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

[4. Adoption of the 2021 City Council Regular Meeting Schedule to Hold Work Sessions and Regular Meetings on the Second and Fourth Thursdays of Each Month](#)

[Exhibit 1: Schedule - 2021 City Council Meetings.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz asked Mayor Johnson if the 2021 Meeting Schedule would discontinue the 4:00 p.m. Work Session and the 6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting. Mayor Johnson indicated the last two Regular Meetings of 2020 were scheduled at 2:00 p.m. to allow for Council and staff to celebrate the holidays. The 2021 meeting schedule will continue with 6:30 p.m. meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #4, Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA - (This section shall include all routine items for which it is anticipated there will be no debate or requests for public input. Any Alderman can remove consent items for discussion or separate consideration.)

[5. Notification of an Emergency Contract Modification for the City Hall Fire Alarm System Replacement with Johnson Laux Construction in the Amount of \\$2,738.43 \(Event No. 7723\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Purchasing Summary - City Hall Fire Alarm System.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Funding Verification - City Hall Fire Alarm System.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #5 and #6, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[6. Authorize the City Manager to a Procure Dryer Replacement Part from Huber Technology in the Amount of \\$98,000 \(Event No. 8170\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Purchasing Summary - Bio-Solid Dryer Replacement Part.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Funding Verification - Bio-solid Dryer Replacement Part.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #5 and #6, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASING ITEMS

[7. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Landfilling of Bio-solids from the President Street Plant and Regional Plants with Waste Management for up to \\$500,000 \(Event No. 7335\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Purchasing Summary - Bio solids Disposal.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Funding Verification - Bio solids Disposal.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan commented the landfill is in District 3, and the City needs to take care of it's only landfill.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #7, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

[8. Approval of a Six-Month Billboard Rental Agreement with Adams Outdoor Advertising in the Amount of \\$114,722](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #8 and #9, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[9. Approval to Procure One 2020 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor from Coggin Automotive in the Amount of \\$45,061.50](#)

[Exhibit 1: Purchasing Document - 2020 Police Vehicle.xlsx](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #8 and #9, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

[10. Consideration to Appoint Ms. Karen Jarrett to the Savannah Zoning Board of Appeals \(MPC seat\) to Replace Mr. Thomas Branch Who Resigned Due to Residency, As Requested by the MPC.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Letter of Recommendation - Jarrett Appointment.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #10, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

[11. Approval of a Class C \(Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Loc Thua Lin of Taqueria Los Compas at 4307 Ogeechee Road Ste. 105 \(Aldermanic District 1\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Taqueria Los Compas.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Taqueria Los Compas.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Taqueria Los Compas.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Taqueria Los Compas.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearing for Items #11, #12 and #13.

The Clerk of Council reported no public comments received.

No speakers.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol license hearing for Items #11, #12 and #13, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #11, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[12. Approval of a Class D \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\)\(By the Package\) and Class H \(Beer, Wine\)\(Sample\) Alcohol License to Dhaval Patel of Broughton Street Liquor at 14 East Broughton Street \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Broughton Street Liquor.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Broughton Street Liquor.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Broughton Street Liquor.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Broughton Street Liquor.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearing for Items #11, #12 and #13.

The Clerk of Council reported no public comments received.

No speakers.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol license hearing for Items #11, #12 and #13, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #12, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[13. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Anthony Scarpulla of G.B. Lobster at 518 Martin Luther King Jr., Boulevard \(Aldermanic District 2\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - GB Lobster.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - GB Lobster.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - GB Lobster.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - GB Lobster.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the alcohol license hearing for Items #11, #12 and #13.

The Clerk of Council reported no public comments received.

No speakers.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the alcohol license hearing for Items #11, #12 and #13, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #13, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ZONING HEARINGS

[14. Amend the Zoning Map for 24 Weiner Drive \(PIN 20494 04016\), Approximately 0.21 acres, from RSF-6 \(Residential Single Family-6\) to OI-T \(Office Institutional-Transition\), Petition of Rob Brannen \(Agent\) on behalf of SPM&A LLC \(Owner\), District 4 \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 24 Weiner Drive \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Zoning Map for 24 Weiner Drive \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 24 Weiner Drive \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearings for Item #14, #15 and #16.

Speakers:

- Mr. Marcus Lotson, MPC gave a brief outline of the area/project. MPC recommends approval.

The Clerk of Council reported no public comments received.

Alderman Palumbo recognized the City is experiencing traffic issues in heavy traveled corridors. Single family residential areas are now being rezoned for other uses. Alderman Palumbo asked Mr. Lotson for any recommendations MPC could provide to the City staff to alleviate some of the City's growing pains as it relates to easing the rezoning transitions along these corridors.

Acting City Manager Brown's intentions are to attend MPC meetings to look for and improve quality of life for residents living along such corridors.

Mayor Johnson explained, to protect the City's interest, the City Manager and the Chatham County Manager have a voting seat on the MPC Board. He is looking forward to Acting City Manager Brown being an active/engaging member of the MPC Board on the City's behalf for zoning and land use.

Alderman Palumbo moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #14, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[15. Amend the Zoning Map for 716 Highland Drive \(PIN 20491 07010\), Approximately 0.5 acres, from the RSF-10 \(Single Family Residential-10\) Zoning District to the O-I \(Office-Institutional\) Zoning District with Conditions, Petition of Ed Garvin \(Agent\) on behalf of Goldberg Properties LP \(Owner\), District 4 \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Zoning Map for 716 Highland Drive \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 716 Highland Drive \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearings for Item #14, #15 and #16.

Speakers:

- Mr. Marcus Lotson, MPC, provided a brief background of the project and the area. MPC recommends approval.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked for the definition of Island Classified. Mr. Lotson described the Highland neighborhood as part of the City and receives services from the City. After her discussions with some of the neighbors, she recommends additional meetings with citizens living in the neighborhood.

Alderman Palumbo suggested Item #15 be an Ordinance - First Reading today, to allow time to meet with the neighborhood residents to address concerns.

Mayor Johnson further defined Alderman Palumbo's request for Item #15 a First Reading today and the Second Reading at the next Council meeting, pending agreement by all Council Members.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter acknowledged Mr. Ed Garvin in attendance, and asked IT to assist with his connection to hear and answer any questions from Council. Mr. Lotson offered to assist with answering any questions Mr. Garvin might have today or at a later time.

Acting City Manager Michael Brown intends to work with MPC staff to make sure all residents concerns are addressed. He asked Mr. Lotson about the fencing and asked for the designs of the fencing. Mr. Brown requested Council to be specific on what needs to be done when an item is returned to MPC for reconsideration.

Mayor Johnson explained to Mr. Garvin the Ordinance will be on First Reading only today and will return for Second Reading on November 24, 2020.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #15, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[16. Amend the Zoning Map for 3001 Little Neck Road \(PINs 21026 02001, 21027 01002 thru 01009\), from the PDR-SL-CO \(Planned Development Reclamation-Sanitary Landfill-Annexed\) and PDR-SM-CO \(Planned Development Reclamation-Surface Mine-Annexed\) to the I-H \(Heavy Industrial\), Petition of Harold Yellin \(Agent\) on Behalf of Waste Management of Georgia \(Owner\) \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Zoning Map \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 3: Revised General Development Plan with Condition Noted \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 4: Draft Ordinance for 3001 Little Neck Road \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

Mayor Johnson opened the zoning hearings for Item #14, #15 and #16.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and City Manager Brown recommended meetings with City partners and residents.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter acknowledged Ms. Deana Beam was in attendance for public comment on Item #16. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz informed Ms. Beam, she will be in contact with the leaders of the West Chatham Group which is meeting heavily on this issue and Ms. Beam will be getting updates from the leadership of the Group.

The Clerk of Council had written public comment provided by Scott I. Pinholster.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue/postpone Item #16 to the January 14, 2021 Meeting, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Later in the Meeting:

City Manager Michael Brown requested continuing/postponing Item #23 to the November 24, 2020 Meeting. Alderwoman Miller Blakely questioned the reasoning for moving Item #23 to the November 24, 2020 Meeting. City Manager Brown cited there were previously established time frames that

must be acknowledged. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz agreed with Mr. Brown that Item #23 can be resolved by the next Council Meeting.

ORDINANCES - FIRST AND SECOND READING

[17. Amend the Code of the City of Savannah Part 7-1032, Appendix I, Sec. 215. Commercial Vehicles Prohibited and Part 7-1091, Appendix I, Sec. 219. Stopping, standing and parking prohibited](#)

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #17, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[18. Amend the Code of the City of Savannah, Section 7-1091, Appendix I, Section 219. Stopping, Standing, and Parking Prohibited](#)

[Exhibit 1: Map - Abercorn Frontage Road.pdf](#)

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderman Purtee moved to approve Item #18, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[19. Amend the Code of the City of Savannah Section 7-1027, Appendix I, Sec. 211. One-way streets.](#)

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #19, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[20. Approval of an Ordinance to Designate an Open Records Officer and Assistant Open Records Officer\(s\), Defining the Duties, Providing for Public Records Requests to be Served Upon the Open Records Officer, and Providing for Notice of the City's Open Records Procedures.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Ordinance - Open Records.pdf](#)

The Clerk of Council designated the City Manager's Office (Bret Bell and Myriam Baker), as the Assistant Open Records Officer.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter wants to make sure the City is adhering to the standards of the Open Records Ordinance and staff does not add comments/commentary to the Request. She would also like the City to make sure each Request is responded to in a timely and complete manner.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan wants the City to make sure payments are made for the Open Records Request.

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #20 with the City Manager's Office as the Assistant Open Records Officer, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked the City Attorney if there was any new information concerning the previous legislative agenda item, sovereign immunity rights. Attorney Lovett answered, the amendment will go before the legislature this coming session, and they will craft a law allowing any citizen to petition to have sovereign immunity waived. They have not drafted the law as of today, but Attorney Lovett will keep Council informed.

[21. Amend the Zoning Map for 24 Weiner Drive \(PIN 20494 04016\), Approximately 0.21 acres, from RSF-6 \(Residential Single Family-6\) to OI-T \(Office Institutional-Transition\), Petition of Rob Brannen \(Agent\) on behalf of SPM&A LLC \(Owner\), District 4 \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 24 Weiner Drive \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Zoning Map for 24 Weiner Drive \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 24 Weiner Drive \(File No. 20-004436-ZA\)](#)

After the first reading was considered the second and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #21, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[22. Amend the Zoning Map for 716 Highland Drive \(PIN 20491 07010\), Approximately 0.5 acres, from the RSF-10 \(Single Family Residential-10\) Zoning District to the O-I \(Office-Institutional\) Zoning District with Conditions, Petition of Ed Garvin \(Agent\) on behalf of Goldberg Properties LP \(Owner\), District 4 \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Zoning Map for 716 Highland Drive \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 3: Draft Ordinance for 716 Highland Drive \(File No. 20-001742-ZA\)](#)

HEARD for First Reading only.

[23. Amend the Zoning Map for 3001 Little Neck Road \(PINs 21026 02001, 21027 01002 thru 01009\), from the PDR-SL-CO \(Planned Development Reclamation-Sanitary Landfill-Annexed\) and PDR-SM-CO \(Planned Development Reclamation-Surface Mine-Annexed\) to the I-H \(Heavy Industrial\), Petition of Harold Yellin \(Agent\) on Behalf of Waste Management of Georgia \(Owner\) \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Zoning Map \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 3: Revised General Development Plan with Condition Noted \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 4: Draft Ordinance for 3001 Little Neck Road \(File No. 20-004418-ZA\)](#)

Per Mayor Johnson, Item #23 is CONTINUED/POSTPONED to the January 14, 2021 Meeting.

Later in the Meeting:

City Manager Michael Brown requested continuing/postponing Item #23 to the November 24, 2020 Meeting. Alderwoman Miller Blakely questioned the reasoning for moving Item #23 to the November 24, 2020 Meeting. City Manager Brown cited there were previously established time frames that must be acknowledged. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz agreed with Mr. Brown that Item #23 can be resolved by the next Council Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

[24. Approval of a Resolution Honoring the Life of Assistant City Attorney, James \(Jay\) B. Blackburn, Jr.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution- James Blackburn, Jr.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson sent out condolences on behalf of Council to the family of Attorney James (Jay) B. Blackburn, Jr. The Resolution was presented to Mr. Blackburn's children, his brother and his mother.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #24, Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[25. Approval of a Resolution Accepting a Monetary Donation from the Bonaventure Historical Society for the Cleaning and Restoration of the Silence Statue Located in Laurel Grove North Cemetery](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Bonaventure Historical Society 2020.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #25, Alderman Palumbo and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[26. Approval of a Resolution Adopting the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Hazard Mitigation Plan.docx](#)

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #26, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGREEMENTS

[27. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System for the Islands Campus Site Improvements \(Phase 2A & 2B\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Agreement - Islands Campus Site Improvements Phase 2A & 2B.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #27, #28 and #29, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[28. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with Wilmington Partners, LLC for Savannah Police Camp](#)

[Exhibit 1: Agreement - Savannah Police Camp.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #27, #28 and #29, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[29. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with 3 Sea Sons, LLC for Savannah Boathouse](#)

[Exhibit 1: Agreement - Savannah Boathouse.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #27, #28 and #29, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

[30. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Quitclaim Deed for 107 Division Street \(PIN 20716 05014\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Quit Claim Deed - 107 Division Street.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Map - 107 Division Street.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #30, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[31. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #31, to authorize the City Attorney to resolve/settle the James McGill lawsuit in the amount of \$104,000.00, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

[32. Approval of a Plat for a Major Subdivision, 23 and 33 W. Montgomery Cross Rd.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat - 23 W Montgomery Cross Rd.](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Items #32, #33 and #34, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz

seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[33. Approval of a Plat for a Major Subdivision, Savannah Highlands - Phase 6](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat Savannah Highlands Phase 6](#)

[Exhibit 2: Plat Savannah Highlands Phase 6](#)

Alderman Lanier moved to approve Items #32, #33 and #34, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[34. Approval of a Plat for a Major Subdivision, Savannah Highlands - Phase 7](#)

[Exhibit 1: Plat Savannah Highlands Phase 7](#)

Alderman Lanier moved to approve Items #32, #33 and #34, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[35. Approval of a Resolution Ratifying the Mayor's Renewed Emergency Declaration](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution - Emergency Declaration.pdf](#)

Alderman Wilder-Bryan acknowledged the efforts of Mayor Johnson during this most difficult time of COVID-19.

Alderman Leggett asked Mayor Johnson if the City was still in Phase I of the Emergency Declaration. Mayor Johnson answered, we are still in Phase I. At Alderman Leggett's request, Mayor Johnson explained the difference between not allowing basketball (contact sport) and allowing tennis (non-contact sport).

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz stated, on a national basis, because of the continuous mandates approved by Savannah City Council led by Mayor Johnson, it contributes to the somewhat steady success of the City. She thanked the citizens of Savannah for abiding by the rules set out in the Emergency Declaration.

Alderman Palumbo thanked Mayor Johnson for looking out for the City and its citizens during this critical time. He pointed out the uses of mask in the Emergency Declaration, specifically, paragraph five describing where mask are not required.

Mayor Johnson stated, he may be the front man on the Emergency Declaration, but it takes a team effort and the entire Council is responsible for the success thus far. Mayor Johnson informed Council there is an expectation of Cities being hit hard again in big waves and Council will try to prevent the City from experiencing any increase. Mayor Johnson encouraged everyone to wear a mask. He thanked the City staff for their efforts during the COVID-19.

Alderman Gibson-Carter has concerns with putting undue pressure/stress on businesses already adhering to the Emergency Declaration. She expressed concerns for tourist/visitors not wearing masks visiting restaurants and bars in the City.

Mayor Johnson explained the Governor's Declaration allows for businesses to individually determine how they will operate, with or without masks, for patrons to enter their business.

Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #35, Alderman Leggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSING:

Acting City Manager Michael Brown requested continuing/postponing Item #23 to the November 24, 2020 Meeting. Alderman Miller Blakely questioned the reasoning for moving Item #23 to the November 24, 2020 Meeting. Acting City Manager Brown cited there were previously established time frames that must be acknowledged. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz agreed with Mr. Brown that Item #23 can be resolved by the next Council Meeting.

Alderman Gibson-Carter requested a point of personal privilege. She congratulated all candidates of the November 3, 2020 election. She asked all the candidates to remove their campaign signs from public locations. Alderman Gibson-Carter congratulated Ms. Shalena Cook Jones, the first African-American female as District Attorney in the Eastern Judicial Circuit. She asked the Council to take a serious look at the issue of crime in the City and how to address the many homicides in the City.

Alderman Palumbo invited the public to the District 4 Town Hall Meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m. Sign up by going to www.tinyurl.com/100forD4.

Alderman Miller Blakely congratulated all the young high school athletes, some of the young men were nominated for player of the week, play of the week, and one young man (John Dickerson) was nominated for ESPN Player of the Week. Her grandson, Bubba Chisholm was nominated. She sends congratulations to all winners and to the Savannah Public Schools.

Alderwoman Lanier reiterated concern for the up tick in violent crimes in the community and the demographics of those affected in the City. She feels a sense of urgency is needed that she is not seeing, Savannah is becoming a bloody City. She suggest the City create a plan to attack the problem. Mayor Johnson addressed the issue and explained the issues during COVID: a.) grand juries not active; and b.) criminal justice system is at a standstill. Mayor Johnson sees changes shortly with the grand jury starting again. Alderwoman Lanier stated, she is not placing blame, we need to address the conditions and root causes to prevent future increases in crime. Alderwoman Miller Blakely stressed the City needs more community involvement to address the root causes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz agreed with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Lanier on the importance of the City to curtail the homicides/crimes in the City.

Acting City Manager Brown announced he will present five (5) initiatives for Council's consideration at the Budget Retreat Thursday, November 29-30, 2020: 1.) poverty/child poverty; 2.) gross economic disparities to include workforce issues and business development; 3.) violent crime/gun crime; 4.) affordable housing; and 5.) blight.

Mayor Johnson clarified the shooting that happened earlier today was in the County and it was an accidental shooting.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

The audio 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=30kGxrgG712A>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____

