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DECEMBER 20, 2022, 2:00 p.m. - CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**CITY GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held at 2:01 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderswoman Wilder-Bryan to introduce Senior Pastor LeRoy Pollen, III, of New Wave Temple of Praise to offer 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  
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

**ABSENT:**

Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

**ALSO, PRESENT:**

City Manager Joseph A. Melder  
Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams  
City Attorney Bates Lovett  
Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman  
Assistant City Attorney Denise Cooper  
Clerk of Council Mark Massey  
Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, December 20, 2022.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve the agenda for Tuesday, December 20, 2022, seconded by Alderswoman Lanier, Alderman Leggett and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session and City Manager's Briefing Held on December 8, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.](#)[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - December 8, 2022 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 and #3, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on December 8, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.](#)[Exhibit 1: Draft Minutes - December 8, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #2 and #3, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**PRESENTATIONS**[4. Appearance and Presentation by Leaders from Hunter Army Airfield in Support of National Wreaths Across America Day on December 17, 2022.](#)

Garrison Leadership, Colonel Manny Ramirez of Hunter Army Airfield and Command Sargent Major Bryan Buchanan of Fort Stewart presented Mayor Johnson and City Council the Wreath for Warriors Walk honoring the fallen heroes of the 3rd Infantry Division.

Every year, a wreath is presented at Savannah City Hall. Mayor Johnson accepted the Wreath for Warriors Walk on behalf of City Council and the Savannah community. The Wreath will be on display throughout the holiday season in the City Hall Rotunda.

[5. Appearance by the Savannah Police Department and Presentation of the Department's Newest Addition, Therapeutic Dog "Goose".](#)

Mayor Johnson and Police Chief Gunther introduced the police department's newest member, Goose, an 11 week old Labrador. Chief Gunter gave a brief background and indicated Goose will introduce a non-traditional approach to trauma for officers, youth and members of the community. Behavioral Health Unit Corporal Julie Cavanaugh has Goose in training now to assist individuals experiencing trauma and crisis episodes.

**ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)**[6. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\) \(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Krishna Patel for Cambria Hotel - Savannah, a Hotel at 321 Montgomery Street between West Charlton and West Harris Streets in Aldermanic District 2.](#)[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Cambria Hotel - Savannah.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Cambria Hotel - Savannah.pdf](#)[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports- Cambria Hotel - Savannah](#)[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Cambria Hotel - Savannah](#)[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Cambria Hotel - Savannah](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the alcohol hearing open for Item #6.

**No speaker(s).**

**a.** Alderman Leggett moved to close the alcohol hearing for Item #6, seconded by Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #6, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**ORDINANCES - FIRST AND SECOND READING - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)**[7. Amend Section 2-4053 of the City's Code of Ordinances to Increase the City Manager's Purchasing Authority from \\$25,000 to \\$50,000. Contracts exceeding \\$50,000 shall be awarded upon approval by Council.](#)[Exhibit 1: Purchasing Ordinance Amendment.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked for justification to increase the amount. City Manager Melder indicated 2007 was the last increase. Inflation, cost of services, and the ability to complete small purchases in a timely manner is the main reason for the increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed her problems with receiving monthly information regarding the City Manager's approved contract since Michael Brown served as Interim City Manager. She questioned the City's purchasing practices and lack of transparency to taxpayers. After over a year, she recently received her first monthly report on contracts approved by the City Manager under \$25,000. She cannot support or approve the increase.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked how many African Americans benefited from the City Manager discretionary funds. City Manager Melder explained the difference between the City Manager's discretionary funds and the authority of the City Manager to approved contracts with a limit of \$25,000. He also cited other cities who allowed the City Manager to approve contracts over \$25,000.

City Manager Melder explained to Alderwoman Gibson-Carter that his office has worked over the past year to put policies and technology in place to send out monthly reports to Council and staff on the listing of City Manager approved contracts with the \$25,000 limit.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely stated if the item passes, she will monitor these activities to make sure it is equitable.

Alderman Palumbo spoke in regards to discretionary versus purchasing authority. He asked the City Manager to explain the difference. City Manager Melder described the differences noting this is not discretionary, this gives the City Manager authority to approve contracts up to \$50,000. He still must follow the City's procurement process, but it would not come before Council for approval.

Alderwoman Lanier called for the vote.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz explained, if this item passes, the City Manager will have the authority to approve contracts and services by local entrepreneurs up to \$50,000 without coming before Council. She encouraged local small businesses to get certified and registered with the City to become eligible to receive small contracts with the City. This is an opportunity for small businesses and entrepreneurs to become part of the equitable process in the City.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan stated there are Council Members who continue to ask for an increase in mileage, Merry Christmas.

Alderwoman Lanier called for the vote.

Alderman Leggett asked, if passed, what parameters are in place for Council to question contracts approved by the City Manager. City Manager Melder indicated Council could question any contract's approved.

Mayor Johnson indicated this is about good government and good governance. This is a step in government completing transactions in a timely fashion. Approval is a statement by City Council that the City Manager is qualified and competent to approve contracts up to \$50,000 with Council's approval.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter addressed the comment made by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan by asking City Manager Melder if an approval of \$25,000 can be made for mileage. Mr. Melder indicated, not likely. She discussed her dissatisfaction with not receiving a monthly report of approved City Manager contracts, since being elected as At Large Alderwoman. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter requested a monthly report of approved contracts by the City Manager. City Manager Melder will send a monthly report to Council of approved contracts.

Mayor Johnson indicated former City Manager Stephanie Cutter would send Council Members reports of approved City Manager contracts up to \$25,000 and the practice discontinued during the tenure of City Manager Rob Hernandez. Now, the practice has been reestablished.

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #7, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan added reports were sent to Council by Interim City Manager Pat Monahan. She also stated, the economy did not stop with City Manager Melder. During the pandemic, some of Council Members stated because of inflation they wanted mileage added.

#### ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[8. First Reading of an Ordinance Pertaining to the Proposed Redistricting of Savannah Aldermanic Districts Pursuant to the 2020 U.S. Census Data.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Ordinance of the Charter Amendment for the 2022 Redistricting.pdf](#)

#### HEARD ITEM #8 FOR FIRST READING ONLY.

#### ORDINANCES - SECOND READING - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)

[9. Approval to Annex 278.16 Acres Located off Little Neck Road near Ogeechee Road. The property will be developed as mixed use with residential, retail and commercial.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Annexation Petition - Hopeton South Land Trust LLC.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Annexation Ordinance - Hopeton South Land Trust LLC.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 and #10, seconded by Alderman Leggett and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 6-2-1. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voted no. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[10. Petition of Ethan Underwood \(Agent\) for Hopeton South Land Trust LLC \(Property Owner\) to Zone 278.16 Acres Located off Little Neck Road near Ogeechee Road \(PINs 11007 01009, 11007 01010, and 11007 01011\) from R-A \(Residential Agricultural\) to R-A-CO \(Residential Agricultural-County\) and 5850 Ogeechee Road \(PIN 11007 01014\) from P-B-C \(Planned Community Business\) to P-B-C-CO \(Planned Community Business-County\). \(File No. 22-005223-ZA\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Zoning Summary to Support Annexation \(File No. 22-005223-ZA\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps \(File No. 22-005223-ZA\).pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 and #10, seconded by Alderman Leggett and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 6-2-1. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Miller Blakely voted no. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**PURCHASING ITEMS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)**

[11. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for Replacement of a Bulldozer Undercarriage with Yancey CAT in the Amount of \\$45,221. The bulldozer is used to support operations at the Dean Forest Road Landfill. \(Sanitation\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Bulldozer Undercarriage Replacement.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Bulldozer Undercarriage Replacement.pdf.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #11 and #12, seconded by Alderman Leggett and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of a Tapping Machine from Hydra-Stop in the Amount of \\$63,957. A tapping machine provides access to a pressurized pipe without disrupting water pressure or service upstream of the tap. This equipment will replace old equipment that has reached the end of its useful life expectancy and is no longer feasible to repair. \(Water Distribution\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Hydra-Tapper.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Hydra-Tapper.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #11 and #12, seconded by Alderman Leggett and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[13. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for the Rental and Delivery of Temporary Sheet Piles for the Chatham County-Owned Trade Center Riverwalk with Myrick Marine \(LOCAL\) in the Amount of \\$81,659. The sheet piles were used to stabilize the Trade Center Riverwalk which were needed to prevent a full collapse of the Riverwalk. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Trade Center Sheetpile.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Trade Center Sheetpile.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier asked, if the City did not intervene what would be the outcome. City Manager Melder indicated staff is in negotiations with the County for reimbursement. The City owns property just north of the site and that property would be affected if the County's property was not stabilized. He will notify Council when negotiations are completed. Alderwoman Lanier mentioned sidewalks in her district needing repairs for the past 2-3 years; however, a repair along the Riverwalk for tourist gets repaired immediately. She would like the City to be just as astute with residents as with the tourists.

Alderman Leggett indicated the City is proactive and applauded Assistant City Manager Lloyd for his quick action on the repairs.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #13, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[14. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Urban Planning and Design Services with Sottile and Sottile \(LOCAL\) in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$100,000. This contract will provide urban planning/design and architectural support services for various City projects. \(Capital Projects\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Urban Planning and Design.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Urban Planning and Design.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Lanier asked if the City normally requested this service. City Manager Melder indicated the City has used these services when there are excessive amounts of design and architectural services work needed. She asked how many responded to the bid and if the lowest bid won. Mr. Melder answered, 3 requests for proposals were received, so it differs from request for bid, proposals are scored.

Since the City has a Planning & Urban Design department and MPC, Alderwoman Lanier expressed concerns for prior planning and design in her district, as it relates to working with residents on community design. She discussed prior and current planning projects and the lack of cooperation from City planning staff with the residents' desires for the Westside. City Manager Melder agreed with Alderwoman Lanier regarding the City's need for more planning capacity.

Alderwoman Lanier discussed Westside neighborhoods abutting the ports which cause noise for residents throughout the night, and she mentioned hearing a railroad coming up West Bay Street, but she had no official information. City Manager Melder had meetings several months ago concerning future railroad planning. He will keep Council informed when talks resume.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked if Sottile and Sottile is connected with Johnson-Laux. City Manager Melder is not aware of any project that Sottile and Sottile is connected with Johnson-Laux, but they could have worked with Johnson-Laux on projects in the past. He also indicated Sottile and Sottile was asked to assist the City in recommendations for the Gamble building, the Civic Center, and space planning needs for the City.

Alderman Palumbo asked for the scoring techniques used during the selection process. City Manager Melder listed the five categories. Sottile and Sottile scored the highest and scored the

maximum for DBE and local points. Alderman Palumbo noted, as the City grows, additional expertise is needed to help with the challenges.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter reviewed the scores of the 3 responders and asked why Sottile and Sottile were selected, when Kern and Co had the lowest bid. City Manager Melder indicated, this was a request for proposal and not a request for bids, different procurement types. Over the life of the contract, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked how many times Sottile and Sottile won the proposal. Mr. Melder will send Council information on who the winning awardees are for urban planning and design. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked if City staff had performed a cost benefit analysis on item 14, and she further discussed City spending and how contracts are awarded. She received a letter from a vendor who feels the City's purchasing process/practices need adjustment. She stated since she is in the minority, it is hard to get items on the agenda.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan raised a point of order.

Mayor Johnson, so noted.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recommended going into 2023 for staff to examine the purchasing practices, so she will not need to scrutinize such items. City Manager Melder stated he received the same letter, and steps will be taken to investigate the issue. He stated Item #14 was not a renewal, but a new Request For Proposal (RFP) with 4 option years. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter requested a report or information from the City Manager relating to contracts with the wording not to exceed or up to amounts. Mr. Melder indicated occasionally the amount is exceeded, and that is when an emergency contract is brought before Council.

Alderwoman Lanier had concerns with the scoring of Gunn-Meyerhoff-Shay and Sottile and Sottile, since the City has used both firms in the past. City Manager Melder indicated it goes back to the scope of the RFP.

Mayor Johnson indicated Council has spent too much time discussing the subject matter, and the agenda was distributed in enough time for Members to meet with and discuss any concerns with the City Manager.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan called for the vote.

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #14, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed , 5-3-1. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely, and Alderwoman Lanier voted no. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract to Purchase Furniture for City Hall with JSI Division of Jasper Seating in c/o Mason, Inc. in the Amount of \\$85,000. This contract will be used to acquire new furniture, fixtures, and equipment \(FF&E\) to renovate several conference rooms and offices, as well as create a new flex-space for visiting staff to use when at the facility. \(Real Estate Services\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - City Hall Furniture.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - City Hall Furniture.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked if Council approved any offices or conference rooms to be renovated at City Hall. City Manager Melder indicated this is a contract from a budgeted item to renovate City Hall. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked if this is the same as approved at the last Council Meeting for restoration. Mr. Melder indicated approval at the last Council Meeting was for restoration of the Rotunda, the Clerk's office, and Council Chambers. This is a different contract previously approved by Council as a budgeted item in the amount of \$250,000. This particular request is for renovations (sprucing up) mostly the 4th floor.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter had concerns for taxpayer dollars being used to refurbish City offices. City Manager Melder explained why the sprucing up is necessary, and stated taxpayer dollars are being used to maintain City Hall for staff and public use. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter discussed previous renovations in City Hall. She also indicated the first floor restrooms and staff break room should have been renovated, prior to the Mayor's office. She stated this is wasteful spending. City Manager Melder explained the need for having desirable work spaces for staff, visiting residents, and soft space for managers or directors to work. He further indicated the real estate department has a budget for city-wide building improvements that are approved by Council with the Budget. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter continued to express her concerns for the City's wasteful spending and not being transparent.

City Manager Melder responded to Alderwoman Gibson-Carter's concerns, and he stated adding items on the agenda is being transparent for residents and staff. He discussed the need to have Team Savannah working in desirable work spaces and placing items on the agenda to keep them informed.

Mayor Johnson informed Council that City Manager Melder is available to answer agenda questions prior to the meetings. The agenda packet is distributed to Council well in advance of the meeting for meetings to be held with the City Manager.

Alderman Palumbo indicated the importance of describing the conditions as they are. The 4th floor does need improvement.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely stated the Clerk's office has not been upgraded for decades and she asked when will renovations take place, since residents visit that office frequently. City Manager Melder indicated the Clerk's office will be done during the restoration and will be expanded, with some work being done during 2023.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely expressed concerns for the City spending funds for brick and mortar, but there is difficulty in getting a ball field updated. City Manager Melder explained more than \$4 million is designated to recreational facilities.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan called for the vote.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz thanked everyone for the restoration of Cann Park during 2023. She discussed City staff vacating the Savannah Morning News building on Chatham Parkway when City Manager Melder came and the numerous staff members who moved to the 4th floor. The space was not accommodating and as a result, the space needs to be reconfigured, add and replace furniture, and move staff to reasonable size working space. The sprucing up is much needed.

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #15, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed, 7-1-1. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter voted no. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Renewal with Health Plan, Inc. \(HPI\) to Provide Third Party Administration Services for the City of Savannah in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$337,000. The City of Savannah uses this contract to provide self-funded health plan third-party administration \(TPA\) services to include: medical claims processing, COBRA administration and other plan administration services.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Third Party Administration Services Renewal.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Third Party Administration Services Renewal.pdf](#)

Deputy City Attorney Jen Herman and Assistant City Attorney Denise Cooper were recognized by the Mayor and Aldermen/Alderwomen as they left Chambers and City Attorney Lovett Bates arrived to Chambers.

Alderwoman Lanier asked if agenda Item #16 pertains to insurance for employees. City Manager Melder answered, it is for the administration for portions of employee health plans. After research and interactions with staff, Alderwoman Lanier located a vendor that might be able to save the City money. She requested the City Manager to look into opportunities for savings using a particular vendor. City Manager Melder agreed to have staff investigate the opportunities for savings on health plans.

Alderwoman Lanier stated some Council Members receive the agenda a couple days before the meeting, reviewing the information and making notes, and sometimes meeting with the City Manager to discuss agenda items. Questions are asked in the meeting for the benefit of the residents for transparency purposes. These are questions being asked by residents who appreciate the open dialogue during the meetings. Residents feel they are more informed now than ever before because of the questions asked during Council Meetings. City Manager Melder thanked Alderwoman Lanier and stated he would answer any questions to the best of his ability.

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #16, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

#### SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION

[17. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 19 for the Fuel Storage Facility Expansion Project with AECOM, in the Amount of \\$138,048.](#)

HEARD after Item #30.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #17, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed 7-0-2. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz recused/abstained from voting, due to a business interest. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[18. Approval to Execute Final Summary Change Order No. 2 with Independence Excavating, Inc., for the Air Cargo Apron Project, in the Amount of \\$56,297.](#)

HEARD after Item #30.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #18 and #19, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[19. Approval to Procure Services from Eckard's Flooring Center to Replace the Carpet at the TSA Checkpoint, in the Amount of \\$27,680.](#)

HEARD after Item #30.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #18 and #19, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**RESOLUTIONS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)**[20. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premises Consumption on Sunday, December 25, 2022.](#)[Exhibit 1: Resolution - December 25 2022 Alcohol Sunday Sales.docx](#)

Alderman Lanier moved to approve Items #20 and #21, seconded by Alderman Miller Blakely and Alderman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[21. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for On-Premises Consumption on Sunday, December 31, 2023.](#)[Exhibit 1: Resolution - December 31 2023 Alcohol Sunday Sales.doc](#)

Alderman Lanier moved to approve Items #20 and #21, seconded by Alderman Miller Blakely and Alderman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**AGREEMENTS**[22. Approval of a Water & Sewer Agreement with Live Oak Landing II, LP for Live Oak Landing Phase Two. This is for a development consisting of one apartment building with 54 units in the President Street service area.](#)[Exhibit 1 : Water & Sewer Agreement - Live Oak Landing Phase Two.pdf](#)

Alderman Gibson-Carter asked if any units were set aside for workforce, affordable, or income based housing. City Manager Melder answered, he is not aware of any.

Alderman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #22, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed, 6-2-1. Alderman Gibson-Carter and Alderman Miller Blakely voted no. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**[23. Settlement #1.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #23 through #26, seconded by Alderman Wilder-Bryan.

Item #23, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve the claim of George Dailey (worker's compensation matter) in the amount of \$40,000.00. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1, with Alderman Purtee was absent.

[24. Settlement #2.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #23 through #26, seconded by Alderman Wilder-Bryan.

Item #24, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve the claim of Juanita Robinson (property damage matter) in the amount of \$33,577.22. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[25. Settlement #3.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #23 through #26, seconded by Alderman Wilder-Bryan.

Item #25, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve the claim of Samuel Somers (car wreck matter) in the amount of \$59,870.00. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[26. Settlement #4.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #23 through #26, seconded by Alderman Wilder-Bryan.

Item #26, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to authorize the City Attorney's office to resolve the class action claim represented by Von Tropp Animal Lodge (water and sewer tap in matter) in the amount of \$3,500,000.00. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

**MISCELLANEOUS**[27. Approval of the Installation of a Historical Marker on Public Property in Cann Park to Commemorate Robert Edward "Robbie" Robinson, a Savannah Civil Rights Leader, Attorney, and City Council Member \(1947-1989\).](#)[Exhibit 1: Signed Board Recommendation to City Council.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: HSMC Submittal Packet for Robbie Robinson Historical Marker.pdf](#)

Alderman Wilder-Bryan gave a brief background of Robert Edward Robinson and his violent death in Savannah. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz thanked Alderman Wilder-Bryan for her diligent work with the Sites & Monuments Commission and City staff in getting the historical marker in Cann Park.

She shared photographs with the public of Mr. Robinson during the civil rights movement. Mayor Johnson shared his relationship with Mr. Robinson, and the service the former Alderman and Attorney gave to the residents of Savannah.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #27, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[28. Approval of the Installation of a Bronze Name Plaque on the Haitian Monument in Franklin Square Identifying James Mastin as the Sculptor.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Signed Board Recommendation to City Council.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: HSMC Submittal Packet for Haitian Monument Plaque.pdf](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #28, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

[29. Approval of Local Option Sales Tax \(LOST\) Agreement.](#)

[Exhibit 1: 2022 LOST Certification of Distribution Agreement.docx](#)

Mayor Johnson briefed the Council on the Chatham County Meeting held last Friday for LOST negotiations. City Manager Melder represented Savannah and the other seven cities (Pooler, Port Wentworth, Garden City, Vernonburg, Bloomingdale, Tybee Island, and Thunderbolt) during the negotiations. Mayor Johnson thanked City Manager Melder for his professionalism and dignity during those negotiations.

City Manager Melder presented the County's offer. This is the first step in the LOST Agreement, followed by the municipalities having to agree on their distributions/split.

Pooler, Port Wentworth, Garden City and Vernonburg have voted to accept the County's offer. Bloomingdale and Tybee Island will meet tomorrow to vote on the offer and City of Thunderbolt will schedule a Council Meeting prior to December 31, 2022.

City Manager Melder recommended Council vote to approve the LOST allocations. The allocations will not require Council to revise the FY2023 Budget or the budgeted millage rate of 12.2%. The allocations are as follows:

YEAR	COUNTY SHARE	MUNICIPAL SHARE
2023	25%	75%
2024	26%	74%
2025	28%	72%
2026	31%	69%
2027	31%	69%
2028	31%	69%
2029	31%	69%
2030	31%	69%
2031	31%	69%
2032	31%	69%

Alderwoman Miller Blakely moved to approve Item #29 as recommended by the City Manager in terms of the distribution percentages, and to authorize the City Manager to make any necessary narrative changes, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Lanier and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously, 8-0-1. Alderman Purtee was absent.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter and Alderwoman Lanier verified the allocation percentages with City Manager Melder. Mr. Melder confirmed the percentages.

[30. Item Added on 12/16: Recognition of Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd for Receiving the "2022 I Am Tourism Award" Presented by the Tourism Leadership Council. This award is one of the highest honors given to someone who embodies the spirit of tourism and promotes the "Hostess City of the South" mantra.](#)



HEARD after Item #5.

Mayor Johnson and City Manager Melder recognized Assistant City Manager Health Lloyd for receiving the 2022 I Am Tourism Award. Mr. Melder shared background information on Mr. Lloyd including his outstanding educational accomplishments and his professional career. City Manager Melder described the incident Mr. Lloyd led, he was the driving force on stabilizing a retaining wall (across the river) that started to fall. Mr. Lloyd took necessary steps to stabilize the wall until permanent repairs were made.

Assistant City Manager Lloyd thanked the City for the honor and recognized his team for their unwavering service to the City.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

On behalf of Alderman Purtee, Mayor Johnson announced the Crusader's Christmas Parking Lot Party at 81 Coffee Bluff Villa Road on December 21, 2022, from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Alderman Purtee will make an appearance as Santa Claus.

Alderman Leggett announced Wreaths on Lamp Posts through the downtown corridors. He thanked City Manager Melder, Director of Special Events, Film & Tourism Susan Broker, and Park & Tree Director Gordon Denney and other team members for their work on getting the Wreaths throughout all the Districts.

Alderwoman Lanier asked City Manager Melder to announce the Holiday Schedule.

- Friday, December 23, 2022 - City Office Closed
- Monday, December 26, 2022 - City Office Closed
- Monday, January 2, 2023 - City Office Closed
- Sanitation schedules will be sent to residents. Fire and Police will be fully staffed during the Holiday season.
- Very cold temperatures are expected starting Friday, December 23rd through the Christmas Holiday. There will be housing available for those without living quarters, during the extreme cold temperatures.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely wished all citizens a Merry, Merry Christmas. She announced the play, Antigone, at First African Baptist Church, Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 5:15pm, open and free to the public.

Alderman Palumbo wished all a very Happy Hanukkah.

Mayor Johnson announced this is the third day of Hanukkah. He along with, Alderman Leggett and City Manager Melder lit the first candle on the Menorah at Forsyth Park. The Counsel General of Israel was in town yesterday and toured City Hall and visited Forsyth Park.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan thanked Neighborhood Services, Chief Taffanye Young and Mr. Ledbetter of Leisure Services, for Recreation Re-imagined. The program is doing amazing things; flash pad, golf, Bacon Park and Moses Jackson facilities with activities for resident youth.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz announced the opening ceremonies for the unnamed square at 4:00pm, Wednesday, December 21, 2022, then proceeding to a play, Antigone.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter announced the hosting of the 3rd Annual Kwanza Krawl happening nightly beginning at 7:00pm, the schedule will be published on the City of Savannah web site. She invited all of Savannah to participate.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 4:45 p.m.

A video recording of the Regular Meeting can be found by copying and inserting the link below in your url:

<https://savannahgovtv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=zujbQj8oelfp>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

**Date Minutes Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

