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**DECEMBER 21, 2021, 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 2:00 p.m. Mayor Johnson recognized Alderman Linda Wilder-Bryan who introduced Alderman Kurtis Purtee, to offer the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding

Alderman Keshia Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1, Chairman

Alderman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2

Alderman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1

Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2

Alderman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3

Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice-Chairman

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

Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

ALSO, PRESENT:

City Manager Joseph A. Melder

Chief of Staff Daphanie Williams

City Attorney Bates Lovett

Clerk of Council Mark Massey

Deputy Clerk of Council Margaret Fox

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

[1. Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, December 21, 2021.](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to adopt/approve the agenda as amended to add Agenda Item #34, a Resolution honoring the life of Apostle Dr. Idell Williams Cheever, Beloved Founder of Pentecostal Miracle Deliverance Center, seconded by Alderman Lanier and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[2. Approval of the Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing held on December 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

[Agenda Plus WS DRAFT MINUTES December 09, 2021 City Council Workshop.pdf](#)

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

[3. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on December 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.](#)[Agenda Plus\\_RM DRAFT MINUTES\\_December 09, 2021 City Council Regular Meeting.pdf](#)

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

**PRESENTATIONS**[4. Appearance and Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Stephan Bolton, Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander, and Master Sergeant Nicole Brannan, Department of Emergency Services in Support of National Wreaths Across America Day.](#)

PRESENTED to Council by Lieutenant Colonel Bolton and Master Sergeant Brannan, a Wreath to be displayed in City Hall in support of National Wreaths Across America Day.

[5. Appearance by Ductile Iron Pipe Research Institute \(DIPRA\) Representatives to Present a Certificate of Membership in the Sesquicentennial Club to the City of Savannah's Public Works and Water Resources Division for Having Cast Iron Underground Pressure Mains in Continuous Service for 150 Years or More.](#)

PRESENTED by Allen Cox, Regional Director at Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association. Assistant City Manager Lloyd gave a brief explanation of the importance of infrastructure in a municipality. Mr. Lloyd asked each staff member of the Public Works & Water Resources Division to introduce themselves; Director of Engineering & Planning Jim Laplander, Superintendent of Operations for Water Distribution Andrew Collins, Instructor Inspector Robert Plaster; Supervisor for Water Distribution Darren Lewis; and Customer Service for Water Distribution Lakeyneshia Cobbs.

[6. A Proclamation Recognizing Real Estate Services Department Staff for Contributions Made During the Period of Staff Relocations and Real Property Transitions as well as for their Commitment to Provide Healthy, Safe, and Accommodating Facilities for Staff, Citizens, and Visitors.](#)

READ and PRESENTED by Mayor Johnson and RECEIVED by Director David Keating and staff. Mr. Keating thanked Council for the recognition and proclamation then introduced Property Acquisition Disposition & Management Director Eric Chin and Facilities Maintenance Interim Director Richard Gerbasi who thanked Council for the recognition and introduced their respective staff members.

**ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS - (CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)**[7. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to James C. Oblatz for the Enmarket Arena, 620 Stiles Avenue Between W. Winnett Street and Louisville Road in District 1. No concerns by the Savannah Police Department or issues with littering or loitering. Distance measurement met. \(New Owner/Location\)](#)[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Enmarket Arena20211217\\_08203861.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Enmarket Arena20211217\\_08212454.pdf](#)[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Enmarket Arena20211217\\_08222235.pdf](#)[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Enmarket Arena20211217\\_08242131.pdf](#)[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Enmarket Arena20211217\\_08254404.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings for Items #7, #8 and #9 open.

**Speaker(s) present:**

- Chris Fields, General Manager at Enmarket Arena for Delaware North, representing the applicant.
- Judee Jones, Revenue Manager.

**a.** Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the hearings for Items #7, #8 and #9, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

**b.** Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #7, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

Since it's the end of the year, Mayor Johnson asked if the applicant will reapply in January, 2022 for next year's alcohol license. Revenue Manager Judee Jones stated the applicant has completed the alcohol application for 2022 and it is currently being processed.

[8. Approval of a Class J \(Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License to Jennifer Jenkins for Gingerbread House Events, an Event Venue at 1921 Bull Street, between W. 35th and W. 36th Streets in District 2. No concerns were noted by the Savannah Police Department or issues with littering or loitering. Distance measurement met. \(New Owner/Request\)](#)[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Gingerbread House Event20211217\\_08265868.pdf](#)[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Gingerbread House Event20211217\\_08274253.pdf](#)[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Gingerbread House Event20211217\\_08284160.pdf](#)[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Gingerbread House Event20211217\\_08293160.pdf](#)[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Gingerbread House Event20211217\\_08303378.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings for Items #7, #8 and #9 open.

**No speaker(s) were present.****Written comment(s) received:**

- Jason Combs – IN FAVOR

**a.** Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the hearings for Items #7, #8 and #9, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #8, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[9. Approval of a Class C \(Liquor, Beer, Wine\)\(By the Drink\) Alcohol License with Sunday Sales to Loan Tran of Arco, a Restaurant at 42 E. Bay Street, Between Upper Factors Walk and River Street Access in District 2. No concerns were noted by the Savannah Police Department or issues with littering or loitering. Distance measurement met. \(New Owner/New Location\).\(Recommend approval with contingency\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Checklist - Arco20211217\\_08153016.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2: Density Map - Arco20211217\\_08171165.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 3: Alcohol Reports - Arco20211217\\_08184899.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 4: Measurement Report - Arco20211217\\_08194702.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 5: Security Plan - Arco20211217\\_08310470.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the public hearings for Items #7, #8 and #9 open.

**No speaker(s) were present.**

**a.** Alderwoman Lanier moved to close the hearings for Items #7, #8 and #9, seconded by Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to approve Item #9, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderwoman Miller Blakely. The motion passed unanimously.

**ZONING HEARINGS**

[10. Petition of Sandesh Pardeshi on behalf of Qingxiang Zhou \(Property Owner\) for a Special Use Permit to Allow a Package Store \(Off-premises Consumption\) at 2110 Montgomery Street, Suite A \(PIN 20065 24012\) in Aldermanic District 2. MPC recommends denial because the proposed use is not harmonious with regards to the amount of packaged alcohol and drinking establishments located within the area.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for 2110 Montgomery Street \(File No. 21-005177-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps of 2110 Montgomery Street](#)

[Exhibit 3: Photos of 2110 Montgomery Street](#)

[Exhibit 4: Alcohol Density Map for 2100 Montgomery Street](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing for Item #10 open.

**Speaker(s) present:**

- Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative

Council Members and Mr. Lotson discussed the specific location of the establishment and the location as it relates to the nearest church.

**a.** Alderman Leggett moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #10, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion was passed unanimously.

**b.** Alderman Leggett moved to deny the special use permit for Item #10, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz. The motion to deny passed unanimously. (DENIED).

[11. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Victory Drive Investors, LLC \(Property Owner\) for a Zoning Map Amendment with Conditions for Wicklow Street from B-C \(Community Business\) and RSF-E \(Residential Single Family-Estate\) to RMF-3-25 \(Residential Multi-Family-3-25\) in Aldermanic District 3. MPC recommends approval with conditions.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Wicklow Street \(File No. 21-004883-ZA\)](#)

[Exhibit 2: Maps of Wicklow Area](#)

[Exhibit 3: Rendering of Wicklow as of 11-09-2021](#)

[Exhibit 4: Sections of Wicklow as of 11-09-2021](#)

[Exhibit 5: Street Photos Wicklow Dixie and Perry](#)

[Exhibit 6: Traffic Impact Analysis 2021](#)

[Exhibit 7: Draft Ordinance for Wicklow \(File No. 21-004883-ZA\)](#)

Mayor Johnson declared the zoning hearing for Item #11 open.

**Speaker(s) present:**

- Marcus Lotson, MPC Representative
- Harold Yellin, representing the applicant
- Patricia Hoang – OPPOSED
- Michael Hough – IN FAVOR
- Mary Landers – OPPOSED
- Robin Williams – OPPOSED
- Stewart Dohrman – OPPOSED

**Written comment(s) received:**

- Scott W. Smith – OPPOSED

- Mary Landers – OPPOSED
- Patricia & Viet Hoang – OPPOSED
- Eileen Baker – OPPOSED
- Stewart Dohrman – OPPOSED
- Tammy Horn - OPPOSED

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to close the zoning hearing for Item #11, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

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

[12. Petition of Harold Yellin on Behalf of Victory Drive Investors, LLC \(Property Owner\) for a Zoning Map Amendment with Conditions for Wicklow Street from B-C \(Community Business\) and RSF-E \(Residential Single Family-Estate\) to RMF-3-25 \(Residential Multi-Family-3-25\) in Aldermanic District 3. MPC recommends approval with conditions.](#)

[Exhibit 1: MPC Recommendation Packet for Wicklow Street \(File No. 21-004883-ZA\)](#)

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[Exhibit 5: Street Photos Wicklow Dixie and Perry](#)

[Exhibit 6: Traffic Impact Analysis 2021](#)

[Exhibit 7: Draft Ordinance for Wicklow \(File No. 21-004883\)](#)

Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan stated she has conducted a full due diligence study and would like to move forward today with Council voting with MPC recommendations. She met with the developers, walked the neighborhood and met with residents who are in agreement with the project.

Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter stated there are additional residents who wanted to speak today that are opposed to Item #12, but were unable to attend the meeting due to holiday travel. They have sent written comments to Clerk of Council. She recommended continuing Item #12. She discussed market rate versus affordable housing with Attorney Harold Yellin as it relates to the project and the community, adding a comment that Mr. Warlaw contributed to Mayor Johnson's campaign.

Alderman Palumbo indicated he is very familiar with the community. He explained the area and proper usage of property therein, and he is of the opinion that housing will enhance the community and is a proper use of the acreage.

Aldерwoman Lanier asked which street will be a City right-of-way and where will the four story multi-family homes be placed, Mr. Lotson identified the locations of the multi-family homes for Aldерwoman Lanier. As an important step in housing development within the City, Aldерwoman Lanier recommended/suggested community residents meet and discuss new development and community benefits with developers, prior to any zoning changes or presentations before Council.

Aldерwoman Miller Blakely asked Mr. Lotson questions relating to dumping on the site, location as it relates to the Salvation Army project and if the City owns any property in close proximity. Mr. Lotson answered all questions and indicated the City owned property adjacent to this area. Aldерwoman Miller Blakely recommended delaying Item #12, so residents and the petitioner can meet to produce a more viable plan suitable for all parties concerned.

Mayor Johnson asked Attorney Yellin if the plans submitted by Mr. Dohrman were reviewed and a response given. Following a meeting last week, the plans were sent to the developer. Attorney Yellin stated the plans submitted don't work due to set-backs, flood zone and underground utility requirements, and the placement of the buildings. The plans are still with the developer. Mayor Johnson indicated, Mr. Dohrman was entitled to an answer to his questions from the developer, which shows due diligence was followed during the entire process.

Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter asked City Manager Melder if the City owned property adjacent to the project has any development plans. The City's property is not part of the project and Mr. Melder will have staff investigate any existing projects for the property. She asked Mr. Lotson the process for citizens to petition MPC for rezoning outside of a development opportunity. To rezone property, 1) the request must be made by the property owner; and 2) the Council can direct the City Manager to rezone a property.

City Manager Melder recommended approval with conditions, including MPC. There are no issues from staff. Aldерwoman Miller Blakely asked if affordable housing could be put on the City owned property. City Manager Melder will provide Council with a listing of all City owned property and its uses, which includes affordable housing.

After the first reading was considered the second reading and a request that an ordinance be placed and passed upon its adoption, Aldерwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #12 with conditions as noted by the City Manager, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed, 7-2-0. Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter and Aldерwoman Miller Blakely voted no.

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

[13. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for the Purchase of One Additional Modular Wall System from National Office Systems \(Local\) in the Amount of \\$6,413. The modular walls are being used to create offices for the relocation of the Human Services Department from the Savannah Morning News Building \(1375 Chatham Parkway\) to the Coastal Georgia Center \(305 Fahm Street\).](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Modular Wall](#)

[Exhibit 2 - Purchasing Notes - Modular Wall.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[14. Notification of an Emergency Purchase for Boiler Repair Services with Banks Boiler Services at the Savannah Civic Center in the Amount of \\$65,081. Boiler defects were discovered during a routine annual inspection of the facility's heating system. Immediate repair was necessary to prevent mold damage to the property and to protect the health of City staff and guests.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Boiler Repair Emergency Purchase](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Boiler Repair Emergency Purchase](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[15. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Three Dump Trucks for Sanitation's Litter Crew with Wade Ford, Inc. in the Amount of \\$303,390. The litter crews will assist Sanitation with meeting the growing service demands associated with emptying litter and recycling baskets, removing loose litter from streets and byways, and maintaining a clean appearance of the City.](#)

[Exhibit 1- Funding Verification - Litter Crew Trucks.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2- Purchasing Notes - Litter Crew Trucks.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[16. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of 29 Replacement Radios for the Savannah Police Department with Motorola Solutions in the Amount of \\$179,874. The radios are being purchased to replace existing equipment that is aging and out of production.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Motorola Radios for Police](#)

[Exhibit 2- Purchasing Notes - Radios for Police.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[17. Authorize the City Manager To Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Wastewater Screening Equipment with Parkson in the Amount of \\$130,000. The equipment will be used to remove floating debris particles during the downstream wastewater treatment process at the Crossroads Treatment Facility. Clogged debris, could cause equipment failure and result in a potential sewage spill from the facility.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Screen Subassemblies](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - Screen Subassemblies](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[18. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of an Emergency Backup Power Generator for Lift Station 205 with Cummins Power South in the Amount of \\$29,233. Lift Station 205 services 2,500 feet of gravity main along Fort Argyle Road. The equipment will be used to replace an existing generator that suffered significant damage due to a lightning strike, which is now beyond repair](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Generator Replacement](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - Generator Replacement](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[19. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Renewal for Scrap Tire Disposal Services with Quality Tire Recycling, Inc. for up to \\$55,000. The contract is used to dispose of scrap tires for the Dean Forest Road Landfill, Bacon Park Convenience Center, and Fleet Services Department. In addition, this contract supports the operations for the removal illegally dumped tires.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Tire Disposal](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Tire Disposal](#)

Council Members and City Manager Melder discussed the local problems with tire dumping within the City. Cameras were installed to capture illegal dumping in various areas of the City. Calls are made to 311 to report illegal tire dumping and specific drop-off locations exist throughout the City for disposing of old tires. Sanitation Director Gene Prevatt described the tire collection program for City residents which included collections at residential homes.

Alderman Palumbo moved to approve Item #19, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed unanimously.

[20. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for the Purchase of Additional Smallwares \(Cooking, Serving and Eating Utensils\) for the Enmarket Arena with Bargreen Ellingson in the Amount of \\$51,518. This modification is necessary to procure chafer dishes, which were not included in the original procurement. \(Expenditure included in project budget\)](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Smallwares](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Notes - Smallwares](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22,

#24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[21. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 4 for HVAC Maintenance Services \(City-Wide\) with Edge Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, LLC in the Amount of \\$117,000. This contract provides service for emergency repairs to all HVAC systems, chiller systems, ice machines, and commercial refrigerators in City facilities.](#)

[Exhibit 1-Funding Verification- Citywide HVAC.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2- Purchasing Notes - Citywide HVAC.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[22. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss with International Assurance of Tennessee, Inc. \(Incumbent\) in the Amount of \\$841,141. This contract is used by the City to provide for catastrophic claims reinsurance coverage for the City's self-funded medical and pharmacy plans. \(Monthly rates: \\$19.34/single coverage, and \\$46.36/family coverage\)](#)

[Exhibit 1- Funding Verification - Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss.pdf](#)

[Exhibit 2- Purchasing Notes - Medical and Pharmacy Stop Loss.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[23. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Modification No. 1 for Painting Services with E & D Coatings, Inc. \(Local\) in the Amount of \\$2,050. Services will be used to paint the interior of the City facility, located at 5515 Abercorn Street, prior to the relocation of City staff to this location.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Painting Services](#)

[Exhibit 2: Purchasing Note - Painting Services](#)

City Manager Melder explained this was a previously approved item by Council, but there was an additional \$2,050 expense bringing the total to 37,050.

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Item #23, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion was passed unanimously.

[24. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Internet Equipment \(Includes Servers, Routers, Switches and Cabling\) for the Enmarket Arena from Comcast \(Local\) in the Amount of \\$229,210. This will ensure elevators, escalators, and fire alarms are working properly to ensure that all occupants of the arena are safe, and all equipment is working properly before and during use.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Comcast](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[25. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Upgrades to Lift Station No. 23 and Force Main Replacement Services from Astra Grading & Pipe, LLC \(Local\) in the Amount of \\$19,273,000. Upgrades include a new pump, wet well mixers, and new generators capable of powering lift station pumps. Also, the existing force main is 48 years old, in poor condition and in need of replacement.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Funding Verification - Lift Station 23](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #20, #21, #22, #24 and #25, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

[26. Consideration of Appointments and Reappointments to Various Boards, Commissions and Authorities.](#)

[UPDATED Available Appointments to Boards-2021-December 31, 2021 Nominations from 12-17.pdf](#)

Mayor Johnson read the appointments and reappointments of individuals considered for various Boards, Commissions and Authorities by Council at a Special Called Meeting held on December 17, 2021. A listing of appointments and reappointments were made available by the Clerk of Council office.

**a.** Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve the list of appointments and reappointments as read by Mayor Johnson, excluding the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA), seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

**b.** Alderman Palumbo moved to appoint Scott Center to the SEDA Board replacing Reed Dulany, III for a five-year term ending December 31, 2026, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Purtee. The motion passed, 5-4-0. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voted no.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter expressed concern for the appointment to the Land Bank Authority as it might be a conflict of interest for an employee to serve. City Attorney Lovett opined that the appointment of a staff member would not be a conflict of interest as the County has staff representation, therefore the City should have staff representation as well.

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

[27. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contracts with Homeless Service Agencies to Respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic \(COVID-19\). \\$1,454,103 will be allocated to six agencies to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on homeless individuals and families.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Resolution for ESG-CV #2 Contracts.docx](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #27 and #28, seconded by Alderman Leggett

and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[28. Approval to Adopt the 100% Savannah Clean Energy Plan](#)

[100% Savannah Report FINAL 12.16.2021.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #27 and #28, seconded by Alderman Leggett and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

[29. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Prepare an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance](#)

[Inclusionary Zoning Resolution](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #29, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz and Alderman Leggett. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGREEMENTS**

[30. Approval for the City Manager to Accept a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Adult and Dislocated Worker Grant Award in the Amount of \\$1,976,003. The award will be used to provide programs from October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 to adults who are unemployed or underemployed, and adults who have lost their jobs. The City serves as the fiduciary agent for the ten-county region.](#)

[FY 22 Adult Statement of Award.pdf](#)

[FY22 DW Statement of Award.pdf](#)

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

[31. Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County for the Development of an Early Childhood Learning Center to be Located at 814 Hitch Drive.](#)

[Exhibit 1: Agreement - Early Childhood Learning Center.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #31, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

[32. Approval for the City Manager to Execute a Concessions Rent Relief Airport Rescue Grant Offer for the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport](#)

[Exhibit 1: Agreement - Airport Rescue Grant.pdf](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #32, seconded by Alderman Leggett, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan and Alderman Palumbo. The motion passed unanimously.

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

[33. Consideration of Alderman Palumbo's December 9th, 2021 Motion for Reprimand](#)

HEARD after Item #34.

Mayor Johnson gave a brief background of events of the December 9th Meeting. After Mayor Johnson reviewed the video and he concluded Alderman Palumbo was called an inappropriate name.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked for the procedure for reprimand and the difference between a reprimand and censure. Mayor Johnson explained a reprimand states behavior is not appropriate, it is offered by a motion and a second, then a Council vote. Attorney Lovett agreed with Mayor Johnson's reprimand and explained a censure is a more formal process by which a Member of Council is silenced.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter stated the reprimand is the lowest form of punishment for an action. She has not been formally presented with an action against her. Since due process was not afforded to her in a formal process, the action should be null and void. She cited the many problems facing the City, i.e. crime, homelessness, affordable housing issues, etc. and stated the Council should spend time solving those issues.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan raised a point of order, Mayor Johnson acknowledged the point of order taken. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter continued to discuss issues facing the City and stated she wanted to ask a question, since the topic of interest was her.

Alderman Purtee raised a point of order, Mayor Johnson acknowledged the point of order taken. Mayor Johnson consented to Alderwoman Gibson-Carter posing her question. She asked Attorney Lovett, in his opinion and acknowledgements before a witness, has he characterized these consistent behaviors as attacks against her person. She stated she should have been afforded a process, given the accusation was made in a public format. She stated she wanted to know what she was being accused of saying.

Mayor Johnson stated on public record, he along with several other individuals heard the statement. It was contained in the official minutes of Council. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter called Alderman Palumbo a racist. At the point the statement was made, Mayor Johnson indicated he afforded Alderwoman Gibson-Carter an opportunity to state if she made the comment and she refused to

answer. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked Mayor Johnson to afford her the opportunity to serve the citizens of Savannah that are homeless, the citizens that are losing their children to the streets, and to be a Mayor of the people and not the establishment.

Point of order was raised by Mayor Johnson and Alderman Palumbo, point of order was taken.

Mayor Johnson called for the vote. Alderwoman Miller Blakely stated she had a question. Alderman Purtee called for the question.

Since other Council Members on the Dias heard the statement, Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked why she was not afforded the opportunity to hear what was said. Mayor Johnson asked Clerk of Council Massey if he had the record from the December 9th meeting. The Minutes have a record of the incident. Dialogue continued between Mayor Johnson and Alderwoman Gibson-Carter.

As the victim, Alderman Palumbo stated Alderwoman Gibson-Carter called him a racist twice during the meeting. He is sure because he wears a hearing aid and could hear both instances; however, only one instance was recorded on video. He asked and was provided a transcript of the incident which he will provide to all Council Members.

Mayor Johnson asked Attorney Lovett if Council proceeded appropriately. Attorney Lovett answered yes. Mayor Johnson, speaking to Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, stated the issue is behavior, and her behavior was and is inappropriate. Council and staff should be treated with respect and her behavior should reflect respect at all times.

Point of order was called by various Members of Council, point of order was taken.

Alderman Purtee called for a board vote.

**a.** Alderman Palumbo moved to reprimand Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, seconded by Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan, Alderman Purtee and Alderwoman Gibson-Carter. The motion passed, 6-3-0. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier voted no.

**b.** As the year 2022 marks the half-way point for this administration, Alderman Purtee moved to evaluate the Council offices at the next Council Meeting in January, seconded by Alderman Palumbo. The motion was not carried. Mayor Johnson stated the motion will be taken under advisement.

Mayor Johnson indicated there will be a visioning session during the first part of 2022 and Alderman Purtee can include his request at that time.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked for clarity from City Attorney Lovett on Alderwoman Gibson-Carter's statement that Council was antagonizing and or being confrontational with her. City Attorney Lovett would not comment on any personal conversations held with Council Members in a public forum. Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan stated, if that is the case, then there is a conflict. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked the City Attorney about various personal allegations against Members, including calling someone a racist. She then asked Alderman Palumbo if he was a racist. Mayor Johnson asked Alderwoman Gibson-Carter to direct her questions to the Chair, and he moved on.

### **ADD:**

[34. A Resolution honoring the life of Apostle Dr. Idell Williams Cheever, Beloved Founder of Pentecostal Miracle Deliverance Center.](#)

HEARD after Item #6.

Mayor and Council sent condolences to the family of Apostel Dr. Idell Williams Cheever. Staff will prepare and Council will present the Resolution to Apostel Dr. Cheever's family at the services (to be determined).

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve the Resolution honoring the life of Apostel Dr. Idell Williams Cheever, seconded by Alderwoman Miller Blakely, Alderman Leggett and Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Council Members wished staff and residents a happy holiday season including various scriptures of encouragement for peace, unity and love.

Other comments and announcements:



Alderman Purtee, Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter, Alderwoman Miller Blakely and Alderwoman Lanier attended the Gullah Geechee Heritage Center on the Southside at Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus, an awesome piece of history for this area. Alderman Purtee thanked Dr. Maxine Bryant, Pat Gunn and Provost Dr. Carl L. Reiber from Georgia Southern University for the Center. He is asking everyone to remember those individuals working to protect us, as we celebrate the holidays.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely reminded all to be safe, mask-up and pay attention because the COVID virus is still prevalent.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter announced and invited all citizens to the 2nd Annual Kwanza Krawl, December 26th through January 1st, with the main event on January 2nd. Information is posted on the City's web page.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan announced Aldermen/Alderwomen from the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Districts will be in front of Leopold's ringing the Salvation Army bell. On Friday there will be caroling throughout all the districts on the Trolley.

Alderwoman Lanier wished all households safety, and she sent condolences to all families who have lost loved ones.

Mayor Johnson thanked staff, residents and asked all to stay strong.

City Manager Melder announced the City offices will be closed Friday, December 24th and Monday, December 27th in observance of Christmas, and Monday January 3, 2022 for New Year's.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:07 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=hbeef7dnJAB4>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

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

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

