



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 2, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Aldерwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, Post 1, Chairman
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Aldерman Detric Leggett, District 2
Aldermen Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Aldерman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice Chairman
Aldерwoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
Aldерman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Patrick C. Monahan
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Assistant City Manager Health Lloyd
Deputy Assistant to the Mayor Marty Johnston
Director of Public Communications Nick Zoller
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

The Special Called Meeting was held at 3:00 p.m. via a Conference Call (1-425-436-6365=Access Code 109735). The invocation was offered by Alderman Purtee.

Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:

Mayor Johnson gave an update of the coronavirus in the coastal area. He thanked all staff for monitoring and dispensing crowds around the City. He reported the City Manager is currently working on the budget to remain fiscally responsible through the pandemic.

City Manager Monahan gave an update for residents use of local parks. The City is continuing to issue code violation citations for social distancing violations.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – while driving around the City last evening, she spotted a large sign that read “HOPE”. She admonished all to be hopeful during this pandemic. She commended Mayor Johnson on his Tuesday’s Press Conference to the public to take this virus serious.
- Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter – continued concern for the sanitation workers and made a proposal to offer some type of hazard pay to the sanitation workers. She is concerned with the submission of the request to the State for the reallocation of the SPLOST VII dollars. Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter further discussed the seriousness of this situation among the youth, the homeless, the elderly, domestic violence victims, the health care industry being monitored, and working staff. She



SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
Summary/Final Minutes
Special Called Meeting
APRIL 2, 2020

expressed concern for the citizens conserving usage of utilities and water during this time.

- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – asked if the City has received any updated reports from the high-rise buildings and shelters for the homeless. She did a drive-by at one of the parks and witnessed citizens not observing social distancing. She commended Chief Minter and his staff on breaking up a barbeque yesterday. The schools are giving out laptops to the students, and parents have until tomorrow to pick-one up. She requested Mayor Johnson to give the curfew for the local youth.
- Alderwoman Lanier – would like to receive a copy of the letter of inquiry that Mayor Johnson is creating tomorrow as it relates to the re-appropriation of SPLOST VII funds. She asked how the sanitation rescheduling will impact the services for citizens and the working staff. She is concerned with the City spending and happy to know the City Manager's office is working on a financial plan. She shared, in detail, a case of the coronavirus in District 1 and how it has effected an entire family.
- Alderman Leggett – thanked the Police Chief, Mayor Johnson and staff for taking care of the situation on Bolton Street yesterday by enforcing the social distancing order. He shared a situation with a vacationer renting a home in Savannah and was refused a refund. He reported that the gambling establishments are not adhering to social distancing.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – concerned with the Farmer's Market opening this weekend and police monitoring the parks. She commended East Side Police responders who acted very quickly on Pennsylvania Avenue where an incident happened with two suspects who robbed an establishment.
- Alderman Palumbo – asked about the sanitation reschedule, and expressed his concern with the City informing the public as to why the change in schedule. He encouraged residents to stay at home, garden and enjoy your families.
- Alderman Purtee – at the Town Hall meeting on yesterday, approximately two hundred residents participated and asked questions. He admonished all to adhere to the social distancing order.
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – the report the City Manager sent to Council in January relating to SPLOST did not include any dollar amounts. She requested the City Manager to resend the reports showing dollar amounts.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – suggested the City Manager send the Council an updated SPLOST report with dollar amounts included.
- Alderwoman Gipson-Carter – asked Mayor Johnson if the letter he is sending is asking State Representative Gordon for clarification of what she asked the City to request in regards to revenue from SPLOST VII dollars.



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
Summary/Final Minutes
Special Called Meeting
APRIL 2, 2020**

- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – asked concerning staff working from home and if staff working in the Recreation Department is required to go to work if the parks are closed.
- Alderwoman Lanier – reported that the SBA will start accepting applications for loans on tomorrow (Friday, April 3rd). She encouraged non-profits and small businesses to apply, as the term are very attractive.
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – inquired if the SPLOST VII funds have interest earnings, if so, could the City use that money for City expenses?

Closing:

Mayor Johnson informed Council that the next meeting will be on Monday, April 6th at 3:00 p.m.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____