



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 20, 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
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

The Special Called Meeting was held at 3:01 p.m. via **ZOOM video**. The invocation was offered by Aldерwoman Miller Blakely followed by the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.

Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:

Mayor Johnson gave an update of the coronavirus in the coastal Georgia area. He informed everyone that the Governor of Georgia will have a press conference today at 4:00 p.m. for a State status update of the virus.

City Manager Monahan gave an update on staff and the status of the supplies for employees.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – reported that the City of Augusta is in the process of implementing a program to use a local hotel (The Doubletree by Hilton on Perimeter Parkway) within the City to house the homeless. She spoke to the Housing and Development Department in Augusta and congratulated the Director on the innovative way the City is handling the homeless during the pandemic. She asked the City Manager to stay in contact with the City of Augusta for updates on that program.
- Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter – asked the City Manager for an update on the locations of wedding venues in the City and how they can reschedule on Sundays with alcohol service. She asked if the sales tax for bar owners could be prorated for the month of March since they were only open the first part of the month of March. She reported that the City of Albany, Georgia received three million dollars



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from the CARES Act grant monies and asked how the City of Savannah could receive the CARES Act grant funding and other grant opportunities.

- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – she reinforced to the public that COVID-19 is real and serious, and the citizens should practice social distancing. She thanked the City Manager for responding to Ms. Sander’s request.
- Alderwoman Lanier – reported one of her neighbors/coworker is in critical conditions with the virus and asked for prayers for him. She is concerned with how testing can be more readily available to the public.
- Alderman Leggett – concerned that the government is under reporting on the virus cases and the public’s continued socializing despite the social distancing order. He would like the police to be more proactive in disbursing crowds/groups/parties.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – concerned with citizen’s inability to apply on-line for unemployment benefits. She requested the staff to republish the link for citizens to get their individual stimulus checks.
- Alderman Palumbo – he believes social distancing is working and the testing is working. He reported that on April 27th – dry trash and yard waste will return for one (1) week only at no additional cost to the tax payers.
- Alderman Purtee – he is directing citizens with questions to the City web page and 311.

Closing:

Mayor Johnson announced the next meeting will be a Work Session at 4:30 p.m. this Thursday, April 23rd, followed by the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom Video.

Mayor Johnson encouraged all to continue to exercise social distancing.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:38 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=OL0c3dq1bCbQ>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____



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