



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
March 19, 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
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 3:14 p.m. via a Conference Call (1-425-436-6365=Access Code 109735). The invocation was offered by Alderman Leggett.

Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:

Mayor Johnson gave an update on the activity surrounding the coronavirus pandemic including number of cases and deaths in the State of Georgia. There is a hotline available for further information (1-844-442-2681 – State of Georgia Hotline) and cdc.gov has updated information.

The City Manager has notified department heads of any changes to operations within the City. He gave information on the first drive-thru testing in the area and an update on food drives, water for drinking and washing hands at homeless camps, and staff will be offered safety items for their protection.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – thanked the Mayor for information and reported calls in her District in relations to the National State of Emergency and how Savannah should take this pandemic more seriously. The residents want to know if the City will be closing. Thanked all the staff continuing to service the public. Encouraged to public to contact their District Aldermen if they have any questions.
- Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter – concerned with City staff in contact with the public and their safety. Staff should have hand sanitizers, gloves and mask for maximum protection. She has received offers of bath tissues and masks donations and would like to know where to send them. Would like Mayor Johnson to address the short-term rentals. Asked the City Manager to appointment personnel to assist those individuals who will apply for a Small Business Loan.



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- Alderman Palumbo – commended the staff on protection efforts. Reported that Georgia has received Small Business Emergency Loans up to \$25,000 with no collateral. Information can be found at disasterloan.sba.gov. The information is included on the City web site, www.savannahga.gov.
- Alderwoman Lanier – concerned with mis-information, citizens should call 311 for the most updated information. Children that are out of school are at home alone and might be hungry, she is looking for resources to come to neighborhood centers to feed the children.
- Alderman Leggett – questioned if we had gotten an updated information from the League of Cities and from the School Board to feed the children and elderly in the District. Savannah-Chatham County School System will provide free meals, the list will be provided on the web site. Alderman Leggett asked how often the City is contacting the local major health systems.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – concerned with payment of utilities for the citizens and the safety of the homeless. She would like the City to have a drop-spot and information placed on the City's web site for citizens/businesses to donate cleaning supplies. She has concern for the safety of the sanitation workers. Citizens need more information concerning public transportation.
- Alderman Purtee – since the Golden Age Program is discontinued, he is concerned with senior citizens receiving meals. He is receiving calls concerning the City's operations (if the City will close).
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – concerned with and receiving calls from retail sales, hotel-motel persons and those on the lower paying scale want to know if any programs are in place to assist with receiving income during the pandemic. Is it possible to place handwashing stations around the City?

Closing:

Mayor Johnson will issue an Emergency Declaration as to business restrictions, beginning Saturday, March 20, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Johnson encouraged Funeral Homes and places of worship to consider distancing for safety precautions.

Mayor Johnson thanked all in attendance and encouraged the public and staff to stay vigilant and safe.

With no further business coming before the assembly, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____