



**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**March 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  
Assistant to the City Manager Joe Shearouse, Jr.  
Interim Chief Operating Officer Bret Bell  
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 Palumbo

**Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:**

Mayor Johnson gave the latest update on the cases of the coronavirus in the metro area and CAT services.

City Manager Monahan gave updates on the status of the safety of City staff and updates on the web site for information on the cancellation of events. He reported that the 311 call center is open with additional staff to take calls. Mr. Monahan reported on protective equipment and clothing for staff. He gave updates on the revisions of the revenue departments, parking, and airport activities.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – had problems getting on the call. She is concerned with the Emergency Declaration and the Council voting on the Declaration.
- Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter – inquired if staff working from home are made to use their vacation/sick leave time. She would like for non-essential staff be given the opportunity to work from home, if possible.
- Aldерwoman Miller Blakely – received call from citizens concerning hand sanitizers and gloves for city workers in vehicles. She informed the public to go to the City's



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL  
Summary/Final Minutes  
Special Called Meeting  
MARCH 20, 2020**

web pages for additional information. Alderwoman Miller Blakely asked Mayor Johnson to address the issue of night clubs/bars with large crowds.

- Alderwoman Lanier – concerned with one-stop place for citizens to get updated information; how do we measure our position as it relates to resources; and if the Emergency Declaration from Mayor Johnson goes into effect on Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 a.m. why does Council vote on the Declaration on next Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Alderman Leggett – informed the public that this is a very serious situation and they should not take it lightly. Will there be City monitors to make sure businesses are enforcing the Declaration.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – asked the City Manager if late fees for the water bills will be waived. The City and Chatham County should coordinate safety measures. How we making sure the senior centers that are quarantined are getting supplies.
- Alderman Palumbo – suggested the City let restaurant sell take-out alcohol along with the take-out food. The City should continue to work on telecommuting for staff and consider mental health services for those effected.
- Alderman Purtee – concerned with alcohol establishments not taking the virus serious. Asked if restaurants are allowed to sell take-out alcohol.

**Closing:**

Mayor Johnson reminded Council of the Thursday meeting at 6:30 p.m. The City Manager suggested two options for the meeting: 1.) meeting at a location and limit the number of attendees; or 2.) continue with the teleconference calls. Council consensus was to continue the calls.

Mayor Johnson thanked all in attendance and encouraged the public and staff to stay safe. Since there is no Federal or State mandates, the City will continued to provide protective measures for the public.

With no further business coming before the assembly, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

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

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_