



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
March 24, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

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

Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:

After the State of Georgia Governor's press conference last evening, Mayor Johnson issued an updated FIRST AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY "SHELTER AT HOME".

Mayor Johnson gave the updated statistics of the COVID-19 throughout Georgia. There is concern by residents of daycares, barbershops & beauty salons still remaining open, these are regulated by the State. Mayor Johnson reported that Funeral Homes and Houses of Faith and Worship cannot be regulated, we only hope they will take precautions. The local restaurants are only offering take-out food and liquor stores can sell for take-out only.

City Manager Monahan gave an update on the sanitation department and the precautions being taken for safety.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – had questions relating to the budget, did the prior budget have a seventy-five day fiscal reserve and was that written into the new budget. Is there a policy in place for reserve funds? As we move forward, are we looking at partnering with Chatham County to withstand this pandemic? Is there a point person that oversees the funds for the vulnerable population?



**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
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- Alderwoman Gibson-Carter – concerned with childcare and for those parents still working. She is advocating for the City staff and asking the City of Savannah to off-set situations so staff will not lose their jobs. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter discussed and asked questions about the budget reserves. She asked the City Manager for a month-to-month statement showing the best and worst case scenarios.
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – asked if a local organization could have a toiletry drive; and if Greenscapes are essential. She reported that the Revenue Department staff cannot exercise social distancing and some staff have children at home with no childcare. She inquired if the City’s Lobbyist are coming back with reports from FEMA and SEDA.
- Alderwoman Lanier – spoke concerning a financial review after the pandemic is resolved. She thanked Mr. Lloyd for all his support and information. Alderwoman Lanier discussed the Savannah Housing Taskforce importance.
- Alderman Leggett – offered condolences to the Victor Cooper Family on his death. He reported that CAT is taking safety precautions on the buses.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – Clerk of Council provided Council with a ‘Newly Elected Officials’ information books to all Alderman in December. She has a thirty-five minute presentation from SEDA on daycare grants available for the public.
- Alderman Palumbo – wants guidance regarding what is essential/non-essential; and would like to know if bicycles can be used as a mode of transportation.
- Alderman Purtee – will be sending a list to Mayor Johnson and the City Manager as to what businesses are essential in District 6. He asked for confirmation that SPLOST dollars would not be reallocated.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – the Lobbyist should be giving the City a daily or a weekly report from the Capitol. She asked for the deadline on submitting names for the Savannah Housing Taskforce. She reported that the citizens of Savannah, mainly District 5, still want to use the Fairgrounds as an economic engine. She asked Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan to share the information on monies for daycare.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz read a text from a citizen asking Mayor Johnson to further explain the First Amended Declaration of Local Emergency “Shelter At Home”, as it relates to places of worship.

- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – wanted information concerning the Regular Thursday Council Meeting.

Mayor Johnson indicated the Regular Meeting of Council will be held via teleconference on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. There will not be a work session or a 3:00 p.m. conference call on Thursday.



Closing:

With no further business coming before the assembly, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____