



**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**March 25, 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  
Aldерmen 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 3:01 p.m. via a Conference Call (1-425-436-6365=Access Code 109735). The invocation was offered by Aldерwoman Miller Blakely.

**Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:**

Mayor Johnson gave an update on the local cases for coronavirus. There was call today with the White House about actions to help Cities and communities.

Per a conversation by the City Attorney with State Officials, State regulated businesses are now turned over to the City. Mayor Johnson will present a new Declaration at tomorrow's meeting to close additional businesses. Mayor Johnson addressed some of the false rumors circulating around the City.

City Manager Monahan gave an update on revenue available to the City. He has drafted a letter to the Governor for federal assistance. Mayor Johnson announced that two local businesses will be providing the City with hand sanitizers.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – spoke concerning a Federal Stimulus Package and the City's Emergency Disaster Plan.
- Aldерwoman Gibson-Carter – remains concerned with the staff coming in contact with the public. She discussed the budget with the City Manager.



- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – has received calls concerning payments of water bills and late payment fees, will they be waived. She asked Mayor Johnson to elaborate on the beauty shops, barber shops and nail salons. Will those hand sanitizers be used for the public or just City staff? Receiving calls about staffing companies that allow numbers of people in a room at one time, can the City send an order of safety precautions to those establishments? Will our Lobbyist be involved in advocating for the City of Savannah to receive Federal and/or State funding?
- Alderwoman Lanier – received concerns from citizens regarding the Emergency Declaration as it relates to workers not distancing themselves. She asked how the City would police businesses to know if they are adhering to the Declaration. She inquired about the status of the City Manager search. City should consider video conferencing for the two regular meetings per month.
- Alderman Leggett – concerned with the dog parks still open in District 3.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – thanked Mayor Johnson, the City Manager and City staff for the water buffalos at the homeless camps. She asked for mask and hand sanitizers for the camps.
- Alderman Palumbo – asked about the short-term vacation rentals – are they still in operation? He thanked Mr. Health Lloyd, Mr. Bret Bell, and Mr. Nick Zoller for their recent efforts. A local health care company will provide health care for thirty-five dollars per month starting this Friday.
- Alderman Purtee – asked if City Parks are open. He would like to see the City use video conferencing.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan asked how citizens could respond to agenda items at tomorrow's City Council Meeting.

City Manager Monahan announced the City has received fifty swipe thermometers for monitoring staff.

## Closing:

Mayor Johnson thanked all in attendance and admonished safety precautions be used daily.

With no further business coming before the assembly, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

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

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