



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
March 30, 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 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 3:01 p.m. via a Conference Call (1-425-436-6365=Access Code 109735). The invocation was offered by Aldерwoman Bernetta Lanier.

Opening Remarks by Mayor Johnson:

Mayor Johnson gave an update of local municipalities agreeing there needs to be a consensus of a united front from the Governor. He reported that the State of Florida is now screening all visitors into the State. Chatham County held a press conference reporting amendments to the County Declaration.

City Attorney Lovett gave an overview of the County's Amended Declaration, citing that any recent vacationers will need to adhere to social distancing and will need to quarantine themselves for fourteen days, including those with a temperature, a those working in the medical industry. The County is also banning all gatherings to no more than 10 people. This Amendment goes into effect immediately.

Mayor Johnson feels that the numbers of the virus within Savannah are not reflected as accurate. After routine driving around the City this weekend, he is disappointed that some businesses/citizens are not adhering to the Emergency Declaration. If improvement is not seen, some City Park will be closed. House parties, including backyard barbeques will be cited for not adhering to the Declaration. He has noticed that some business; i.e. Walmart, Target, fast food restaurants are not following the order of distancing. He admonished ALL local businesses to adhere to the Emergency Declaration.



City Manager Monahan gave an update on the citations issued to local businesses for failure to follow the distancing order and an update on the distribution of safety/protective items to staff.

Aldermen gave comments in the round-robin fashion:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz – after driving around the City, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz was dismayed at the crowds at Forsyth and Daphne Parks not exercising distancing. She asked Mayor Johnson if the Parks were closed.
- Alderwoman Gibson-Carter – would like to make sure Code Enforcement is following through on all calls of code complaints. She is still receiving calls about the City's Sanitation staff having too many employees in/on the trucks. She has noted an increase in property crime and would like for the City to address this issue before it gets too massive. Alderwoman Gibson-Carter is concerned with the City's financial status after the coronavirus is over. She requested the City Manager to draft a letter to Craig Gordon to utilize previous SPLOST dollars to be used in the General Fund. She reiterated the importance of only spending dollars for essential functions for the City at this time. She requested a monthly expenditure report from the City Manager.
- Alderwoman Miller Blakely – concerned with the homeless camps and non-profit organizations needing donations. She read that Georgia has received major disaster dollars for the non-profits. Has the City located a building where homeless individuals can be housed?
- Alderwoman Lanier – concerned with a park in District 1 being closed. She would like to get a report from the City Manager on the financial status of the City since the coronavirus pandemic started and asked what staff is doing to prepare or put a plan in place during this time period.
- Alderman Leggett – concerned with citizens not distancing themselves. He has also witnessed sports events and food establishments not following the distancing directive.
- Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan – concerned with children out of school at Mercy Housing still playing in crowds and would like the City Manager to send letters of distancing admonishments. Concerned with shoppers at Home Depot not following the distancing order.
- Alderman Palumbo – is there anything the Council can do to spread more awareness of the pandemic seriousness.
- Alderman Purtee – District 6 seems to be adhering to the distancing order. The Parks should remain open as an outlet for the citizens.



Closing:

Mayor Johnson admonished the businesses and citizens to adhere to the distancing order for the benefit of all residents.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Initials: _____