

January 13, 2020 City Council Special Meeting (Visioning Session Day 1)

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT  
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
(Visioning Session - Day 1)  
January 13, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding  
Aldерwoman Kesha Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1  
Aldерwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2  
Aldерwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1  
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2  
Aldерwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3  
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4  
Aldерwoman Dr. Estella E. Shabazz, District 5  
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

City Manager Pat Monahan  
Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd  
Interim Chief Operating Officer Bret Bell  
Assistant to the City Manager Daphanie Williams  
Taffanye Young, Chief Community Services Officer  
Clerk of Council Mark Massey

The Special Called Meeting was held at 8:58 a.m. at the Savannah Civic Center in the Bryan Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Putree which was recited in unison. The invocation was offered by Alderman Leggett.

Date: Jan 13 2020 (8:30 a.m.)

Special Meeting Agenda Items

[1. Visioning Session Day 1](#)



## **Opening Remarks and Introduction of Facilitator:**

Johnson thanked and welcomed the citizens of Savannah to the first gathering of the newly elected officials. He asked for a moment of silence to honor Pro-Tem of the City of Port Wentworth, Ms. Debbie Johnson, who was an ex-employee of the City of Savannah. She passed away suddenly last evening.

The Mayor explained the process for the next two days and introduced Ms. Ruth Demeter, Ruth Demeter Consulting. He gave a brief outline of her education and consulting background.

## **Welcome:**

Ms. Demeter thanked Mayor and Council for giving her the opportunity to come before them to facilitate the Visioning Session and welcomed all in attendance. She informed the Mayor and Council what the intent would be for the Visioning Sessions.

## **Introduction of City Council Members:**

Each Council Member introduced themselves and gave two things they are excited to change for the City of Savannah and one thing you may not know about them.

## **Discussion:**

The following topics were discussed during the session, as facilitated by Ms. Demeter:

- How do we work together as a group?
- Participation in group activity.
- Reviewing actions for urgency and importance.
- Hiring a new City Manager (search firm, timeline, desired skills, etc.).
- Strategic visioning conversation.

Utilizing round-robin style, the feedback from each member of the City Council was gathered and added to the wall under various categories of skill/experience. The items gathered will

be compiled by Glenn Hull in the City Manager's office.

**Closing:**

Mayor Johnson thanked all in attendance and with no further business coming before the assembly, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: February 27, 2020

Initials: mm